

Dismantling Racism Commission Annual Report October 2023 – September 2024

Our Charge:

The Dismantling Racism Commission (DRC) in the Diocese of Central PA is charged with creating a clear, compassionate, operational and effective strategy for dismantling systemic and institutional racism in our diocese and overseeing its implementation.

The group is asked to:

- Identify and define the problem of racism as it exists in Central Pennsylvania, specifically within our ecclesiastical structure (parishes and programs, diocesan structures and staff)
- Articulate a Vision of the Beloved Community in our local context
- Establish and communicate a series of clear steps to achieve the Vision (including but not limited to: spiritual formation, education, expression of personal and institutional narratives, development of projects and programs, re-working of institutional structures, diocesan-level implementation of policy, program, and funding, etc.)
- Create a plan for implementation with a timeline and budget
- Hold this work in a context of building relationships, engaging in prayerful contemplation, personal commitment, theological and scriptural reflection and faithful hope
- The committee should report quarterly to all who are identified as People of Color. The reporting should occur before the report to the Council of Trustees.

Meetings:

The DRC meets monthly by zoom on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Other meetings are held as needed to complete the work of the commission.

The focus of the DRC's work for 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 has included but not limited to:

- Creating and disseminating a request for prayer for our work.
- Participating and supporting Sacred Ground in collaboration with Bishop Baxter Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and the Stevenson School for the Ministry.
- Growing and developing our relationship with the Union of Black Episcopalians by supporting their projects and proposing a matching grant program in collaboration with them.
- Developing and implementing a plan to respond to Indigenous Justice Issues.
- Finalizing a diocesan survey to inform the steps necessary to achieve our vision of the Beloved Community.
- Finalizing and Disseminating Racial Justice Audit to congregations.
- Communicating our work and mission in a variety of forums to include the Diocesan Digest, Clergy Conferences, Convocation meetings, and at Convention.
- Updating our webpage on the diocesan website with relevant resources, and contributing articles on engaging racial justice in everyday life to the newsletters.
- Exploring our role in the Spanish Speaking Ministry and Prison Reform and Abolition Campaign.

- Alerting others to the dangers of the activities of White Christian Nationalism.
- Following the passions of our Commission members that help us to determine what God is calling us to do in this time and in this place.

Members:

Co-Chairs

The Rev. Dn. Michael Nailor, St Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg

Micalagh Moritz, St. Paul's, Harrisburg

The Rev. Linda Watkins, Member and Chaplain

The Rev. Rebecca Myers, St. Paul's, Harrisburg

The Rev. Bradley Mattson, Hope Church, Manheim

The Rev. Dina Ishler, St. Matthew's, Sunbury

The Rev. Luke Selles, St. Stephen's, Harrisburg

Emma Di Pace, St John's, Lancaster

Sarah Reid, Trinity, Williamsport

Sharon England, St. Paul's Harrisburg (clerk)

Lissa Olson, St. John's, Lancaster

Andrew Dyrli-Hermeling, St. James, Lancaster

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon England