

Reparations Taskforce
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
Report to Diocesan Convention 2021

The Reparations Taskforce inaugural meeting was held on January 26, 2021. The Taskforce was formed as an outcome of the adoption of Resolution 2020-3 at the November 2020 Diocesan Convention.

The Reparations Taskforce is intended to last one year and will meet monthly laying the groundwork for a long-term Reparations Commission.

Membership in the Taskforce consists of diverse individuals from across the diocese representing people of color as well as white male and female clergy and lay persons. An important criterion for membership is that individuals must understand racism from an accredited anti-racism training program.

The members of the Taskforce appointed by Bishop Stokes include: Canon Annette Buchanan (Co-convener), Canon Barbie Bach (Co-convener), Canon Noreen Duncan (Co-convener), The Rev. Richard Wrede, The Rev. Canon Andy Moore, The Rev. Ed Zelley, The Rev. Greg Bezilla, The Rev. Jack Zamboni, The Rev. Canon Francisco Pozo, The Rev. Sharon Sutton, Ms. Claire Gutwein, Mr. Joe Rodriguez, The Rev. Joanne Epply-Schmidt, The Rev. Susanna Cates, The Rev. Megan Thomas, The Rev. Alison Burns, The Rev. Beth Sciaino, The Rev. Scott Russell, The Rev. Allen Wakabayashi, The Rev. Kije Mugisha Rwamasirabo, The Rev. Hyverson Joseph, Mr. Charles Hughes, Mr. Willie Coleman, The Rev. Canon Deacon Clive Sang, The Rev. Canon Brian Jemmott, and The Rt. Rev. William Stokes. The Rev. Charles Wynder Jr. will also join the team as an external consultant.

The Taskforce members will be organized in teams around four objectives with the goal of having 1-2 deliverables per objective within the year. The objectives are as follows:

- ***Objective 1: Diocesan Education/ Engagement***
 - ***How will the Diocese be engaged to journey through and support the process?***
- ***Objective 2: Funding/Finance***
 - ***What are the short and long-term financial commitments that the Diocese needs to make?***
- ***Objective 3: Research/History***
 - ***What are the resources available to guide and inform the decisions of the taskforce?***
- ***Objective 4: Advocacy***
 - ***What does reparation mean beyond finances and why is it important?***

The Taskforce meeting additionally includes reflections and readings on reparation and intentional prayer guided by two newly appointed co-chaplains. Our first deliverable was a word cloud image of the team's one-word response to the meaning of reparation.

We do anticipate a need for funding of this ministry with an initial estimate of \$25,000 being added to the 2021 Diocesan budget for approval.

We look forward to this difficult but necessary work in our journey to address and eradicate the sin of racism within the Diocese of New Jersey and are buoyed by the steadfast support of Bishop Stokes and the commitment of our Taskforce members.

Yours faithfully,

Canon Annette L. Buchanan- Co-convener, Reparations Taskforce
Canon Barbie O. Bach - Co-convener, Reparations Taskforce
Canon Noreen L. Duncan - Co-convener, Reparations Taskforce