

Report of the Anti-Racism Commission to the 228th Annual Diocesan Convention

The Anti-Racism Commission continued to lead the diocesan anti-racism ministry's organizing efforts toward the goal of transforming the diocese into an anti-racist institution. In 2011 the Anti-Racism Commission and the Anti-Racism Team organized or sponsored significant events, including:

- "Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism" 2.5-day anti-racism training seminar offered to all in the diocese in April (Ocean Grove),
- Weekend youth retreat "Erase the Racism" in May (Lebanon, NJ),
- "Service of Repentance and Reconciliation" consecrating slave graves in August at St. Peter's Church (Perth Amboy), Bishop Councill celebrant and preacher,
- Diocesan "One Book" online discussion <http://antiracistchurch.blogspot.com/> of *Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness* by The Rev. Joseph Barndt,
- "Tearing Down Walls and Building Bridges: Reclaiming an Anti-Racist Gospel" full-day biennial Diocesan Conference in November led by Joseph Barndt with simultaneous English/Spanish translation provided by Canon Cecelia Alvarez, and
- Ongoing introductory anti-racism training for search committees and vestries of parishes in transition.
- Additionally, a group of 21 diocesan priests discussed Joe Barndt's book in October, and several parishes plan to discuss the book in 2012.

These events were organized within a significantly reduced budget compared to other years. The 2012 budget will again allow only one 2.5-day training workshop, which will be offered March 15-17. The Commission has reluctantly had to institute a \$50 registration fee to offset in some small measure the real cost of the workshop.

The Commission continued to oversee the Team's activities, development of trainers, and quarterly meetings. In 2011 the Team developed a discussion program for the video "Traces of the Trade" and offered the program to convocations and parishes. Interested persons should contact the Anti-Racism Commission co-chairs The Rev. John Thompson-Quartey and The Rev. Canon Joan Fleming to schedule video presentations of "Traces of the Trade" or introductory anti-racism training.

The Diocese of New Jersey is making progress on the long path toward wholeness and becoming an anti-racist institution. And during the next two years, the Commission will continue to focus the diocese toward seeking the next anti-racist bishop. Bishop Councill's vigorous anti-racist leadership has been vital, and without such leadership, the cause of anti-racism in the Diocese of New Jersey would suffer a severe setback. We call on Convention to support Resolution 2012-1. The Anti-Racism Commission thanks Bishop Councill, the entire staff at Diocesan House, and The Very Rev. Rene John and Trinity Cathedral staff, and all who contributed to the One Book project for their support.