

Race to the Table SC - Conversations Advancing Interracial Relations



Purpose & Background:

Race to the Table SC seeks to peacefully dissolve the racial barriers in society and between individuals. In racially mixed small groups, the dialogue experiences go beyond superficial conversations and create an openness to re-evaluate viewpoints and personal assumptions. Built into the process are ways to be “change agents” and continue building understanding and friendships with not only those met at a *Race to the Table SC* event, but with others of diverse racial and cultural identities.

The *Race to the Table SC* curriculum draws from a variety of resources and has been tested in several arenas since 2016. Past participants evaluate the activities as deeply meaningful and successful in energizing their consciousness and caring about race relations. Endorsed by the Connectional Ministries of the United Methodist Columbia District, *Race to the Table SC* events have been attended by members of over 20 churches. The Richland County Main Library sponsored and promoted three *Race to the Table SC* events, entitled *Let's Talk Race*, in both the summer of 2017 and fall of 2018, with over 100 participants at each series. Children's Trust of South Carolina, Palmetto Community Health, and community leaders in Chester, SC are also *Race to the Table SC* clients.

Fiscal Sponsor and Donations:

Race to the Table SC is proud to have **Central Carolina Community Foundation** as our fiscal sponsor.

Donations to *Race to the Table SC* are deeply appreciated and may be sent payable to Central Carolina Community Foundation and designated for *Race to the Table SC*: 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213, Columbia, SC 29204 (www.yourfoundation.org).

Race to the Table SC Optional Experiences:

1. **Traditional:** Day event of small group dialogues. Example: 5 hours, with a meal, on a weekday, Saturday, or Sunday.
2. **Workplace:** Small group dialogues with board members, employees and/or supervisors. Example: retreat setting away from work location or on site. 2-5 hours.
3. **Community Events:** Small group dialogues as part of another organization or initiative's special event or series. Example: 1-3 hours.
4. **Faith Communities:** Small group dialogues with congregation members and/or staff. Example: retreat setting or at place of worship. 2-5 hours.
5. **High Schools & Colleges:** Small group dialogues with students and/or faculty. Example: retreat setting or on campus at the school. 2-5 hours.
6. **Mushroom Experience:** Guidance in facilitating and/or designing your own interracial dialogues or experiences.

Age Requirements:

Age 18 +. Exceptions: (1) Ages 13-17, with participation at the same event by a parent/guardian. (2) Age 13-17, at a school or faith community sponsored event, with parental permission and in accordance with the school's or faith community's Child Safety Policies.

Booking a Race to the Table SC Event:

Contact a *Race to the Table SC* director to arrange for an event and confirm content, ideally 2 months prior to the event date.

Leadership and Contact Info:

Currently there are three directors, six trained group facilitators, and several professional consultants.

Directors and Co-Founders of *Race to the Table SC*: Anne Cox (acox@racetothetablesc.org 803-917-6861), Beth Corley (bcorley@racetothetablesc.org 803-446-4063), and Randy Heath (rheath@racetothetablesc.org 803-374-1228)

- **Anne Cox** uses her gifts in life coaching and drawing people out to help them see their capacity to change injustices, be compassionate, and enjoy human differences. Between 1986 - 2014, she was the Director of Education & Adult Ministries at two large United Methodist churches in Columbia. She has facilitated community forums offered by the Richland Library (Bryan Stevenson's TED Talk), dialogues at the SC State Museum (RACE exhibit and the Feb. 2018 *Requiem for Mother Emanuel*), a seminar on racial perceptions for the Richland Library's Social Awareness Task Force, and a dialogue sponsored by WREN for residents at St. Lawrence Place. She is a member of the Community Relations Council's Luncheon Club and has served twice as a chair of Women of Many Faiths. To hear a Story Corps recording by Anne Cox and Randy Heath about *Race to the Table SC*, go to https://storycorps.egnyte.com/dl/k9jIMueAo2/dde001439.WAV_
- **Beth Corley's** long career of public service to the State of South Carolina focused on developing information infrastructure and research partnerships with universities and public/private agencies to improve the lives of SC residents in the areas of health and human services. Her 36 years working in the public sector awakened in her a passion to find a path to service centered on healing and reconciliation. Reading and training in the area of small group dialogue (Circles of Trust) opened doors to becoming a *Race to the Table SC* director, curriculum designer, and group facilitator. A natural peacemaker and inspirational teacher, Beth's passion is to play some part in making a better world, free of hate, discrimination and bigotry.
- **Randy Heath** brings to the table the voice of a young African American male with awareness of today's culture and the issues of intolerance and prejudice that need addressing. Randy is an energetic personality who loves to engage with people. He is also a proud husband and father of four awesome kids. A graduate of USC, he currently works as the Richland Edgewood library branch manager in the national award winning Richland Library system. In his role with the library, he builds community relationships, entrepreneurship, and collaborates with community partners on specialized projects. As a result, he is a member of the library's Social Awareness Task Force and Palmetto Health's Community Outreach and Advisory Task Force Committee. Randy is honored to be part of *Race to the Table SC* and recognizes it as a necessary opportunity to influence social change and healing.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

- James Baldwin, American author and social critic (1924-1987)

"Real power is usually unspectacular – a simple setting aside of fear that allows the free flow of love.

But it changes everything."

- Martha Beck, life coach