

## **Who Are Those White People Holding Black Lives Matters Signs?**

*Unitarians Demonstrate for Racial Justice*

**Surrey, BC – April 13**

On any given Saturday, between 1 and 2 pm you'll see people (usually white) on the corner of 156<sup>th</sup> Street and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Surrey demonstrating for racial justice. For the past year, rain or shine, a handful of locals have gathered at the corner to add action (and signs) to their beliefs that "Black Lives Matter" and "It's Time for Racial Justice".

The demonstrations are led by Rev. Samaya Oakley, Minister of South Fraser Unitarian Congregation. She says, "As Canadian Unitarian Universalists we envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice." For Rev. Samaya, this act of racial justice activism is a spiritual practice that she engages in each week to live out this vision.

About 140 cars pass by this intersection every 5 minutes. Reactions from drivers range from honking horns, waving, and shouts of agreement, to the occasional rude gesture or comment.

### **Interview contact, press only**

Rev. Samaya Oakley, [minister@surreyunitarians.ca](mailto:minister@surreyunitarians.ca), 604.323.4341

### **About South Fraser Unitarian Congregation**

South Fraser Unitarian Congregation is a liberal religious community. They are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in their desire to make a difference for the good. They have radical roots and a history as self-motivated spiritual people: they think for themselves and recognize that life experience influences our beliefs more than anything. The congregation traditionally meets at Peninsula United Church (15639 24 Ave, Surrey). During the pandemic, services are being held via Zoom on Sundays at 1:30 pm.

**For more information about South Fraser Unitarian Congregation:** [surreyunitarians.ca](http://surreyunitarians.ca)