

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
1/4/2020**

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
Sherifa Hardware—Holy Communion, University City
Heather McCain—Calvary, Columbia
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 Schaeffer--

Chester opened the meeting with prayer. Introductions followed.

Teach Piece: Janis presented on the Sacred Ground program at Emmanuel which she is facilitating with Kurt, Adrienne and Margaret. It is a film based program produced by the national church on the topic of race and faith. It is open for anyone to use and the materials are online. There are 10 parts and the sessions are 2 hours long. She noted that congregations don't have to present all 10 sessions. They are watching the films together and then discuss the films and the readings for the day. She reviewed highlights of the program and the materials covered. She emphasized that the program has reinforced how important this work is in the broader community, helping people see what has happened in our past so we can change our future.

Upcoming Teach Pieces

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

Budget: no report

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

- **Church Visitation 2020:** We are scheduled to go to St. Paul's, Carondolet, but there are only 6 people registered. Kurt suggested that we keep the visit even if we don't conduct a training. Chester will make a decision by this Thursday whether we will conduct the training or if we will visit St. Paul's. Alice suggested that we could visit without leading an adult forum. Chester reported that St. Stephen's is next on our list for visitation. He asked Courtney to contact St. Stephen's for a visitation. Tony shared that he is scheduled to present at Trinity, St. Charles, on March 8. He asked others to join and make that a visitation.
- **Absalom Jones Celebration:**
Alexia reported that Ms. Valarie Patton will serve as the speaker and the event entitled "Repairing the Breach through the Lens of Economic Justice" will be held at Christ Church Cathedral on February 8. The general program design is to follow Ms. Patton's keynote with the institutional racism activity from the 14-hour training and then 4 breakouts on health, employment, education and wealth (church resources and how they are used).
The Program is as follows:
 - Registration 8:30 (Coffee and light breakfast)
 - Welcome/Prayer 9:00-9:10
 - Ms. Patton Keynote 9:15-10:00
 - Institutionalized Racism Activity (facilitated by DCDR teams, current volunteers are Alexia, Adrienne, Rob, Margaret will ask: Tony, Chester, Rina, Dale) 10:00-10:20
 - Break/Transition 10:20 - 10:30
 - Break outs by choice 10:30-11:15
 - Asking them to facilitate a 45 minute conversation on what the challenges are and how the church can respond. Each group will have a commission member as a scribe. Report out from a participant.
 - Health: Dr. Blamoville
 - Education: Debbie Nelson-Linck
 - What's in your wallet (Loura Gilbert)
 - Employment: Lisa Gould
 - 3 Minute Report Outs 11:15-11:30
 - Lunch 11:30-12:15
- Rob moved and Kurt seconded a motion to provide a \$200 honorarium for Ms. Patton. The motion passed unanimously. Rob suggested that we provide a lunch of soup (Gumbo from Cathy's Kitchen, an African American owned business) and salad.
- **Trip to Lincoln Library:** Alice reported that the trip will occur on April 18 and we will visit both the museum and the Lincoln home. The admission to the museum is \$15 (seniors \$12). The cost of the bus would be

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- **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:** Chester requested that the subcommittee meet to prepare the presentation on February 1 after the regularly scheduled meeting.
- **Mobile Library:** no report
- **Sacred Ground Program (an initiative under “Becoming a Beloved Community):** See the teach piece.
- **Church Initiatives-**no report
- **Dismantling Racism Training:** Chester will follow up with Rev. Annette Joseph in Poplar Bluff to schedule a training sometime in the summer.
- **Training Modules for Church Presentations/Visitations:** No report
- **Annual Commission Planning Meeting:** The planning meeting will be on May 3.
- **Fifth Annual Commission Conference and Celebration, Dec. 7, Trinity, St. Louis.** Courtney reported that she has made connections with the Deaconess Foundation with the possibility of bringing a speaker for next year. Kurt and Lynn have agree to be co-chairs of the event. Courtney and Adrienne will serve on the committee. Chester asked the sub-committee for a report in May.
- **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

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New Business

- **Progressive Lenten Event:** Due to a lack of planning, we will not offer a shared Lenten event this year. We will plan to have a Lenten series in 2021. Shug and Courtney will co-chair the committee. Sharifa and Chester will also serve on that committee. The hope is to have a plan in place by July and August of 2020. Courtney will reach out to Shug to discuss planning.
- **New communication process**
Janice shared that the current DR Exec List costs approximately \$35 a month. She suggested changing to a free platform hosted by the Diocese using their google apps structure. Kurt moved and Lynn seconded a motion to allow Janice to investigate how to migrate our communications to a free platform. The motion passed unanimously. She will report back by the next meeting.
- **Clergy change at Calvary-Communication to new clergy.** Heather shared that a new interim will be coming to Calvary and she asked how the Commission might support the committee at Calvary. Rob agreed to visit Columbia and meet with the new clergy. Heather will schedule a meeting. A discussion followed on how to communicate with new clergy (as 11 clergy are currently transitioning). There is a Diocesan clergy conference in March or April and Rob suggested that we ask a rector (like Marvin at St. Timothy's) to share the influence of an established racial justice committee in their parish (and how that work is supported by the Diocesan Commission). Janice will explore how we can get on the agenda for that meeting.
- **Venable Park.** Tony shared that St. Timothy's is currently working with other community members. He would like to ask the Diocese to become a partner in the program. Tony will contact Sue Rehkopf, the Diocesan archivist, so he can discuss the program with her. Janice also shared that she would like to feature the initiative in I-Seek.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 1, at Holy Communion.

Chester closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Good, Secretary