

## The Stevenson School for Ministry launches a new Racial Justice Missioner Certificate

A systematic approach to engage the fundamental issues at the heart of leading for racial justice. This certificate is designed for anyone with an interest in challenging racism at a structural or systemic level within the church and community. You do not have to be in a specific leadership role in order to benefit from the content offered. Depending on your experience level, you may receive your certificate with 10-12 months of academic work. All modules and courses are offered online.

### Consider the need

The Episcopal Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, noted at a recent executive council meeting that church wide we are expanding and deepening our ongoing work of racial justice and reconciliation. Along with his staff, he has initiated a churchwide effort of truth and reconciliation. There are great resources, such as Sacred Ground, as well as the discoveries from the racial justice audit of Episcopal Church Leadership that are guides to the formation work, we need to do.

### What Is being offered from the Stevenson School for Ministry in 2021-2022:

<p><b>What Size is Your Cross? Beginning Conversations about race and justice</b> With The Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher Stewart</p>	<p>Justice work is soul work, and your soul will get weary, but it is work we are called to do if we follow the crucified and risen Savior who also faced his cross working for a better world. Where do you begin? Is this what you want to do?</p>	<p>Wednesdays @ 6 PM Beginning August 25<sup>th</sup></p>
<p><b>Becoming The Beloved Community 1</b> With The Rev. Kevin Barron and Dr. Marion Schwartz</p>	<p>A grounding for the four quadrants and use of terms and common language and theological reflection.</p>	<p>Thursdays @ 6 PM Beginning August 26<sup>th</sup> 10 weeks no cost</p>
<p><b>Becoming The Beloved Community 2</b> With The Rev. Kevin Barron and Dr. Marion Schwartz</p>	<p>(New course fall term 2021) Deepens the theological formation of Beloved Community with practical applications.</p>	<p>Tuesdays @ 6 PM Beginning August 24<sup>th</sup> 10 weeks no cost</p>
<p><b>Webinar: Racial Justice: Inclusion, Encountering, Making Amends</b> With the Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher- Stewart, the Rev. Kevin Barron and the Rev. Carla Christopher Wilson</p>	<p>This webinar will probe the various elements of restorative justice.</p>	<p>Saturday, October 30 from 9:30 – 12:30 No cost. <a href="#">Registration</a> open now.</p>
<p><b>White Too Long": Confronting the Theology and Practice of White Supremacy</b> With Dr. Josh Davis and <a href="#">The Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser</a></p>	<p>A probing and critical inquiry into the theology and practice of White Supremacy within American Christianity</p>	<p>Thursdays @ 6 PM Beginning November 11<sup>th</sup> 5 weeks \$45</p>

<p><b>Liberation Theology</b> With Dr. Josh Davis</p>	<p>Theology elective: Liberation theology is founded on the idea that God’s salvation of us always means freedom – not just freedom from sin and death, but from all the ways that sin and death hold us in bondage.</p>	<p>Thursdays @ 7 PM Beginning November 11<sup>th</sup> 10 weeks \$300 for CE unit, \$100 for audit Scholarships available to Diocese CPA students</p>
<p><b>Advent Series: Finding our way, following the north star to racial justice</b> With the Rev. Kevin Barron and the Rev. Carla Christopher Wilson</p>	<p>This Advent series unites the journey towards justice of 2000 years ago with our pilgrimage towards racial justice today.</p>	<p>Wednesdays @ 7 PM Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> 4 weeks no cost</p>
<p><b>Repairing the Breach</b> With the Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart</p>	<p>Creating social justice will be studied through examination of sermons and essays, key biblical texts, and assessing our personal journey towards God’s kingdom</p>	<p>Beginning the week of February 14, 2022 10 weeks \$45 or no cost with Shaped by Faith voucher</p>
<p><b>Act on Immigration Injustices</b> With Christina Luo, Esq.</p>	<p>Learn how the church responds and supports local immigration initiatives as we address spiritual practices that lead to truth telling about culture and race in the context of history</p>	<p>Beginning the week of February 14, 2022 5 weeks \$45 or no cost with Shaped by Faith voucher</p>
<p><b>Philippians and Philemon: Letters of Paul from Prison</b> With Dr. Deirdre Good</p>	<p>A record of struggle and debate over key social, political, ethical, racial, and theological issues</p>	<p>Beginning the week of February 14, 2022 10 weeks \$300 for CE unit, \$100 for audit Scholarships available to Diocese CPA students</p>

How do we practice of “turning” away from injustice and toward love? The Stevenson School for Ministry is offering a certificate in Social Justice with a focus on racial justice.

To begin, develop your learning plan, consider the courses and options available along with your experience, contact the Dean and develop your way forward to accomplish your specific goals.  
rszoke@diocesecpa.org

## Develop a Learning Plan

This certificate offers a self-structured learning approach where each student is invited to work with the Dean of SSFM to put together a learning plan that considers previous experiences, training and courses of study. SSFM offers a sequence of courses, and modules to choose from that includes offerings through Lower Susquehanna Synod-ELCA through their Justice Academy. <https://www.lss-elca.org/about-us/justice-ministries/toward-racial-justice/> and resources from The Episcopal Church <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/michaelcurry/gathering-on-sacred-ground/>

## Theologically Centered in Baptism.

Courses and Modules fall into two categories from which to build a learning plan

- Baptismal Promise: We will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being
- Baptismal Promise: We will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Each course and module along with all training is built upon foundational principles of the Book of Common Prayer's Baptismal Covenant to engage in the promises made that lead to acting in ways that always move forward to authentic diversity and Beloved Community by

- engaging in reflective, deliberate spiritual practices as a commitment that leads toward reconciliation, healing, and justice:
- telling the truth, Proclaiming the Dream, Practicing the Way of Love, and Repairing the Breach

## How do you begin?

Each participant is invited to prayerfully develop their own learning plan

Specifically: Name what goals or name exactly what you want to learn

Goal #1

Goal #2

Determine in the description of each goal:

- Measurable: How can you measure your learning to be sure progress is being made?
- Achievable: Can you attain each specific goal that has been set?
- Relevant: Do these goals fit into the broader needs for dismantling racism?
- Timely: Have you set target dates to keep learning on track?

Each participant is invited to form a small group either within their parish, or in their communities with friends and neighbors, thus forming a learning cohort to reflect with each other not only learning but also actions that need to be taken. We do not go this alone.

Each faculty of each course is available to offer support for you within your learning cohort.

## Other Resources to consider

- ❖ **Sacred Ground** <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/> a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith—need to engage with a small group.
- ❖ **Racial Justice Audit** of Episcopal Church Leaders [https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/RR-Racial-Justice-Audit-Report\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/RR-Racial-Justice-Audit-Report_ENG.pdf). To share and hold conversations within your community.

- ❖ UCC Sacred Conversations Podcast and their Restorative Justice framework, [https://www.ucc.org/justice\\_racism/](https://www.ucc.org/justice_racism/) information to be shared in the context of your congregation
- ❖ **Faith + Lead Justice;** justice coursework as well as blogs to supplement our offerings <https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/>
- ❖ **The Justice Unbound journal** by the Presbyterians is also a good resource, <https://justiceunbound.org/>, with an arts section as well as well sorted sections on different justice issues

**Lower Susquehanna Synod-ELCA offerings that we share and can be chosen.**

1. Online Learning: Trauma and Resilience: A Journey Towards Healing with Dr. Kristen Albert and the Rev. Carla Christopher Wilson

While we know that the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it more than its fair share of uncertainty and trauma, so too did other conditions of 2020 – the economy, politics, isolation, and so much more. Whether we realized it or not, many of us have experienced a degree of trauma resulting in the volatility, uncertainty, and complexity of this time.

Frequency: Self-paced. Recommended length: 14-21 days

Pre-work required: None

Method of Delivery: Asynchronous with opportunities for interaction with other participants and facilitators throughout the course of the program.

Cost: \$30 per person.

Start Date: Rolling Open Enrollment. <https://turningpointslc.dreamseedo.org/> Begin any time. Pay by CC at Point of Sale.

Questions? Contact [Kristen@LiveWorkSatisfied.com](mailto:Kristen@LiveWorkSatisfied.com), or call 717-371-2994

2. Lower Susquehanna Synod-ELCA is forming Justice Academy, which will offer a series of learning modules both asynchronous and synchronous learning. <https://www.lss-elca.org/about-us/justice-ministries/> Missional Preaching; Preach Justice, racial justice in small rural congregations tending to culture

**How do you know when you are ready to receive the certificate?**

**Minimum 6 courses-including Becoming Beloved Community, Racial Justice and the Body of Christ, Liberation theology and Repairing the Breach, 4 webinars/learning weekends/ and an opportunity to put learning into practice. We encourage you to take the Intercultural Development Inventory.**

Through this course of study, you will discover

- 1- frameworks and models to unravel the dynamics of race and racism
- 2- the opportunity to practice behaviors that can help develop capacities needed to lead from a more inclusive orientation.
- 3- cultural competency through the Intercultural Development Inventory® (IDI®) which is the premier cross-culturally valid assessment for building cultural competence
- 4- how to lead with inclusive and racially-just leadership practices
- 5- how to engage in racial dialogue where dignity is centered as a non-negotiable tenant.
- 6- develop an intersectional 'systems map' that identifies the barriers to equity present within the church and community.
- 7- identifying the historical and modern leadership approaches used by racial justice activists

- 8- how to create an action plan which demonstrates my understanding of the structural nature of racism and exclusion.

Meeting the requirements

Build a learning plan that includes:

- Racial Justice Values & Vision
- Key Concepts: Different Dimensions of Racism / Structural Racism/restorative Justice/white supremacy/reparations
- Implicit Bias and Systems Analysis
- Opportunities to Advance Racial Justice learning and practice