

July 8, 2021

An update from RJEETF Co-Chair Keitha Ogbogu

I want to send a brief clarification to my last email from the RJEETF where we indicated that we are requesting participation. Firstly, a big thanks to those who indicated they are excited and ready to participate in surveys etc.; your enthusiasm is noted! However, we are looking for participation from all of the FMCiC to help us gather information. We are currently in the story and statistics phase of our research as we aim to understand local and national perspectives and activities connected with racial justice and ethnic equity. All pastors and denominational leaders will be contacted for participation by one or more committee members, and we may seek deeper involvement from your congregation as well. Please see below to better understand our process and why you may be contacted for participation in the research.

HISTORY:

The history subteam is led by Raquel John Matuzewiski. They have begun their research on the history of the FMCiC as an anti racist organization, its interaction and engagement with Indigenous and POC. To bolster their research they are compiling a list of individuals that they will interview in order to provide context and personal stories to their research.

LEADERSHIP:

The leadership subteam is led by Rev. Darrin Lindsay. This team will be forwarding a benchmark diversity, equity and inclusion survey to all FMCiC Pastors, denominational leaders and Ministry Centre Staff to help us better understand national perspectives. Along with the survey we have compiled a list of individuals who we will be contacting for interviews and will engage survey respondents, as needed, who desire to provide greater context to their answers.

CONGREGATION:

The congregation subteam is led by Pastor Sabrina Hinds. This team is actively working to contact specific churches across Canada to engage in a series of conversations that will help give context to the demographics of our broader church as well as the perspectives, regarding racial justice and ethnic equity we hold as individual and collective congregations. This team has already sent out an email or attempted to contact various congregations for participation and will greatly appreciate prompt responses and engagement.

QUEBEC:

The Quebec subteam is led by Lindsay Noël. This team is working on the combined historical, leadership and congregational research for Quebec. While the survey will be translated into French so the entire denomination can contribute, the interviews will be conducted by or in consultation with the Quebec subteam. This team has already begun to reach out to Quebec pastors and will continue throughout the summer and fall of 2021.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

The RJEETF is committed to confidentiality, thereby, ensuring that survey and interview respondents can openly share their unique perspectives. All of the raw data will be handled with respect and anonymity to ensure we have sufficient participation. Your words, stories and experiences are an important part of our research as we aim to better understand the FMCiC's relationship with racial justice and ethnic equity. We thank you, in advance, for both your time and your full participation. The RJEETF look forward to speaking with you and hearing your stories and perspectives over the coming weeks and months.