

ABHM - America's Black Holocaust Museum

America's Black Holocaust Museum – ABHM – was founded by Dr. James Cameron on North Ave. in 1984 in Milwaukee. At the age of 16, Dr. Cameron survived a lynching in Indiana in 1930. Somewhat later he moved to Milwaukee and started ABHM. For more than 20 years, the museum told the story of African-Americans in the United States – pre-captivity in Africa, how they were captured and brought to this country, the years of slavery, the Jim Crow era, civil rights, and the present. In 2008, during the great recession, the museum was forced to close for financial reasons. But a group of people got together and kept the vision alive with an online museum which tells the same story:

www.abhmuseum.org. Now, the museum is being rebuilt on the same spot it existed originally – 401 W. North Ave, the corner of North and Vel Phillips Ave. Even during its years as a virtual, online museum, ABHM docents have led programs in schools, churches, libraries and other organizations in the Milwaukee area, continuing its work of telling the story of African-American history in the United States and specifically in Milwaukee.

Now that the museum is working to raise money to become a physical institution once again, a group of UCC people and churches are hoping to help with that task. This is being sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Force of the Wisconsin Conference UCC, the Mutton Lecture Committee of the Wisconsin Conference UCC, the Southeast Association Mission Team, and some churches and individuals. The suggestion and the hope is that Milwaukee-area and S.E. Association UCC churches will raise money this fall to donate to the museum to help with their process of re-opening. One church has already committed to have an all-church offering. Another is donating money out of reserves. And a challenge grant of \$3000 has already been raised. That means any money raised in all UCC churches up to \$3000 will be matched by this challenge grant. We urge you to give – personally, through a church offering, or in other ways – to this important Milwaukee institution. Plymouth Church UCC has graciously offered to be the financial agent for the giving to the museum. Also, there will be an open house at the museum for UCC people on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 21, between 3 & 5pm. There will be presentations and tours at 3:30 and 4:15 talking about the museum and showing its progress toward eventual re-opening, probably in the Spring of 2019.

If you have any questions about any of this, please contact Curt Anderson – curtjoana@aol.com, Tim Perkins – perkdrews@aol.com, or Dale Stohre – dalestohre@gmail.com.