

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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Diocese Utah

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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: Entire Diocese

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:

- 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 among staff
- Intentional efforts to address racial disparities in treatment of leaders across the diocese, congregation or institution

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

The Diocese of Utah is a small diocese. The clergy in charge of congregations have been involved in a study and process to heighten their awareness of their own implicit bias and the ways that this bias has shaped their own lives. The Diocese also took on an effort locally in some of the congregations as well as an all diocese opportunity to participate in the Sacred Ground Curriculum. From this, there is a desire too move forward in holding events large and small to provide opportunities for more people of the diocese to participate in racial reconciliation activities. Some congregations have continued to move forward in their work by establishing groups to work on the development of Beloved Community in their congregation. The most recent hire on Diocesan Staff is Latino. But, that was not done by design. Rather, she was seen as the most qualified person. We are also blessed to have Forrest Cuch who has presented to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church as well as congregations on the experience and history of First Nation people in Utah. The Peace and Justice Committee is being re-established with two foci - Racial Reconciliation and Care of Creation.

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)

Not yet engaged

Is there a staff person and/or volunteer who serves as point person for diocesan racial reconciliation and justice ministries?

No

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

Yes

If yes, please summarize and provide the name of the commission/group, and a contact person with name and email address.

The group is the Peace and Justice Committee and it is in the process of forming. That should be done in September.

Please indicate the types of entities in your diocese that have engaged or are now engaging in a Truth and Reconciliation process.

Not yet engaged

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

No

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?

We are just beginning. So any and all resources of speakers, materials, training would be appreciated.

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)

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

The bishop has been a strong advocate for these concerns in the state as well as members who have taken an active role in advocacy before the legislature and mobilizing people to influence leaders who are responsible for the utilization of funds from the American Rescue Plan. To this end, working along side others in the community with United Today Stronger Tomorrow a state wide effort was undertaken to get input from almost all of the zip codes in Utah. What was well know was the way that COVID impacted communities of color at a higher rate than than any other community. The information and mobilization of people led to some victories.

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)

Sacred Ground dialogue circles
Doctrine of Discovery training
Liturgies of repentance and lament
Preaching on race and racism
Diocesan or organization-wide reading of book(s) on race

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

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

Tribal engagement

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?

Local engagement

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

Local engagement
State engagement

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

Local engagement

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?

Tribal engagement

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”?

Not yet engaged

Conclusion
