Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing

Overview for the proposed Center for Racial Healing
Since the Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism's work has grown beyond the boundaries of being a commission and its work has expanded to include the wider Episcopal Church community, we are phasing out the Commission in October and opening the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. We envision our Center to be a resource to help local and national intergenerational communities to bravely embrace the daily work of dismantling personal prejudice and systemic racism.

Our Mission is to provide tools and experiences that allow the Episcopal Church and other faith communities as well as the larger community of individuals who wish to embrace our model to engage in dismantling racism through education, dialogue, pilgrimage, spiritual formation and prayer.

We are pleased to have The Episcopal Church enter into a partnership with us as we expand the work that we are doing to a much wider audience in our Episcopal Communion. See the statement below:

An excerpt from the Presiding Bishop's Strategic Vision for Episcopal Engagement in Racial Reconciliation, Justice and Healing plan.

Partnership with the Diocese of Atlanta's Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism and Center for Racial Healing

The Diocese of Atlanta has provided essential resources for many provinces, dioceses and congregations embracing the work not only of becoming anti-racist but fostering the beloved community of God. Using the Seeing the Face of God in Each Other curriculum, their leaders also bring an unusual degree of spiritual awareness and care to the process of transformation.

The Presiding Officers experienced firsthand the importance of the group's contribution and how effective their model can be for personal, spiritual and institutional transformation. The Episcopal Church is entering into partnership with the Diocese of Atlanta in order to launch a Center for Racial Healing that will grow the capacity and reach for this important element of our Church's racial formation.

Partial list of Initiatives

1. The Center will continue the work of offering dismantling racism training while providing train the trainer sessions for dioceses who are seeking to strengthen this portion of their work.
2. Develop a dismantling racism curriculum designed for 6th to 12th grade in English and Spanish
3. Begin the development of dismantling racism materials in Spanish which are culturally sensitive.
4. Mobilize clergy to become more effective in leading the work of dismantling racism in their respective parishes.
5. Increase the involvement of youth and young adults in the work of dismantling racism through program and leadership development.
6. Continue the work of remembering the lynched through the completion of the proposed three year cycle of pilgrimages in Georgia and through collaboration with the National Civil and Human Rights Museum in Atlanta to create a permanent exhibit remembering all of the lynched in Georgia which will be available also for loan to other dioceses to help them imagine their work around lynching and other acts of racially motivated violence.
7. Develop a series of week long intensive workshops that will include pilgrimages to coastal Georgia and South Carolina as the history of slavery and its impact upon the present state of race relations is explored.
8. Offer ongoing classes, workshops, film series, book studies, lectures, discussion groups, healing circles, and pilgrimages to places of hope and healing that help to enlarge the conversation on race.
9. Convene local and national Conversation on Race Days using local and national resource leaders
10. Leading in developing a curriculum for dismantling racism with a spiritual formation foundation that is firmly rooted in our sacred tradition of faith that can be accessed by all who are engaging this work.
11. Leading in the formation of supportive collaborative networks that can help all who are involved in the work of racial healing.