

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**

### **Via Zoom**

**6/6/2020**

#### **Attendees:**

Rev. Chester Hines, Jr., Chairperson—Holy Communion, University City

Dale Anderson—Trinity, St. Louis

Rina Chittooran—St. Martin's, Ellisville

Jane Culligan—Trinity, St. Charles

Adrienne Dillon—Ascension/All Saints, Northwoods

Alexia Dukes—All Saints/Ascension, Northwoods

Bill Gilbert—St. Peter's, Ladue

Rob Good—Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis

Shug Goodlow—St. Peters, Ladue

Doris Goodlow—St. Peters, Ladue

Lisa Gould—Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis

Janice Greenbaum—St. John's, St. Louis

Kurt Greenbaum—St. John's, St. Louis

Sherifa Hardware-Bethune—Holy Communion, University City

Nancy Helmer—St. Timothy's, Creve Coeur

Heather McCain—Calvary, Columbia and Second Missionary Baptist Church

Kevin McGrane—St. John's, St. Louis

Valerie Patton—Ascension/All Saints, Northwood

Margaret Rowe—Emmanuel, Webster Groves

Courtney Schaefer—Attending various churches remotely

Chester opened the meeting with prayer. Introductions followed.

#### **Teach Piece**

Nancy Helmer shared St. Timothy's action to get "souls to the polls" based on a challenge from Bishop Curry. They have partnered with St. Martin's, and they are working with League of Women Voters National Council of Jewish Women. They initially were going to go into nursing homes and senior centers, which has been changed due to the circumstances of Covid-19. They have identified a tool called turbo vote which is an online gateway for you to check and complete your registration.. They have undergone training on the platform. They are contacting senior centers to teach them how to use turbo vote.

#### **Upcoming Teach Pieces**

- June, 2020—Nancy Helmer
- July, 2020—Kurt Greenbaum

**Draft Statement:** Rob shared a draft statement from the Diocesan Commission regarding the recent actions for racial justice. Commission members gave feedback

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### **Absalom Jones Celebration:**

Alexia and Rob shared preliminary plans for the Absalom Jones training. The Bishop-elect has expressed an interest in partnering with the Commission for next year's program. Alexia shared that she is also interested in developing a panel discussion. Rob reported that the date has been set for February 27. Alexia will use a doodle poll to convene the group in the next month. The following members volunteered to serve on that Absalom Jones subcommittee: Sharifa, Margaret, Lisa, Shug, Doris, Valerie, Adrienne, Nancy, and Courtney.

### **Meeting with the Clergy**

The Bishop elect has asked the Commission to have two people lead a conversation with the clergy the work of the Dismantling Racism Commission on Wednesday, June 10, from 2:00 to 4:30. Shug Goodlow, Alexia Dukes, and Courtney Schaeffer volunteered. Janis will share those names with Jillian Smith.

### **Presence at Actions for Racial Justice**

Margaret asked if the DCDR should try to be a presence at actions and marches for social justice. She also asked if anyone would be willing to inform her when actions are occurring and also attending with her. Rob will contact Margaret to arrange to attend an action and Courtney shared information about an action in Webster Groves.

### **Sacred Ground**

Kurt shared that he and Adrienne were on a zoom meeting for facilitators of the Sacred Ground initiative. The 10 session curriculum is created by the National Church and he, Adrienne, Margaret and Janis led a program at Emmanuel that received strong reviews. It is designed primarily to help inform white people who are in a largely white church although it by no means excludes People of Color. He is interested in working with anyone who wants to convene a second Sacred Grounds. Nancy volunteered and others can contact him. Nancy shared that St. Timothy's and St. Martin's are planning to facilitate a session this fall.

### **Budget**

Chester is preparing the budget and members should submit any budget requests to him as soon as possible so he can present a draft budget next month.

### **Our Next Meeting**

Because the first Saturday of July is July 4, we will meet a week later on July 11. Kurt will share a link to the zoom meeting.

### **St. John's Request**

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Chester reported that Kevin McGrane asked for support to begin a racial justice ministry at St. John's, Tower Grove. Once Kurt finishes his work with the Transition Committee, he will provide support for that effort.

### **Continued Meeting on Zoom**

Chester asked the committee to share any ideas on how to improve our meetings on zoom.

### **Meeting with the Bishop**

Adrienne asked about the status of our meeting with the Bishop. Chester remarked that currently it is on hold. Rob suggested that the Bishop might be interested in briefly visiting with us at our next Zoom meeting. Janis will invite him.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, July 11, at 10:00 am via zoom.

Chester closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Good, Secretary