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Note: The message is being sent to parish clergy-in-charge, wardens, and the chairs of diocesan committees and commissions.



March 3, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the fifteen months since my consecration as your bishop, I have been impressed by how the members of our diocese have shown their continuing commitment to build bridges of racial reconciliation and healing. The ongoing gatherings of our Beloved Community Initiative, the enduring efforts of the Commission on Race and Reconciliation, the recent celebration of the life of the Rev. Absalom Jones, and the many local initiatives undertaken by several of our parishes are all bearing fruit. This is slow and painstaking work consisting of building relationships one at a time, deepening our own understanding of the roots and consequences of racial division, and of keeping focus and saying prayers for greater awareness and change. I rejoice that, out of such work, God is bringing forth signs of the ideals of the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst, the emerging outlines of the Beloved Community.

It is as a part of this work, that I call your attention to the next two-day online workshop offered by the Commission on Race and Reconciliation, *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other*, Friday evening, March 24 through Saturday afternoon, March 25. Please note that all clergy and lay leaders, including members of parish Vestries and diocesan commissions and committees, are required by our canons to undergo this training.

Please share this message with the members of your Vestries and other parish and diocesan committees. I also invite you to consider coming even if you are not “required” to do so. We would love to have every parish represented, so that we may all learn and continue to grow together.

Specific event details and registration information is available at [www.episcopalpgh.org/seeing-the-face-of-god-in-each-other-antiracism-training/](http://www.episcopalpgh.org/seeing-the-face-of-god-in-each-other-antiracism-training/)

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, preceded by a small cross symbol. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Robert E. Groves'.



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