

Organizing Against White Supremacy

What You Can Do

Congregate Charlottesville, who organized the response to the “Unite the Right” rally, shares their experiences: *“Congregate prepared for months leading up to this. It was not out of the blue. This is also not isolated to the South and where there are visible confederate symbols. There are visible signs of white supremacy everywhere and we need to learn to recognize them as a part of our ongoing commitment to dismantling white supremacy and building a sustaining racial justice.”*

“Congregate trained around 300 people in nonviolent direct action with the specific purpose of preparing for this weekend starting a month ago and up through Friday night. Over 200 registered for the official clergy call. There were 400 plus at the mass prayer gathering on Friday night and about the same at the sunrise service Saturday morning. However, at every turn the organizers were very clear that stepping into Emancipation Park on Saturday meant you were arrestable as well as vulnerable to bodily harm or death.”

Do not plan to get your church involved in a direct action without a plan or training. Here are some practical things you can do to organize against white supremacy:

Coalition Building

- Connect with an existing coalition of allies from churches, schools, clubs, and civic groups in your community for training for:
 - first aid
 - becoming a legal observer
 - learning your legal rights regarding arrests, bails, and permits
 - creating or contributing to a bail fund
 - clergy responses

Responding to a Direct Action

Contact organizers to see what supplies they will need for a direct action or protest (water, food, first aid kits, eyewash, etc.)

Follow-Up to a Direct Action

Record every incident of injustice or violence you witness in case you need to report it.

Demand a quick, serious response from police.

Pressure political leaders to provide a strong public statement.

Write letters to your local media and speak out on social media.

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” — Micah 6:8