

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:

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 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 NC since 2015 has catalogued a history of African American congregations, members, and church leadership. The top mission priority of the diocese is racial reconciliation.

My parish, St. Ambrose, Raleigh, NC, continues its work of disrupting the legacy of white supremacy in the liturgy. We do this through scrutinizing printed and painted images, Communion bread, baptism, chrismation, service music and hymns, creation care, preaching, bible study, Christian formation material (including Sunday School), and lifting up positive images of darkness/blackness in scripture. I mean the following statement in the most serious way possible. St. Ambrose is the liturgy equivalent of Wakanda from Black Panther. Read more at the following links.

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/03/04/historically-black-raleigh-church-emphasizes-african-american-and-african-culture-at-its-essence/>

<https://stambroseraleigh.org/in-the-news/ecf-christ-beyond-the-pale/>

<https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/835/icons-one-thousand-painted-prayers>

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https://issuu.com/episdionc/docs/winter_2020_disciple_-_web

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

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?

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?

No

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)

Host a Listening and Learning Session around race in partnership with neighbors, faith partners, civic groups, schools, etc
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:

St. Ambrose is active in the broader community, particularly around the topic of environmental racism. We held several virtual meetings within the last 12 months related to flooding the historically Black Raleigh neighborhoods because of upstream development. We've partners with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), national environmental non-profits like the Conservation Fund and the US Water Alliance, governmental entities such as the Raleigh City Council, the Planning Commission, and Raleigh's stormwater commission. We recently received a grant from The Episcopal Church to address environmental racism.

<https://stambroseraleigh.org/our-work/st-ambrose-awarded-24000-creation-care-grant/>

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

The work St. Ambrose has done around liturgy and our response to environmental racism would be helpful to other communities and the larger church. Having financial support to curate our story and make our resources available for a broader audience would be helpful.

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
Anti-racism or dismantling racism training
Racial healing, reconciliation and justice pilgrimages
Liturgical resource development
Incorporation of non-dominant cultural expressions in liturgy
Preaching on race and racism
Diocesan or organization-wide reading of book(s) on race
Storytelling circles, including Beloved Community Story Sharing

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

I addressed some of these in the boxes above. More information about liturgy and formation may be found in the article below.

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https://issuu.com/episdionc/docs/winter_2020_disciple_-_web

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:

Asset-based Community Development
 From the Pew to the Public Square Training
 Poor People's Campaign

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

Local 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?

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”?

Not yet engaged

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?

Local engagement

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

Learning
 Local engagement

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

Learning
 Local engagement

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

Learning
 Local engagement
 Federal 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:

I covered many of these efforts in the above boxes. Our congregation and diocese is involved in Habitat for Humanity, property tax subsidies, affordable housing, and workforce development. We have hosted events around just policing and emergency services (EMT, etc.)

In what other ways is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with racial justice and Repairing the Breach?

The diocese has a committee investigating reparations (restitution).

Conclusion
