

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: 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:

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

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

The diocese, at diocesan convention, has taken what we call "table time" for each congregation to look at at the demographics of the communities in which they are located and to compare community demographics to church demographics, and determine why they differ.

Diocesan staff members have tried to find priests of color for work in the diocese, so far without much success. A limited number of people of color have begun discernment processes.

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?

No

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

Congregation

Please describe the Truth and Reconciliation efforts related to the boxes checked above, including names of congregations or institution, if known:

Two congregations, St. Paul's in Fayetteville and All Saints' in Bentonville, have done more work than any other congregations in the area of truth and reconciliation. A limited amount of work has taken place in St. John's Church in Helena-West Helena, the location of rather infamous racial deaths in the early part of the twentieth century.

St. Michel's Church in Little Rock has been very active (with diocesan financial support) in the Little Rock Organizing Community program.

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

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 efforts to generate a local or regional vision for racial healing

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

Much of the work in Little Rock has taken place through the Little Rock Organizing Community as it has tried to gather white people with people of color to discuss historic community behaviors that have affected economic and neighborhood opportunities.

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
Preaching on race and racism

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

Several congregations and many individuals have joined Sacred Ground groups. These have been the best attended, and most positively rated, anti-racism efforts in the diocese.

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"?

Not yet engaged

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

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?

Not yet engaged

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

Not yet engaged

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

Local engagement

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

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

Programs take place in local congregations, with what is taking place varying widely.

Conclusion
