

2022 Annual Report Racial and Social Justice Ministry

St. John's Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas

The Racial Justice Ministry team activities in 2022 focused on the Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle and opportunities to learn more about systemic racism and the contributions made by African American leaders in the Austin community, the nation and the Episcopal Church. The team attended various webinars on racial justice, facilitating Sacred Ground sessions, African American theology and other related subjects.

Sacred Ground: In 2022 seven people participated in the Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle, including one person from another church in Austin and another person from Pennsylvania. Each of these participants are from another denomination: Lutheran ECLA and Methodist. We now have 23 members of this congregation who have completed the Sacred Ground series. We ended the 2022 course with a retreat involving participants from the Dialogue Circles of 2021 and 2022. Mother Minerva also participated in this retreat. The retreat ended with a vision for how St. John's can continue to exemplify Becoming Beloved Community.

Systemic Racism: Under Laurie Williams' leadership, several members of the 2021 Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles formed a book study group called the Cornerstone Literary Circle. This group focused on learning more about systemic racism and other forms of discrimination. The group has grown to include others.

Other Forms of Discrimination: Sacred Ground leadership of St. John's have communicated the need to make Sacred Ground materials accessible to participants with visual impairments. As a result, Ann Foxworth and Deacon Victoria have been invited to join a committee at the national level to study ways to make this possible. This work will begin in 2023.

African American Contributions: During the month of June, the Racial Justice team sponsored Wednesday evening education sessions on "saints" of the church who are African American, and a celebration of Pauli Murray. We raised more than \$700 for the Pauli Murray Scholarship Fund at the Seminary of the Southwest. We also organized a guided tour of the George Washington Carver Museum and a tour of "Black West Austin" sponsored by the Neill-Cochran House Museum.

The Racial Justice team elected to rename the ministry to include social justice issues – Racial and Social Justice. The purpose of this ministry is to:

1. Continue to learn about racial and social justice.
2. Raise awareness of racial and social justice issues
3. Support the larger church's goal for racial reconciliation

4. Support the mission of our church
5. Bring opportunities to promote racial and social justice and equity for action

Goals for 2023:

- Expand the team membership to two more members
- Take a rest from conducting a Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle for a year, while focusing on how to implement the vision developed in retreat for Becoming Beloved Community.
- Participate in the efforts of the national level Sacred Ground team to make course materials accessible to people with visual impairments and other disabilities.
- Support and promote learning about racism and other forms of discrimination via Cornerstone Literary Circle
- Juneteenth celebration and activities
- Raise donations for the Pauli Murray Scholarship Fund
- Find ways to implement actions identified and promoted by the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, held in July 2022.
- Promote learning opportunities and other activities sponsored by the Union of Black Episcopalians

Deacon Victoria	Sandra Ward
Paula Foy	Laurie Williams
John Williams	Mother Minerva