

Pledge of Faith and Action Against Racial Injustice

Q: What is the mission of the Church? A: The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q: How does the Church pursue its mission? A: The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q: Through whom does the Church carry out its mission? A: The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members. – An Outline of the Faith (Book of Common Prayer, p. 855)

I acknowledge and promise to reject injustice stemming from racism within my thoughts or actions. I will commit to accomplishing one or more acts of reconciliation as I reflect upon practices aligned with Jesus and beloved community. I will “turn from the powers of sin, hatred, fear, injustice and oppression toward the way of truth, love, hope, justice and freedom.”

Wondering What to Do to Dismantle Racism?

Here are suggestions to get you going. Find something that works for you or use these as idea starters to generate your own. Our listing below is not intended to be comprehensive.

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression

LEARN

PRAY

ACT

Ideas to pursue on your own

Explore books, podcasts, films on racial history, white supremacy & seeking justice (see resource list)

Make time for daily reflection (see resource list)

Speak up/Hold a conversation about racism and injustice, Break white silence

Explore Racial Reconciliation resources from The Episcopal Church (see resource list)

Write and share a prayer for racial lament, justice, and reconciliation

Write letters/connect with Episcopal Public Policy Network and follow Action Alerts

Work through "Talking about Race" (the Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Museum online curriculum)

Explore the Anti-Racism Devotional: Sacred Text through an Anti-Racist Lens (www.antiracistdevotional.org)

Support/participate with social justice and interfaith community initiatives in your area

Ideas to pursue in community with others or as a parish

Host/participate in Dismantling Racism, Implicit Bias training (see resource list)

Include racial justice prayers and liturgies in worship (See resource list)

Bring people together in courageous dialogue to tell their stories (See resource list)

Host a pilgrimage, book study, film viewing event with discussion

Host/Join a prayer vigil focused on racial justice; Sponsor a donation

Coordinate with social justice organizations, events, and interfaith activities

Examine Church/Parish policy, practice, and procedure for racial disparity and correct

Organize a contemplation service using Becoming Beloved Community Labyrinth

Be a voice to live the Gospel in community; Get involved in community conversations on Reinventing Policing

Resources to Support the Action Pledge

Feeling overwhelmed? Simply start where you are and go from there. These initial suggestions offer ideas and are not intended to be comprehensive.

Books

Starter Suggestions

Bishop Michael Curry, **Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times**. 2020

Jim Wallis. **America's Original Sin: Racism: White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America**. 2016

Bryan Stevenson. **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption**. 2014

Ta-Nehisi Coates. **We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy**. 2017

Ibram X. Kendi. **How to Be an Anti-Racist**. 2019

D. L. Hughley and Doug Moe. **Surrender White People: Our Unconditional Terms of Peace**. 2020

Francisco Cantu, **The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border**, 2018

Frank Wu. **Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White**. 2002

Robin DiAngelo. **White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism**. 2018

Deeper Inquiry

Kelly Brown Douglas. **Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God**. 2015

James H. Cone. **The Cross and the Lynching Tree**. 2011

Catherine Meeks (Ed.) **Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America**. 2016

Howard Thurman. **Jesus and the Disinherited**. 1976

Michelle Alexander. **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness**. 2010

James Forman, Jr. **Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America.** 2017

Richard Rothstein. **The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America.** 2017

James Baldwin. **The Fire This Time.** 1962

Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah. **Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery.** 2019

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. **An Indigenous People's History of the United States.** 2014

Debbie Irving. **Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race.** 2014

Ijeoma Oluo. **So You Want to Talk about Race.** 2019

Derald Wing Sue. **Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race.** 2015

Podcasts

1619 by The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/podcasts/1619-podcast.html>

Code Switch: Race in Your Face <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/>

The Stoop: Stories from Across the Black Diaspora <http://www.thestoop.org/home>

Latino USA <https://www.latinousa.org/>

All My Relations <https://www.allmyrelationspodcast.com/>

CTZN <https://www.ctznwell.org/ctznpodcast>

The Soul of the Nation with Jim Wallis <https://sojo.net/sections/podcasts>

A Brave Space with Dr. Meeks

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/a-brave-space-with-dr-meeks/id1477206499>

EDS at Union Square

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/eds-at-union-now/id1406902913>

EMM Hometown

<https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/hometown/>

Films and Videos

[All films are available online through various platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, You Tube, etc., some require rental]

True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality

13th

All In: The Fight for Democracy

I Am Not Your Negro

Glory

Hidden Figures

Fences

American Son

The Hate U Give

Crash

Selena

Meet the Patels

Daily Reflection

The Repentance Project, An American Lament

<https://cnyepiscopal.org/2020/08/an-american-lament-by-repentance-project/>

Marek P. Zabriskie. The Social Justice Bible Challenge: A 40 Day Bible Challenge

<https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2464/the-social-justice-bible-challenge.aspx>

The Inclusion Habit <https://prohabits.com/theinclusionhabit/>

Layla Saad. *Me and White Supremacy: A Guided Journal*
<https://www.meandwhitesupremacybook.com/the-journal>

Worship and Prayer

Prayers for Racial Reconciliation and Justice. Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church.

<https://standingcommissiononliturgyandmusic.org/2018/01/03/prayers-for-racial-reconciliation-and-justice/>

PRAY: Resources for Addressing Racist Violence and Police Brutality. The Episcopal Church. <https://episcopalchurch.org/responding-racist-violence/pray>

Episcopal Litany for Social Justice. Office of Government Relations. The Episcopal Church. <https://episcopalchurch.org/library/article/episcopal-litany-social-justice>

Gayle Fisher-Stewart (ed). *Preaching Black Lives Matter.*
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/preachingblacklivesmatter>

Bringing People Together in Courageous Dialogue

Beloved Community StorySharing
<https://episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community-storysharing>

Racial Healing Circles
<http://www.nfjcwny.org/racialhealing.html>

Restorative Justice Community Circles
<https://www.ecrjc.org/rp-in-community>

Civil Discourse
<https://episcopalchurch.org/OGR/civic-engagement>

The Kaleidoscope Institute, Building Bridges Now
<https://www.kscopeinstitute.org/building-bridges-now>

Make America Dinner Again
<http://www.makeamericadinneragain.com/>

Training and Online Curriculums

Implicit Bias Training, Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination WNY & NWPA, Nov 21, 2020 & Jan 9, 2021 via zoom; formal announcement and registration information to come

Dismantling Racism Training, Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing, Nov 18, Nov 21, & Dec 5, 2020 online

<https://www.centerforracialhealing.org/training-schedule.html>

Liberating Ourselves from Racism, *Mission Institute*

<http://themissioninstitute.org/engage/>

Talking about Race. Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Museum

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

Sacred Ground: A Film-Based Dialogue Series on Faith and Race, *The Episcopal Church*

<https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>

Becoming Beloved Community NOW: Truth, Justice, Healing, Presiding Officers' Advisory Group on Beloved Community Implementation (posted recordings of three sessions)

<https://episcopalchurch.org/becoming-beloved-community-now>

Helpful Websites associated with The Episcopal Church

Resources for Racial Reconciliation and Justice

<https://episcopalchurch.org/racial-reconciliation/resources>

Responding to Racist Violence- Learn, Pray, Act: Resources for Responding to Racist

Violence and Police Brutality <https://episcopalchurch.org/responding-to-racist-violence>

Episcopal Public Policy Network 9 Actions on Police Reform

<https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/ogr/9-actions-police-reform>

From Pew to the Public Square. Department of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care,

<https://episcopalchurch.org/library/document/pew-public-square>

Mission Institute <http://themissioninstitute.org/>

Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing <https://www.centerforracialhealing.org/>

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland on Racial Reconciliation and on Reparations

<https://marylandepiscopalian.org/2019/06/17/resolution-on-racial-reconciliations-passes-unanimously-at-235th-diocesan-convention/> (2019)

<https://marylandepiscopalian.org/2020/09/13/236th-convention-passes-landmark-resolution-committing-one-million-dollars-to-reparations/> (2020)

Episcopal Diocese of New York, Reparations Committee Recommended Films and Reading List

<https://www.diocesenyn.org/mission-and-outreach/social-concerns/reparations-for-slavery/>

Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination
Episcopal Dioceses of WNY and NWPA

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