

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

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### Introductory Info

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<b>Diocese</b>	West Tennessee
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**Contact Phone Number (include country code if outside U.S.)** 901-272-7425

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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

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

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

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**Check all the Truth-telling ministries with which your diocese, congregation or institution has engaged over the last 12 months:** Intentional efforts to address racial disparities in treatment of leaders across the diocese, congregation or institution

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**Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:**

Intentional effort to increase People of color in membership - I did not check this box because this is a predominantly white church with a rector who is a person of color. This has had its own invitation for people of color to join, however, it seems important to note that this church has become articulate with a goal to not necessarily focus on recruiting POC for membership but rather focus particularly on engaging and connecting with persons and organizations who are culturally, ethnically, economically, and regionally different from themselves.

GSL is a partner with MICAHA a local, community organizing group focusing on Economic and Education equity as well as Race and class equity in the Justice system.

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**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)**

Other: Sacred Ground

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**Please describe these Truth and Reconciliation process efforts:**

Though we are in the beginnings, it is a hope that from our 10 week dialogue circles with Sacred Ground curriculum we will move into a "So now what?" place and explore the church's racial history - the enslaved persons who helped move and build it, the "minstrel shows" which took place here, where the church was not during the assassination of Dr. MLKing (closed its doors), etc. So though I cannot show this work yet...this is what the group is moving towards we hope.

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

Yes

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

We now have a Social Justice Ministry which works to educate the conscience and be present in the public square. Last year we created a Mission Statement, Values, and Focus Areas. This year we are carrying those areas out in some of the above mentioned ways with MICAHA and Sacred Ground, as well as Christian Formation and speakers/Preachers, and upcoming trip to Montgomery, AL and Equal Justice Initiative.  
Nicki Soule soulen@rhodes.edu  
Paula Barnes pbarnes31@comcast.net

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

Yes

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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

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

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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

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Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

The Lynching Sites of Memphis is a to name the history of racial terror which has taken place in the Shelby County area (highest amount of known lynchings in TN)  
Clergy and parishioners take part in protests, vigils, rally.

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

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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  
Preaching on race and racism  
Diocesan or organization-wide reading of book(s) on race  
Storytelling circles, including Beloved Community Story Sharing

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

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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  
From the Pew to the Public Square Training  
Poor People's Campaign

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

Learning

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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

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

Not yet engaged

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

Local engagement  
State engagement  
Federal engagement

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**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?**

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Not yet engaged

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

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Local engagement

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

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Local engagement

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

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Not yet engaged

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

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Not yet engaged

## **Conclusion**

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

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I'd be happy to discuss anything further over email or phone.