

**Anti-Racism Commission Annual Report to the 230th Diocesan Convention
For the year 2013**

The Anti Racism Commission continues to work very hard with the financial resources with which we have been entrusted. We have continued with our tradition of providing high quality workshops and trainings to raise awareness of the reality that racism is still very much woven into our social and moral fabric, and to move our diocese closer to becoming a truly anti-racist institution. All clergy new to the Diocese, all persons in the ordination process, and those elected to diocesan office are required to take the extended two and a half day Analyzing Systemic Racism training.

Anyone who has taken a two and a half day training is invited to become part of our Anti Racism Team and is invited to all meetings and special events offered by the Commission.

Among the Team offerings in 2013 was our biennial conference, which this year featured two experts on the racial disparities in our healthcare system. We had 60 participants in this very informative and engaging conference.

We also had a two and a half day Crossroads training at Christ Church, Toms River, which led to the formation of the Racial Justice Ministry in that congregation. We were blessed to have The Rev. Joseph Barndt, author of Becoming an Anti-racist Church, come and do some organizing workshops with our Commission, and the leaders of the Anti-Racism ministries in two of our congregations (Christ Church, Toms River and St. Barnabas, Monmouth Junction).

We facilitated 5 workshops in 2013, at:

St. Barnabas, Monmouth Junction - 3/9/13

St. Martin's, Bridgewater - 3/10/13

St. Peter's, Freehold - 6/2/13

All Saints, Navesink - 6/17/13

Christ Church, Toms River – 12/7/13 (with Joe Barndt)

Only Freehold and Navesink were required transition-related workshops.

While it is disappointing that so many congregations are in effect sidestepping the requirement through opting for a priest-in-charge or long-term supply, it is gratifying to witness the increasing number of congregations seeking to engage with the challenge of racism outside of any requirement.

The demand for the two-hour parish-based workshops, led by our Team members continues to grow. For the first time, the majority of the workshops we gave in one year were by request, and not in order to meet the requirement that congregations in leadership transition must have some anti-racism training.

Team members facilitated 5 such parish-based trainings in 2013: of these, 2 were for congregations in the search process, and 3 were by invitation from the parish.

We continue to explore how best to combat the sin of racism in all its many subtle and not-so-subtle guises, within our diocese, our society, and ourselves. We invite you to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Joan E. Fleming

The Rev. C. John Thompson-Quartey

(co-chairs)