

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

Name	Minerva Camarena Skeith
Title	Rector
Organization	St. John's Episcopal Church
Diocese	Texas
Email	revminerva@austinstjohns.org

Contact Phone Number (include country code if outside U.S.) 5125931778

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 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 among clergy Intentional efforts to increase proportion of people of color among staff Intentional efforts to increase proportion of people of color in membership 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:

The Diocese of Texas has intentionally worked with congregations to encourage increased active membership among communities of color. It has done this by actively looking for and developing talent among lay and clergy.

It has also encouraged congregations to participate in Becoming Beloved Communities and Sacred Ground

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
Committing to specific action to repent, heal and repair past and present injustices with which our organizations and members have been and/or are complicit (also known as "reparations").

Please describe these Truth and Reconciliation process efforts:

St. John's has worked since the summer of 2020 in learning more about racial injustice and systemic racism. There are 4 cohorts of about 5-7 people that meet every other week to go through the Sacred Ground Curriculum. They will complete this work in mid October.

The Diocese worked closely with the Seminary of the Southwest to create the Pauli Murray scholarship to support seminarians of color with tuition and other expenses.

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.

At St. Johns the group is Sacred Ground - Deacon Victoria Mason deaconvic@austinstjohns.org

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

Yes

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

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) Not yet engaged

What assistance or resources would help you to take the next steps around Proclaiming the Dream? It is hard to tell. Right now, the focus has been on completing the Sacred Ground curriculum. After its completion, the participants will identify their next steps.

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
Liturgies of repentance and lament
Preaching on race and racism

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above: The participants that have participated in the Sacred Ground curriculum, have gained a lot of knowledge that has been transformational.

They have initiated a service of lament with healing. Both Deacon Victoria call attention to the race and racism in our preaching. The month of June was focused the African American experience in our church and our community. The focus was both for our Christian Education as well as for our Sunday service. The last Sunday in June was a special service to celebrate the life of Pauli Murray. The Diocese of Texas invited all its congregations to celebrate the feast of Pauli Murray. The Sunday collection was gifted to the SSW for the Pauli Murray Scholarship.

What assistance or resources would help you to take the next steps around Practicing the Way? We appreciate the offerings of the National Church as well as the support of the Diocese of Texas.

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: None of the above

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

<p>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?</p>	<p>Not yet engaged</p>
<p>At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Refugee Ministries”?</p>	<p>Learning Local engagement</p>
<p>At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Immigration Reform”?</p>	<p>Learning</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Learning Local engagement</p>
<p>At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Housing Equity” for/with communities and People of Color?</p>	<p>Learning Local engagement</p>
<p>At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Economic Opportunity” for/with communities and People of Color?</p>	<p>Learning Local engagement</p>
<p>At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Environmental Racism and Eco-justice”?</p>	<p>Learning</p>
<p>At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Reparations for Racial Justice”?</p>	<p>Learning</p>
<p>Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:</p>	<p>St. John's has had an active immigration and refugee ministry pre-pandemic. We are in the process of reorganizing these ministries. The participants of Sacred Ground continue to learn of the many issues affected by systemic racism. We look forward to engaging more with our community to identify specific issues that we will work on in partnership with Central Texas Interfaith.</p>

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

The Diocese of Texas has partnered with Central Texas Interfaith and The Metropolitan Organization to address racial justice issues at the local and state level. These efforts include increased funding for healthcare, job training and protection of immigrant rights.

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?

The Diocese of Texas has been encouraging and providing financial assistance for congregations to learn how to organize so they can affect systemic changes in their communities.

The diocese regularly shares information with congregations of ways they can participate in racial justice and learning opportunities.

Congregational Vitality work closely with congregations to help them be better connected and responsive to the needs of their community.

St. John's has a core group of leaders that have been actively engaged in learning and participating in racial reconciliation events.

My hope is that this work is in preparation for the justice work that is ahead of us both for the clergy and laity. Justice work that can help transform us and our communities.
