

## Racial Re/Conciliation and Justice 2022 Annual Ministry Report

### **Ministry Mission/Purpose**

The purpose of this ministry is to promote and publicize the work of racial reconciliation and to offer opportunities for individuals and communities of faith to engage in the necessary work of acknowledging, naming, engaging, and dismantling systems of oppression born of chattel slavery within the Diocese of Missouri.

We approach reconciliation from a place of the spiritual practice of seeking and forming a loving, liberating and life-giving relationship with God and one another, and striving to heal and transform the injustice and brokenness in ourselves, our communities, our Church, institutions and society.

### **Accomplishments/Challenges for the Past Year**

Frankly, determining the level of interest or perceived “need” for this ministry has been somewhat challenging. Varying opinions about exactly what racism is, reluctance to discuss racism historically and in its entirety, feelings that we should “*be over it by now*” or should have “*put it behind us by now*”, fear of feelings of “*white guilt*” and expressed opinions that there are other things more important in this diocese that we should be addressing, have all been present and somewhat daunting. The commentary about the prioritizing of issues within the diocese is almost always accompanied about concerns about how resources, money in particular, are being allocated (code word for “spent”) in the diocese.

All of these challenges present opportunities to create safe spaces and opportunities for truth-telling. In conjunction with the Dismantling Racism Commission, we have begun to create safe spaces and opportunities for the sacred telling and hearing of our stories. We will continue to seek and serve Christ in the coming year as we joyfully proclaim the Gospel and lovingly remind one another of our Anti-Racism Covenant. Most importantly, we will “*strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.*” (BCP 305). This will be the pillar of our work in the coming year as we seek to repair the breach in our relationships, in the diocese, our Church, and communities.

### **Goals for the Year Ahead**

Racial Reconciliation is not the work of one person; it is the work of many. The development of an advisory council is underway. This advisory council will address the intersectionality of racism and the reality of life in our diocese, our communities, and The Episcopal Church (TEC). This includes, but is not limited to, employment, housing, education (both K-12 and secondary), health care, policing, mass incarceration, the arts, liturgy in TEC, etc.

We are looking at the possibility of developing a podcast series and a speaker series. These ideas are in their infancy but will grow as more perspectives and voices join this advisory council.

Once the advisory council has been formed, a diocesan wide announcement will be made via the diocesan website, iSeek and other diocesan publications/communications.

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Other goals/objectives include:

- Continued consultation with the diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission (DRC).
- Establishment of a diocesan clearinghouse of resources that can be used by both individuals and communities.
- Establishment of a theologically-based understanding of racial justice and reconciliation that recognizes and honors the image of God in every human being.
- Being available to preach and teach in communities of faith inside and outside the Diocese.
- Establishing a schedule of availability for presentations to parishes, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, and other groups highlighting the ongoing work of racial reconciliation within the Diocese.
- Establishment of a quarterly reporting system to the Bishop's Office

### **Contact Information for Ministry Leader**

**The Rev. Shug Goodlow** is the diocesan Missioner for Racial Reconciliation and Justice and also serves as a part of the newly constituted Leadership Team of the Dismantling Racism Commission. This leadership team was formed when The Rev. Deacon Chester Hines retired as leader and convener of the DRC last year. Questions, suggestions and comments may be directed to:

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