

Boulder Mennonite Church Mural

By Carole Suderman, active member of Boulder Mennonite Church



How can a church proclaim to the wider community our beliefs in peace, anti-racism, care for the environment, and inclusion of all people? That was a question that arose out of our Christian Education series last fall on anti-racism, led by Cindy Firnhaber and Terry Mast. Cindy and her husband Kurt adopted six children of African descent who have experienced much discrimination, from being stopped by the police without cause to being denied visas because of the color of their skin. After hearing their stories, as well as those in the media, our church felt an urgent calling to “walk our talk” and “put our money where our mouth is” to truly stand for justice, as Jesus taught.

Out of these conversations and a challenge from Pastor Randy Spaulding, the idea was born for a mural on the front of our church building. A committee was formed, adding Toni Diaz Bachus, Ivanna Johnson, and Steve Voran to the team of Terry and Cindy. They sought out local artists from marginalized groups, conducted interviews, and ultimately chose Julio Mendoza.

Julio was initially reluctant to respond to the request of a church, but upon meeting the committee, he gladly designed the mural, based on the values we wished to have represented. He was astounded that a

religious group would hold these beliefs about justice so strongly that we would want to spend money on a bold statement to the community. [Click here](#) to learn more.

On October 31, at the close of our worship service, we went outside and, along with Julio, dedicated the mural. Here is an excerpt from the litany we shared:

*May this mural speak:
Peace to every living thing
Justice among God's children of all colors
Care and respect for the earth
A circle of joy that includes all people.*

*May this mural remind us that:
Black lives matter
This living planet is sacred
God is Love and lives among us!*



*Pictured (Above) Mural artist Julio Mendoza;
(Left) Mural Dedication at BMC Worship Service*