

Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice  
Missioner's Report to Diocesan Convention 2023

Respectfully submitted to 2023 Diocesan Convention by the Rev. Shug Goodlow.

*Help us go to the margins, especially those at our own institutions.  
Let us stand with the lonely, the sick, the persecuted, those who have been violated.  
Let us sit with them, in our own unease.*

*Help us listen to these voices. Help us reflect. Help us prayerfully act.  
Help us rise, not to erase our discomfort but to be fully present,  
Seeking solidarity, seeking repentance.*

*Lord, help us wallow in our discomfort, Let us lean in.*  
- Sarah Signorino, Canisius College

### **Vision**

As people endeavoring to live out our Baptismal covenant, the Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice (RR&SJ) ministry calls for justice for those who have been and continue to be impacted, marginalized and injured by the unjust structures of racism and oppression. We call for our diocese, community and TEC to commit to the work and practice of eliminating racism.

### **Mission**

To act with purpose by identifying and expressing both historical and moral truths about the racial history of our diocese, community and TEC. We seek to develop and ask reflective questions about ourselves and those with whom we are in relationship, with the intention of educating our parishes and community based on the answers to those questions.

### **Accomplishments**

- Visits to several congregations both in and out of our diocese to preach/teach on issues of race/social justice;
- Collaboration with the leadership of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) during their restructuring project which included the formation and clarification of new/revised policies and procedures, revised website, making forms more accessible and fillable online, revised dues structure, etc.
- UBE extended invitation to become occasional leader of online Bible Study;
- Inclusion as a regular panelist/contributor for TEC Prophetic Voices Podcast. Through the lens of social justice, this podcast offers profound dialogues about race, truth, justice, and healing. It also explores where that dialogue intersects with our faith.

Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice  
Missioner's Report to Diocesan Convention 2023

- Invitations extended to several people to be part of a RR&SJ Council of Advisors. The intent is address the intersection between racism and several areas including the legal system, policing, education (K-12 and secondary), banking, housing, employment, etc.
- Began discussions about the possibility of buying student lunch debt;

As our work is closely aligned and “crosses over” at times, RR&SJ has worked collaboratively with the Dismantling Racism Commission (DRC) over this last year. This collaboration included:

- The Annual DRC Celebration at St. Timothy's Creve Coeur on December 3, 2022;
- The Annual Absalom Jones Celebration/Eucharist held at Trinity CWE on February 18, 2023;
- The bus ride to the Lincoln Museum and African American History Museum in Springfield, Illinois on April 1, 2023;

**Goals for 2024**

- Conduct a diocesan Racial Justice/Racial Equity Audit using the TEC Racial Justice as a model;
- Establishment of a quarterly podcast of presentations by members of the RR&SJ Council of Advisors. Members to be announced no later than mid-December 2023. First presenter/presentation topic to be scheduled for first quarter of 2024;
- Begin exploring the area of/effects of Environmental Racism;
- Development of an initiative to buy student lunch debt (much like the Emery Washington Convocation bought medical debt). Scope of the debt to be determined; one or more school districts to be identified. Conversations will begin based on information gathered.
- Continued collaboration with DRC to help plan/assist with Anti-Racism Training and bus trip to Memphis in April 2024 (with coordinator Alice Stanley).
- Continued preaching/teaching in and out of our diocese.
- Assist with the planning of the 2024 Absalom Jones Celebration Eucharist;

**Contact**

The Rev. Shug Goodlow, Missioner for Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice  
E-mail: RevShug@aol.com      Phone: 314-898-3482