

Form Name: Inventory of Episcopal Racial Reconciliation and Justice Ministries, including Truth and Reconciliation Processes
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Inventory of Episcopal Racial Reconciliation and Justice Ministries, including Truth and Reconciliation

Introductory Info

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Please identify whether you are answering this survey as a representative of an entire diocese or as a church or institution: Church or Institution

If Church or Institution, please identify which kind of Episcopal entity you represent: Congregation

Section One: Telling the Truth About Our Churches and Race, including Truth and Reconciliation Processes (TRUTH)

Check all the Truth-telling ministries with which your diocese, congregation or institution has engaged over the last 12 months:

- Demographic study of congregations, including racial and ethnic make-up
- Demographic study of geographic communities within the diocese, including racial and ethnic make-up
- Historic study of diocesan and/or congregational participation in systemic oppression of Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander peoples and other people of color
- Intentional efforts to increase proportion of people of color in membership

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above: Antiracism team drafted a Legacy of Slavery timeline that looked at the history of the nation, our city, our neighborhood and our congregation through an antiracism lens and identified when we were complicit in or resisted racism.

Has your diocese, congregation or institution or entity in recent years engaged in a Truth and Reconciliation process, understood to be: (please check all that apply)

Investigating the organization's historic role in racial injustice;
Linking historic injustice in your organization with ongoing patterns of racial injustice

Please describe these Truth and Reconciliation process efforts:

Through the work of antiracism team for the last 3 years we have been investigating our church's role, making links and identifying patterns to racial injustice.

Has your diocese, congregation or institution organized a commission, working group or other regular meetings to work on a Truth and Reconciliation process?

No

Have Episcopal entities pursuing Truth and Reconciliation hosted events and webinars or produced any documents, testimonials, reports or other content?

I Don't Know

If your diocese, congregation or institution has not begun to pursue a Truth and Reconciliation process, have leaders expressed interest in starting such work?

Yes

What assistance or resources would help you to take the next steps around Truth and Reconciliation?

An outline or suggestions of next steps

Section Two: Proclaiming the Dream of Beloved Community (PROCLAMATION)

Check all the Proclaiming the Dream ministries with which your diocese, congregation or institution has engaged during the last 12 months: (check all that apply)

Offer public witness (editorials, public speaking, protests and vigils)
Participate in local or regional efforts to examine the history of race and racism
Participate in efforts to generate a local or regional vision for racial healing

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

We participated in a number of Black Lives Matter demonstrations in 2020 and regularly attend other racial justice marches, protests etc.
Our church organized a vigil for George Floyd. We participated in a diocesan event that looked at the racial disparities during Covid.

What assistance or resources would help you to take the next steps around Proclaiming the Dream?

We could bring these ideas to our strategic planning session in the fall of 2021.

Section Three: Practicing Jesus's Healing Way (FORMATION)

Check all the Practicing the Way ministries with which your diocese or entity has engaged during the last 12 months: (check all that apply)

Anti-racism or dismantling racism training
Internalized oppression training
Incorporation of non-dominant cultural expressions in liturgy
Preaching on race and racism

What assistance or resources would help you to take the next steps around Practicing the Way?

We would need to educate or inform antiracism team leadership about this program.

Section Four: Repairing the Breach in Institutions and Society (JUSTICE)

Check all the church-wide Repairing the Breach efforts with which your diocese, congregation or institution has engaged during the last 12 months:

Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) or the Office of Government Relations
Poor People's Campaign

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with "Reimagining Policing and Criminal Justice Reform"?

Learning

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with "Prison Ministries or Re-entry Ministries," that is, supporting persons re-entering community following incarceration?

Not yet engaged

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with "Refugee Ministries"?

Local engagement

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with "Immigration Reform"?

Learning

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with "Education Equity," including support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and partnering with under-resourced schools primarily serving students of color?

Not yet engaged

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with "Housing Equity" for/with communities and People of Color?

Local engagement

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Economic Opportunity” for/with communities and People of Color?

Not yet engaged

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Environmental Racism and Eco-justice”?

Local engagement

At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Reparations for Racial Justice”?

Learning
Local engagement

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

We actively welcome and support refugee families. We have an ongoing relationship with one large family and we gather supplies a few times a year to welcome new families.

We installed an electric car charger on our property to make people aware of environmental issues.

We advocated for years for a local affordable housing development that will open this fall.

We have read books and articles on reparations and are considering how to make reparations within our church work.

We installed a Land Acknowledgment Plaque and incorporate that language in our services. We have made some payments to Native American groups in our area in the spirit of reparations.

Conclusion

Is there anything else you wish to share about your diocese, congregation or institution and its engagement with racial reconciliation and justice ministries, overall?

We try to identify some antiracism goals at our annual meeting in Jan each year. We could look at these documents to help us in our planning and give the team direction.

If you need more information - we have annual reports on the antiracism work of our church for the last 3 years on our web page at Stjohnschicago.com.
