

Vision: As people living our baptismal covenant, we see our diocese reconciled to God by challenging racism in ourselves and society

Mission: To dismantle racism through relationship building, dialogue, education and action.

**Minutes, Diocesan Commission on Dismantling Racism
Holy Communion, University City
2/1/2020**

Attendees:

Rev. Chester Hines, Jr.—Holy Communion, University City
Janice Greenbaum—St. John’s, St. Louis
Kurt Greenbaum—St. John’s, St. Louis
Tony Corey—St. Timothy’s, Creve Coeur
Alice Stanley—Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis
Rob Good—Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis
Adrienne Dillon—Ascension/All Saints, Northwoods
Lynn Wolfe—Holy Communion, University City
Lisa Heaner—Holy Communion, University City
Sherifa Hardware-Bethune—Holy Communion, University City
Rina Chittooran—St. Martin’s, Ellisville
Alexia Dukes—All Saints/Ascension, Northwoods
Dale Anderson—Trinity, St. Louis
Margaret Rowe—Emmanuel, Webster Groves
Bill Gilbert—St. Peter’s, Ladue
Courtney Schaefer

Chester opened the meeting with prayer. Introductions followed.

Teach Piece

Lynn presented a teach piece on an article entitled “Racial dynamics between American women are flipped in a disorienting photo series.” The article discusses a photo essay by Chris Buck. She shared three images from the article. Discussion followed, with many members sharing personal experiences and how the photos affected them. There was also discussion between the need for people of color to obtain employment and the nature of race and opportunity.

Upcoming Teach Pieces

- March, 2020—Dale Anderson
- April, 2020--
- May, 2020-Annual Planning Meeting
- June, 2020
- July, 2020—Kurt Greenbaum

Budget: no report

Goal One: Increase the presence of the Commission in diocesan and congregational activities.

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- **Church Visitation 2020:** We will visit Trinity, St. Charles, on March 8, 2020. Tony is working with the group and he will let the commission know how many people are requested.
- **Absalom Jones Celebration:** Alexia reported on the status of preparations for the Absalom Jones next Saturday at . Currently there are 44 people registered and registration closes on Monday. We are using a black owned business, the Ambassador. Anyone who can help set up should report to the Cathedral at 12:30 on Friday. We will need some people to help reset the Cathedral after the event. The following people will be teams for the institutional racism activity (Rob will send instructions):
 - Rob and Rina
 - Alexia and Tony
 - Chester and Courtney
 - Margaret and Sharifa
 - Kurt and Lynn

For those who need to register, please register at the following BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3:

<https://www.diocesemo.org/ministries/dismantling-racism-commission>

- **Trip to Lincoln Library:** Alice reported that the plans for the bus trip on April 18. She shared a draft of the flyer. The trip will cost \$30 per person. We received an anonymous gift to cover the cost of the bus. The Diocese is signing the contract on bus. Alice will send the flyer to Janis for distribution on I-Seek. Chester will contact Rita and ask if the Diocesan office can both collect the money and write the checks. Alice will communicate with the Diocese regarding payments. Janis will publicize it as soon as Chester gets information about payment.
- **Information in church bulletins:** no report
- **Submission to ISeek:** no report

Goal Number Two—Train, educate and update each member of the Commission on some aspect of racism.

- **Seek and make available to Commission Members trainings for trainers:** no report
- **Commission Members to become versed in national church “Essential Concepts:”** no report
- **Annual Training Meeting:** We will not have a training meeting in April.
- **Financial Support for Individual Commission Members:** no report

Goal Number Three—Educate and inform so as to empower others to dismantle racism in the diocese.

- **Presentation to the 11th bishop:** At the end of the formal meeting, members brainstormed elements they wanted for the presentation to the 11th bishop. Chester will make arrangements to meet with the Bishop prior to the annual convention. He will contact Jillian Smith to get a firm date for the meeting. Rob will capture the brainstorming. He will then distribute a

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google form where people can provide written clarification about elements culled from the list.

- **Mobile Library:** no report
- **Sacred Ground Program (an initiative under “Becoming a Beloved Community):** no report
- **Church Initiatives**
 - **St. Timothy’s, Creve Coeur:** February 9, an actor will be portraying the life of H. Phillip Venable from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. They will also have posters of famous African Americans on display.
 - **Trinity, St. Charles:** Will have posters of famous African Americans on display.
 - **Christ Church Cathedral--Pursuing Racial Justice:** The Cathedral’s Black History Month observation will include drumming and a presentation by “Bread and Roses” on the first Sunday, a discussion on 20 years of Blackness at Christ Church Cathedral after the 10:00 am service on the second Sunday, a Black History Potluck with music after the 10:00 am service on the third Sunday, and a presentation on African spirituality after the 10:00 am service on the fourth Sunday. Their Lenten program will view and discuss Ava Duvernay’s “When they See Us” on Wednesday nights.
 - **St. Martin’s Ellisville—Justice Commission:** no report
 - **Holy Communion—Becoming Beloved Community:** They are sponsoring an event, “Voting Justice and People of Faith,” on Sunday February 9, at 5:00 pm. They will be screening of “Rigged, The Voter Suppression Playbook.” You can register at <https://holycommunion.net/rigged/>
 - **Trinity Central West End:** no report
 - **Emmanuel, Webster Groves:** no report
 - **Grace Episcopal Church, Kirkwood:** no report
 - **Calvary Episcopal Church, Columbia:** no report
 - **St. John’s:** no report
- **Dismantling Racism Training:** no report.
- **Training Modules for Church Presentations/Visitations:** no report
- **Annual Commission Planning Meeting:** no report
- **Annual Commission Conference and Celebration:** Kurt reported that the committee has met and planned the event on December 5, from 10 am to 1 pm at Trinity Central West End. They have identified a possible speaker, Rev. Earl Fisher, who is from Memphis. He is the founder of “Up the Vote.” He speaks about activism and faith. The goal would be to inspire greater activism among congregational groups. Lisa suggested we might be able to offset the costs by sharing the booking with another church or entity. Discussion followed about cost and the purpose of this event and its relationship to other events/programs such as Absalom Jones. The committee will reconvene to discuss possibilities.

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- **Anytown Program:** Members are encouraged to recruit youth for the program. Information can be found at <https://www.nccjstl.org/anytown>
Bill will contact Loren Lash to share information about the program.

Goal Number 4: Increase the active membership.

- **Extend invitation to 3 parishes to join:** no report.
- **Participate in Wednesday evening dinner at Emmanuel, Webster Groves:** no report

New Business

- Janis discussed changing our email list (which will be free) and she distributed a list for members to check. Before the transition she will send an email to current recipients for them to opt out. There was some discussion about the name. The name will remain the same.

Announcements

- The Legend Singers will present a workshop "Festival of African American Spirituals on February 21 and 22 at Kirkwood Baptist Church. The cost for the workshop is \$20.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 7, at Holy Communion.

Chester closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Good, Secretary