



White Privilege.
If you can't see it,
you got it.

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

The choice to cast this issue in terms of White Privilege as contrasted with Unearned Privilege makes the issue unnecessarily controversial and it will be difficult for the principle it highlights to get traction within the UCC, at least in the land between the coasts. Unearned privilege is a universal problem, between the various castes in India, between tribes in Africa, between sects of Islam, between genders almost everywhere; really between those who have more power and those who have less power independent of their pigment. Arguably, white people tend to have more power in the world than non-whites, due to the economic power of North America, Europe and Australia, but theirs is not the only concentration of power and

influence on the globe. Unearned Privilege is universal and its pernicious effects of injustice and oppression can be felt everywhere on the planet.

The real issue here is the rather sloppy thinking among those who have power in making the assumption that they are more inherently right than others simply because they are more successful in acquiring and maintaining power. This is a spiritual problem and will not change until all people come to understand it for what it is, a fundamental peace and justice issue.

For those within our UCC churches who find this an awkward concept, stated as it is as White Privilege I would invite them to prayerfully reconsider that it has a real basis which is possible to see, but harder to see from a perspective of the demographic that has enjoyed more than their fair share of power for as long as they can remember. This will not always be the case so the sooner people become more realistic about this the more likely they will be able to live at peace with their brothers and sisters in the future.

As an example, it has been my experience that Caucasians born in North America between around 1925 through 1960 have been likely to take too much credit for their success without acknowledging that the system was biased toward them succeeding while many others did not enjoy this same dynamic. They can protest this assertion if they must but it does not make it any less valid simply because it is awkward to confront.

I believe the UCC would make a lot more progress talking about unearned privilege than White Privilege.