

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	Walter Brownridge
Title	Rev. Canon Dr.
Organization	The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont
Diocese	Vermont
Email	wbrownridge@diovermont.org

Contact Phone Number (include country code if outside U.S.) 8028633431

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: Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership (produced by Mission Institute, published January 2021) or other survey of experiences of diocesan leadership around race and racism
Historic study of diocesan and/or congregational participation in systemic oppression of Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander peoples and other people of color

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

- 1) The creation of an Anti-Racism Action Group
- 2) A Book Study examining the book written by the 1st Bishop Vermont offering a biblical defense of slavery in sympathy towards diocese in the slave-holding states.
- 3) A Social Justice Bible Study
- 4) The creation of Sacred Ground Circles
- 5) Our participation in a year-long racial healing project from the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center of Racial Healing (DioATL) June 2021 - August 2022

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;
Other: Commencing

Please describe these Truth and Reconciliation process efforts:

We are beginning this process especially as it concerns the genocide and oppression of the Indigenous people of the area - The Abenaki. This will examine th issues of land appropriation, residential school abuse, and the Eugenics Movement. An examination of the land acknowledgement question. The Diocese has received a Creation Care grant to support an Indigenous Food Sovereignty program.

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

Yes

Name

Walter Brownridge

Email

Are they a staff member or volunteer?

Staff

Would you like to identify another leader?

Yes

Name

Auburn Watersong

Email

Are they a staff member or volunteer?

Staff

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 Episcopal Diocese of Vermont Anti-Racism Working Group

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

Congregation
Seminary or School

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

Besides a couple of our congregations
Stephen's Episcopal Parish - Middlebury, VT
St. James' Episcopal Parish - Essex Junction, VT
Good Shepherd Episcopal Parish - Barre, VY

Th Rock Point School
(Day and Boarding Grades 9-12)

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
Participate in local or regional efforts to examine the history of race and racism

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

Besides the Diocese, these efforts include certain parishes such as:
Stephen's Episcopal Parish - Middlebury, VT
St. James' Episcopal Parish - Essex Junction, VT
Good Shepherd Episcopal Parish - Barre, VT
St. Paul's - Vergennes, VT

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
Doctrine of Discovery training
Racial healing, reconciliation and justice pilgrimages
Liturgies of repentance and lament
Liturgical resource development
Preaching on race and racism
Diocesan or organization-wide reading of book(s) on race

Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:

- 1) The creation of an Anti-Racism Action Group
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What assistance or resources would help you to take the next steps around Practicing the Way?

Funding through grants would be helpful. Speakers available from the Church Center

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
Asset-based Community Development

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?

Not yet engaged

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

Local engagement
State engagement
Federal engagement

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

Local engagement
State engagement
Federal 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?	State engagement
At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Economic Opportunity” for/with communities and People of Color?	State engagement
At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Environmental Racism and Eco-justice”?	State engagement
At what levels is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with “Reparations for Racial Justice”?	State engagement
Please describe the efforts related to the boxes checked above:	These efforts tend to be within the context of Episcopal parishes, and individuals (including the Bishop, Canons, and other clergy) participating in Vermont Interfaith Action, which is the Stat-wide Fath-Based Community Group. Also th Social Equity Caucus of th Vermont State Legislature, legislator and Citizen Fourm.
In what other ways is your diocese, congregation or institution engaging with racial justice and Repairing the Breach?	See above
What assistance or resources would help you to take the next steps around Repairing the Breach?	Guidance on how to work collectively as a Province One

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?	I would love to hear more aboutm an participate in the "Reimagining Policing and Criminal Justice Reform".
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