

# STUDY GUIDE

# **Reflection Questions:**

#### **Overview:**

- 1. What was most memorable about what you just heard/saw?
- 2. What was most surprising?
- 3. What was most disturbing?
- 4. If you are API, what would you have shared if you had been interviewed for this film?
- 5. What can you and your congregation do to address issues raised?

#### Chapter 1 What Makes Unitarian Universalism Different?

- 1. Ailing and Karin both mentioned that despite being the only API in the congregation, they made a place for themselves. How do you think you might have responded had been the "only" in your congregation?
- 2. Social justice is an important component of our faith, according to many. What is the role of social justice in your UU experience?
- 3. What are your experiences in connecting race/ethnicity in a UU context?
- 4. What trauma did you experience in your former religion or life that you need to heal?

#### Chapter 2 Pluralism and Diversity

- 1. How difficult is it for people raised in Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and other non-Christian traditions to become UUs?
- 2. Rev Janamanchi says our faith calls us to engage in diversity. What does that mean to you?
- 3. How has being a UU challenged you? How might that be different compared to what BIPOC people experience?
- 4. Karen Eng says she had to leave her church to grow as an API UU. How do you interpret that?
- 5. Rumni Sahai says not being fully seen is wounding. What does that mean and how can we change that?
- 6. Have you read Karin Lin's book *Mistakes and Miracles*? What lessons may apply to your congregation?
- 7. Rev Janamanchi says UUism is not living up to its pluralistic ideals. How can UUism evolve from its monocultural roots?

## Chapter 3 Social Justice

- 1. Would you share how you've engaged with social justice in the last year or two?
- 2. What have you personally gained because of this experience?
- 3. What is your experience with anti-racism and racial justice?
- 4. How would you describe your congregation's current efforts to reach out to APIs and other BIPOC people?
- 5. How can UUs become more welcoming and inclusive?
- 6. Rev. Takahashi says our spiritual life is about tapping into our wholeness. What does that mean to you? To non-whites?

#### Chapter 4 Beloved Community

- 1. Li Lu Porter says she appreciates wrestling with tough questions. What tough questions has your congregation tackled and what others still need to be addressed?
- 2. What have your learned from Beloved Conversations or other racial justice programs?
- 3. Who do you know that is craving spiritual community? What keeps you from inviting them to join UUism?
- 4. How can your congregation reach out to diverse young people in college and twentythirty somethings? What needs to change about how we "do church"?
- 5. Karin says we are called to live in covenant. What does that mean?
- 6. What can be done to make UU congregations safe havens for BIPOC people to "put down the weight of the world" and when we're "on fire to change the world".

## Chapter 5 Future of Unitarian Universalism

- 1. What are changes you would like to see in our denomination and congregational life?
- 2. How are we "uniting around culture" and how does that change?
- 3. Rev. Janamanchi says we could be "be gone in 20 years" if we don't evolve. Agree?
- 4. How might a UU service for young BIPOC people look different than our typical service?
- 5. How does radical hospitality start before someone steps through our doors?
- 6. Rev. Sakurai says we need to identify why it's scary to grow and change. Why?
- 7. How do we turn the promise of multicultural faith into practice?
- 8. What does accountability mean in this context?