

Racial Reconciliation

LEAD:

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A human society of unity, togetherness, and oneness: that is the promise and opportunity that Paul articulated in Galatians. We must recognize that even after the social justice advances of the recent past in the U.S. and elsewhere, human-made structures continue to limit that promise: extractive capitalism, de facto racial segregation in housing and education, mass incarceration, the prison industrial complex, and so on.

These problems of structural racism and division have become so ingrained that we can often forget that they are ephemeral and that only God is eternal. We at St. Luke's are equipped to help make our city and our community more whole. Our committee is committed, at once, to acknowledging and thoughtfully examining the historical basis for structural racism and to taking the right action to improve the existing problems caused by racial division and seeking justice for the wrongs of the past.

We must enjoy our love for one another in Christ, recognizing each person's disparate life history and trajectory, which have been helped or harmed by structural racism. Voice that awareness with love and use your voice for change.

Changes in the minds and hearts of individuals are the necessary pre-condition to societal change. But there will be no change to systems of oppression, without policy and legislative changes. That is why advocacy is such an integral part of our commitment to justice.

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HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Participate in The Episcopal Church's curriculum Sacred Ground.

Participate in interfaith discussions, e.g., reading Caste with parishioners from Ebenezer Baptist Church.

LEARN

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

PRAY

Volunteer with the Second Chance Campaign, the Absalom Jones Center, or Church of the Common Ground, the Diocese's homeless and poverty ministry.

Key areas for impact: mass incarceration of minorities; racially biased police practices; voter suppression legislation; direct family support policies to repair multi-generational poverty; laws/policies that counter income inequality and segregated neighborhoods.

ACT