

COMMISSION ON RACE AND RACIAL RECONCILIATION

Report to Diocesan Convention 2023

Members include:

Nancy Travis Bolden, Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

Frances Danneberg, Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

Denise Johnson, Church of the Holy Cross, Homewood

Gloria Trevino, St. James, Penn Hills

The Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh, St. James, Penn Hills

Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, St. Thomas Memorial Church, Oakmont

The Rev. Deacon Linda Tardy Wilson, Retired

The Rev. Ryan Pusch, St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church, Vandergrift (ELCA)

Regarding our CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH, it states that in Article I Acceding to the General Constitution Section 1. That the Church in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, being a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the Constitution and Canons of that Church, and acknowledges its authority accordingly. (Please review our Constitution on our Episcopal Website)

At the 78th General Convention of TEC (The Episcopal Church) racial reconciliation was made a priority for the Church. In February 2019, a document was produced called "A FRAMEWORK FOR ANTI-RACISM AND RACIAL RECONCILIATION TRAINING IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH" in which the overall mandate of the Episcopal Church Executive Committee on Anti-Racism, reaffirmed by General Convention resolution 2015-A011, is "...guiding and monitoring the Church's work in response to General Convention resolutions directed at eliminating the sin of racism from the life of the Church ..." (produced by the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism)

The purpose of our Commission is to assist all our sisters and brothers in this Diocese to live into our "Baptismal Covenant." This would include providing a history of racism in the Episcopal Church and our own Diocese and city, reviewing the canonical requirements for anti-racism training as well as the "Church's Contemporary Response to Racism (see Research Report", General Convention resolutions (Acts of Convention: Digital Archives) relating to racial justice, the Pastoral Letters written by the House of Bishops, beginning in 1994 and finally joining in activate participation of events including but not limited to "Becoming Beloved Community."

Besides our anti-training workshops as scheduled throughout the year, our annual celebration of the Rev. Absalom Jones' life took place again at Trinity Cathedral for the entire diocese to attend with a scheduled workshop after the service. The service was held in February where the Rev. Dr. Darryl Canady of Rodman Street Baptist Church preached. The Rodman Street Baptist Choir rendered music ministry. The theme for the celebration was "What's next?" We celebrated several church without walls groups that are still meeting and considering racial

reconciliation with one another. Plans to celebrate the contributions of The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris are deferred until 2024. We voted to combine both services. We have a tentative acceptance of invitation to preach from Bishop Gayle E. Harris.

We are thankful for the participation of those on the Commission and our collaboration with our Social Justice Committee and Beloved Community but there is a need for wider participation among our diocesan members to expand our inclusiveness and outreach beyond any one minority group in the diocese to acknowledge their history and ministerial work. Efforts for recruitment for our commission is forth coming.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh
Chair, Commission on Race and Reconciliation