

Will You Strive for Justice and Peace ... and Respect the Dignity of Every Human Being

Justice and Peace Commission
Racial Justice and Healing Commission



Beginning Anew
SEEKING GOD'S VISION TOGETHER



The 149th Annual Convention *of the* Episcopal Diocese of Newark | February 3 & 4, 2023

Charter from Bishop Hughes

In 2021, Bishop Hughes announced the formation of three new diocesan groups: the Racial History Committee, the **Racial Justice and Healing Commission**, and the **Commission for Justice and Peace**. These groups join the Anti-Racism Commission, formerly known as Namaste, in forming a fulsome approach to justice ministry in our diocese.



Justice and Peace Commission

Rev. Diane Riley
Jody Caldwell
Laura Russell



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Justice and Advocacy

Certainly we are called to minister to the immediate suffering which afflicts the victims of society whom we see all around us; distribution of food medical care, shelter, and other immediate and primary needs. But we also know that such ministries are not enough, because they do not address the injustice which causes the pain in the first place. **The People of God share a mission to change whatever causes the oppression.**

*Standing Commission on the Church in Metropolitan Areas 1982 Blue Book Report
Referenced Task Force on Theology of Social Justice Advocacy Report 80 General Convention*

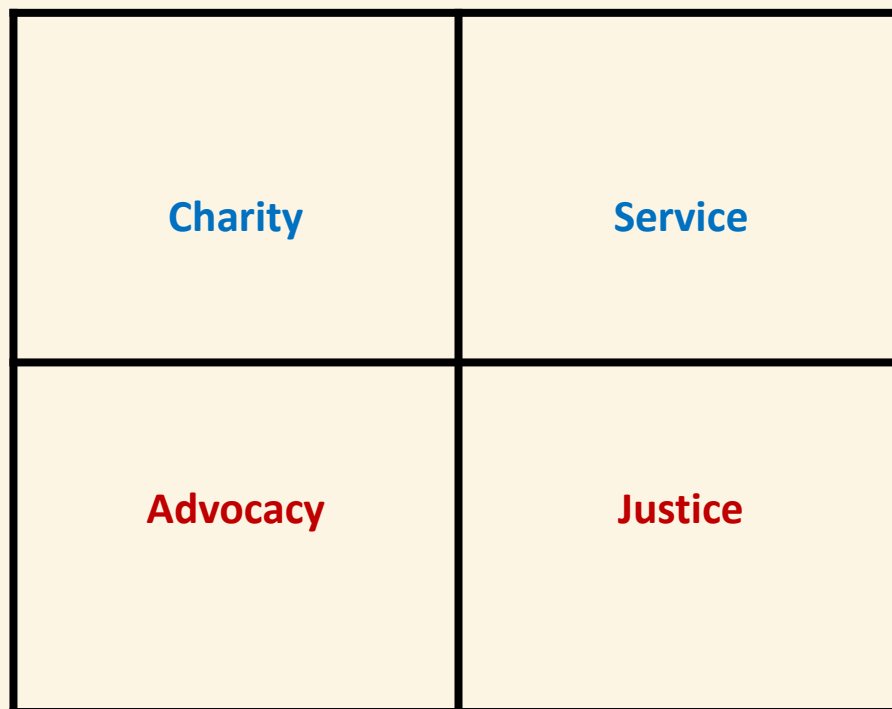


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The Charity to Justice Continuum



The Diocese of Newark

History of Justice

- Within the Church
Inclusive Ministries, Integrity (LGBTQ), Women, Bethsaida (Disabilities)
- Jubilee Ministries
- GreenFaith
- Industrial Areas Foundation (Community Organizing)
- LEAM (Lutheran Partnership)

R A C E





Mission Statement

The mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark's Commission on Justice and Peace is to grow the Beloved Community, a community in which everyone is cared for absent of poverty, hunger and hate. The Commission will develop diocesan advocacy and resources that support the beloved community and address issues that challenge it.



Resource on Justice Topics

- Learn
- What Does The Episcopal Church Say
- Act
- Pray

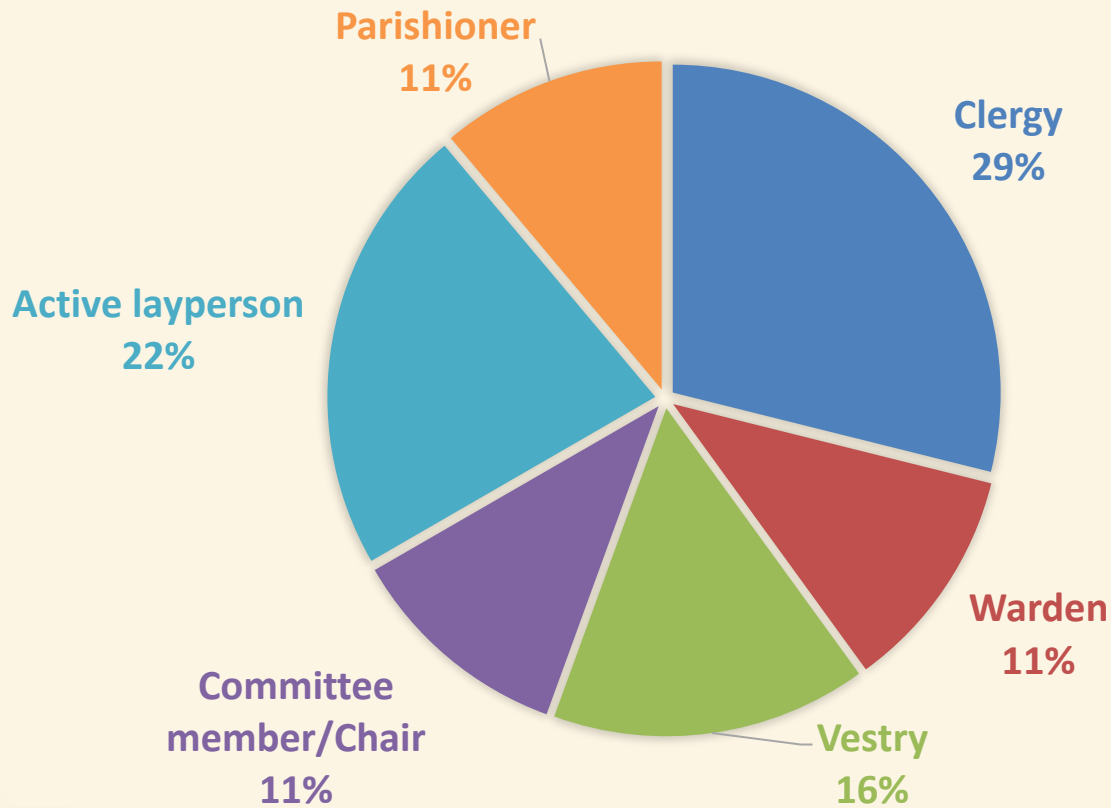
<https://dioceseofnewark.org/commission-justice-and-peace>

The screenshot shows the website for The Episcopal Diocese of Newark. The page is titled "Resources related to reproductive choice". It contains several sections of text and links. At the top, there is a navigation menu with items like "Visioning", "Who We Are", "What We Do", "Bishop's Vlog", "News", "Events", "Giving", and "For Congregations & Clergy". The main content area includes a paragraph about the Episcopal Church's stance on reproductive health care, a "Learn" section with a link to a statement on the Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, a section titled "Act - Get Involved" with links to various organizations like the Episcopal Public Policy Network, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and Planned Parenthood, and a "Pray" section with a prayer text. On the right side, there is a "Questions? Contact:" section with photos and names of Diane Riley and Jody Caldwell, and a "Resources" section with a link to "Resources related to gun violence".



Commission for Justice and Peace

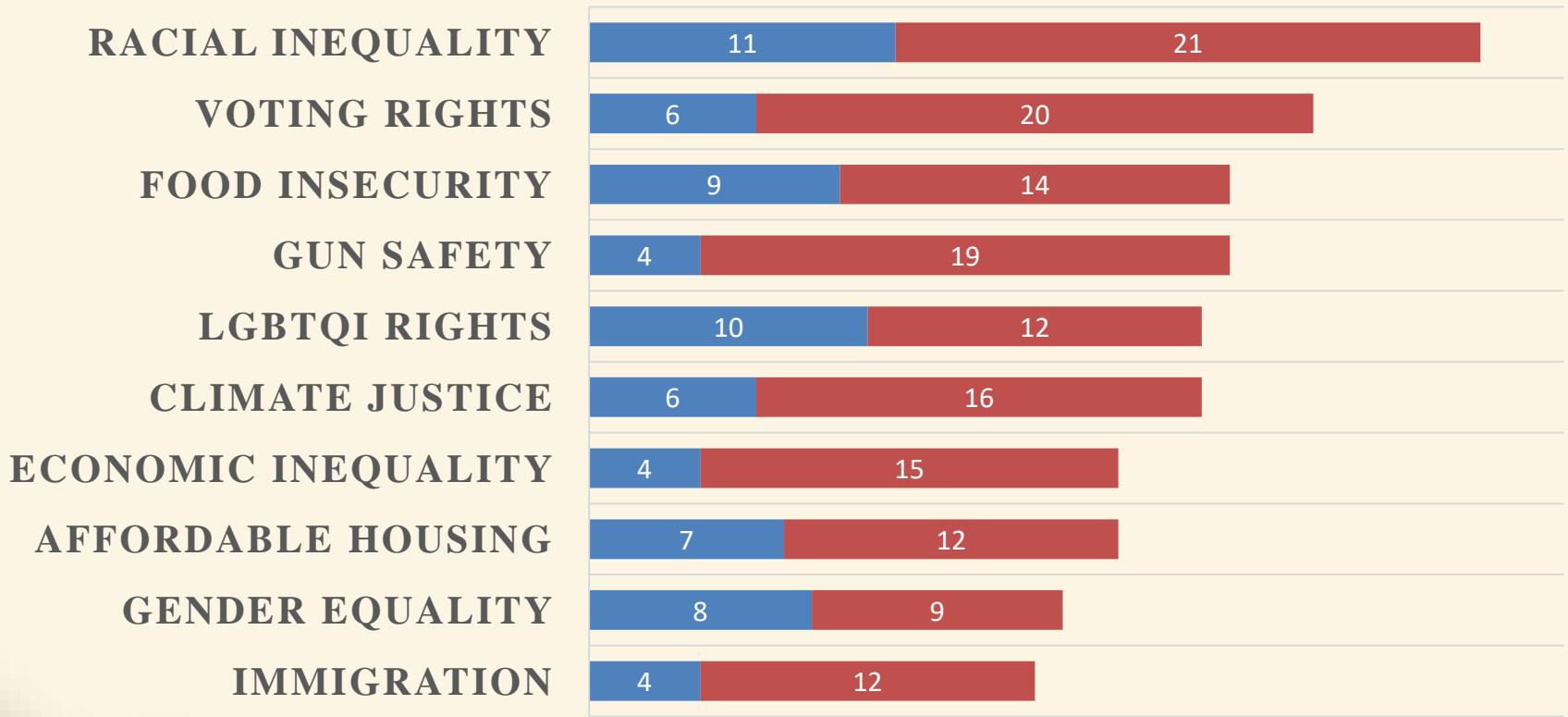
WHO RESPONDED?



Commission for Justice and Peace

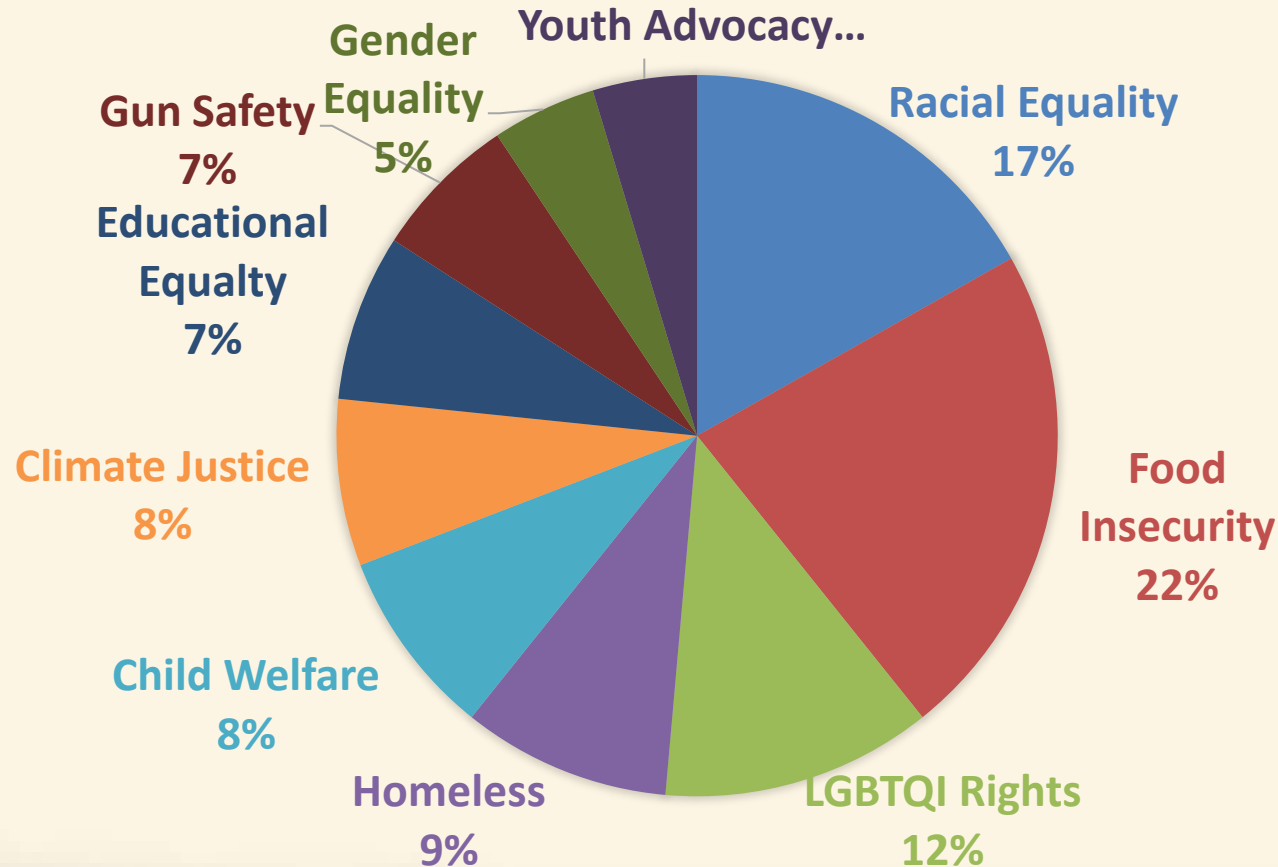
What Issues Concern Respondents?

■ Clergy ■ Lay



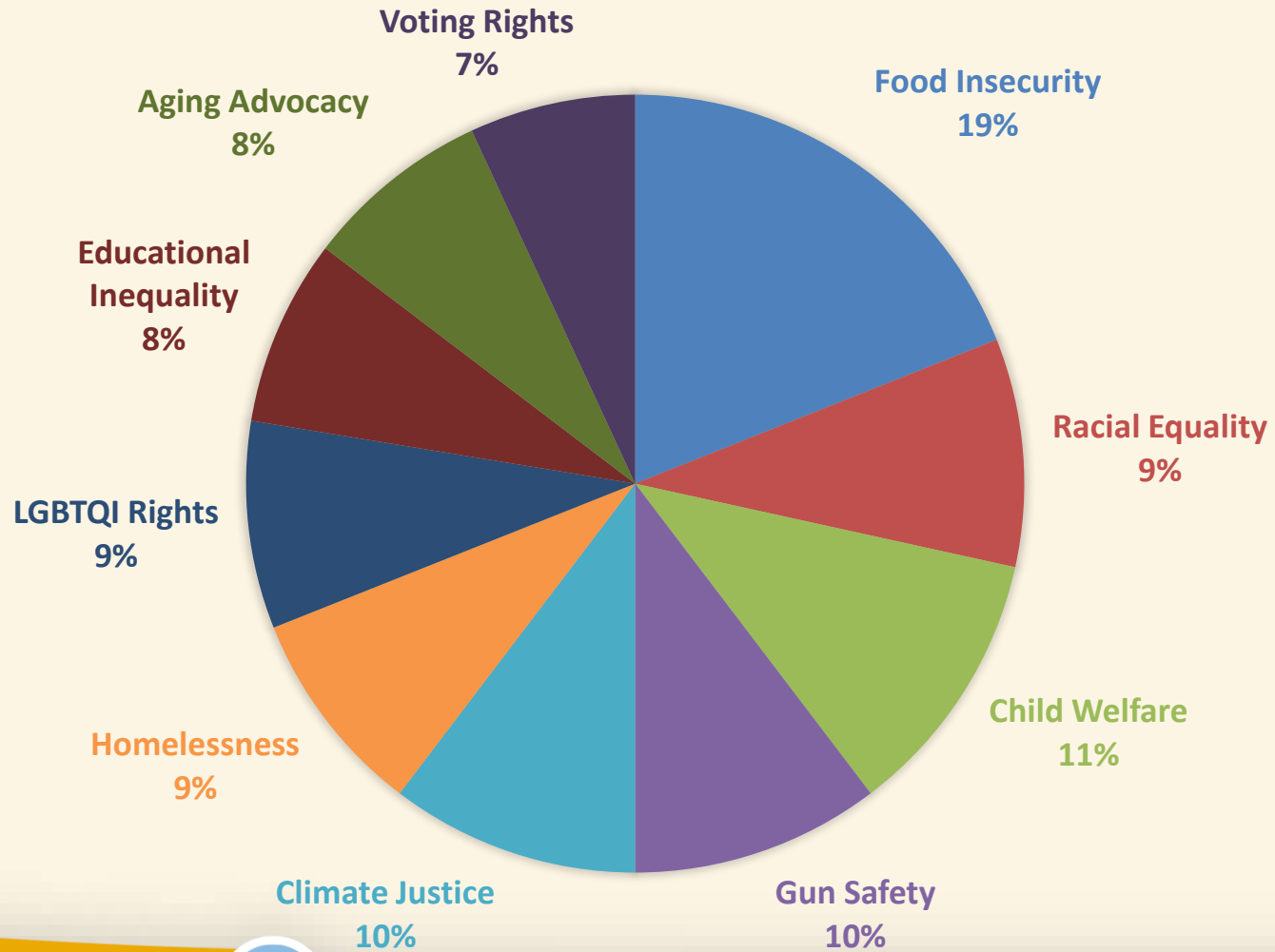
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Issues Parishes Are Currently Involved With



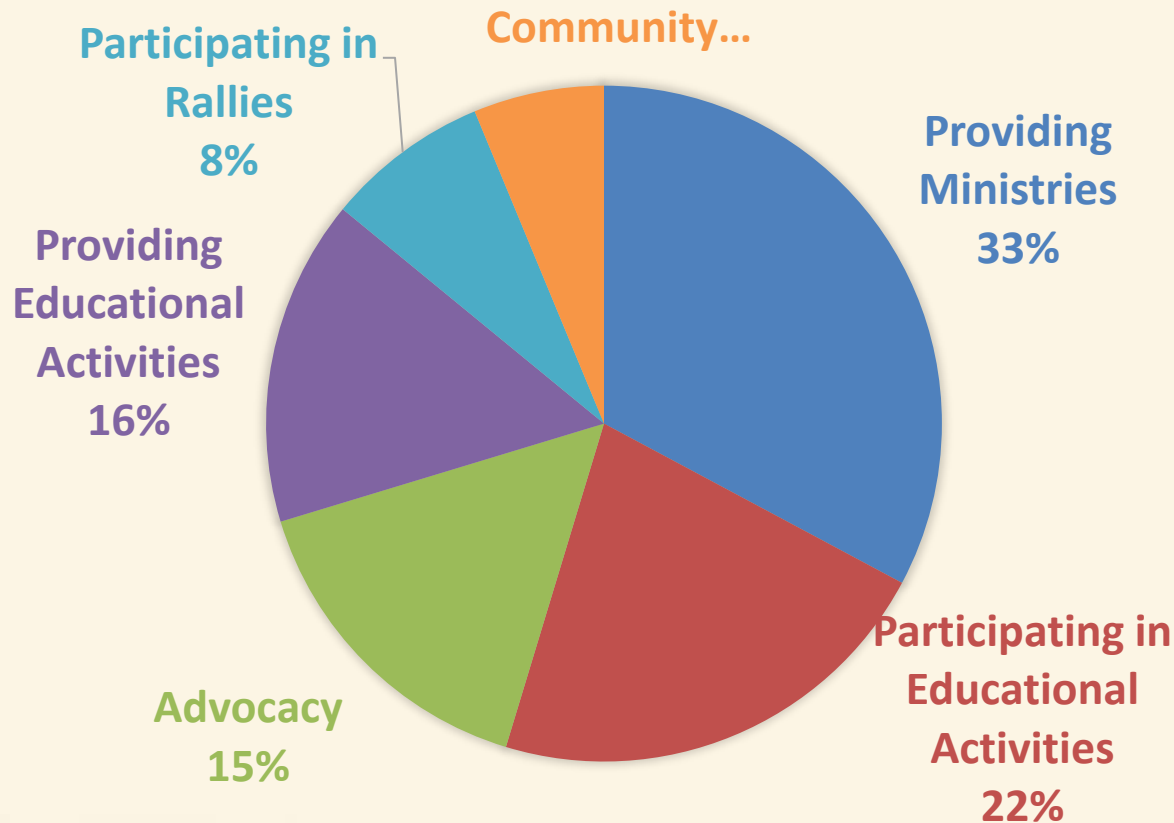
Commission for Justice and Peace

WHAT ARE PARISHES INTERESTED IN WORKING ON?



Commission for Justice and Peace

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ARE PARISHES INTERESTED IN?



Commission for Justice and Peace

Commission for Justice and Peace

Commission for Justice and Peace

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Members of the Commission

Sharonada Bailey - Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange
Bernadette Blong - St. Dunstan's, Succasunna
Jody Caldwell, *Co-leader* - Redeemer, Morristown
Julie Crawford - Messiah, Chester
Helen Dannatt - Christ Church, Newton
Joy Manasse - St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange
Diane Riley, *Co-leader* - Grace Madison
Laura Russell - All Saints', Hoboken
Belinda Stokes - St. Paul's, Jersey City

Questions? Contact:



**The Venerable
Diane Riley**

Archdeacon for Mission and Service; Co-leader, Commission for Justice and Peace; Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Association of NJ
[Email](#)



Jody Caldwell

Co-leader, Commission for Justice and Peace
[Email](#)

Resources

[Resources related to gun violence](#)

[Resources related to reproductive choice](#)

Resources related to gun violence



Gun Safety Legislation

Taking a deeper look at legislation, its history and its consequences (and why we need to advocate for better legislation)



Why is gun safety legislation important?

- Easy access to firearms is one of the main drivers of gun violence
- 42% of US households own at least 1 gun
- There were 249 school shootings in 2021
- There are more people than guns in the US



How did gun safety legislation begin?

- First gun legislation was meant to keep guns out of the hands of enslaved people and the African-Americans in the Jim Crow South (part of the “Black codes”)
- First Federal legislation was to curtail gangs of the 1930s (specifically Al Capone) (National Firearms Act of 1934)



Gun Control Act of 1968

- After the Kennedy, Kennedy and King assassinations, this act was passed to “ban importation of guns for no sporting purpose”
- In 1967, Black Panthers protested in front of the CA legislature carrying guns.
- Suddenly, the NRA and then Gov. Reagan pushed for (and passed) a law against open carry and supporting the Gun Control Act of 1968



Other Federal Gun Legislation

- In 1986, the concept of gun owners receiving protections to have guns was created in the Firearm Owners Protection Act
- In 1993, the Brady Handgun Violation Protection Act mandated background checks and waiting periods to purchase guns



What about New Jersey?

- We have some of the best laws on the books for gun safety, but we need more
- In 2022, Gov. Murphy signed 7 new gun laws including mandating training, requiring micro-stamping and cracking down on ghost guns
- Murphy plans to introduce more legislation this year-he needs our support and advocacy!



What does the Episcopal Church Say?

- Through General Convention resolutions, the Church has spoken for gun safety since at least 1973
- At the 2022 GC, we supported the same ghost gun legislation that Gov. Murphy passed
- The Church has also supported state advocacy on this issue through their lobbying arm
- The Church has supported requiring permits, a ban on assault weapons and conversion kits, and safety training, among other items to decrease gun violence



RACIAL JUSTICE AND HEALING COMMISSION, DIOCESE OF NEWARK

CO-CHAIRS Rev. Chellie White and E.V. Janopaul



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Charter from Bishop Hughes

Lead a diocesan effort of planning, response, and action for racial justice and healing within parishes, the diocese, and surrounding communities. Focus will include teaching, updating, and guiding our responses to the myriad issues we face around the construct of race.

INITIAL GOALS

- 1) Support parishes in their efforts toward racial justice and healing
- 2) Evaluate diocesan processes and systems and make recommendations to promote racial justice and healing
- 3) Develop responses as challenges arise for parish and diocesan engagement



Vision Statement

The Vision of the Racial Justice and Healing Commission is to live in God's love by creating a beloved community where all people are valued and treated with dignity and respect as we strive for racial justice and healing.



Committee Structure

Commencing September 2021

21 Members and 2 Co-Chairs

14 Lay People, 7 Deacons & Ministers, Members of Temple Beth Shalom in Teaneck

Standing meeting 4th Thursday of each month (excluding summer)



Committee Actions

Conducted 16 committee meetings

- Introductions, Readings, Videos, and Team Building
- Sharing other activities such as Temple Beth Shalom initiatives, Breakout Sessions

Collaborative relationships

- Multiple meetings with Bishop, Guest Speakers, Co-Chairs from other Commissions
- Established standing dialogue with Co-Chairs of Justice and Peace Commission

Areas of Focus

- Review Diocese, Parish and local topics to identify ideal strategies and key areas
- Development of Vision, Mission statements
- Formation of sub-committees to help focus activities and further develop topics based on member interests



Sub-Committee Progress

Research Model

Learn from Others

- Members: **Elaine Cohen, Susan Israel, Gail Kertland, Valyrie Laedlin**
- **Delivered successful models & lessons learned to the Commission**

Resource Manual

Ensure Continuity

- Members: **Deborah Drake, Paul Rajan, Chellie White**
- **Studied multiple approaches, & evaluating resources that can be leveraged**

Social Media & Communications

Support Commission Objectives

- Members: **George Dredden III, Amber Reed, Jerrick Rutherford, Paula Toland**
- **Collaborating with Justice and Peace Commission to identify best practices**

Data Gathering

Identify Current & Future Practices

- Members: **Kathleen Carozza, George Dredden III, Michael Francaviglia, Carol Haeefe, Jerrick Rutherford**
- **Completed survey methodology and proposed questions**

Prayer Development

*Communicate Commission Mission
Across Diocese*

- Members: **Audrey Hasselbrook, Elizabeth Rundquist, Vanessa Wigfall**
- **Information compiled & shared with Commission & evaluating next steps**



THE COMMISSION ON RACIAL JUSTICE AND HEALING

One of the most compelling acts of anti-racism is a critical examination of one's own perceptions of what for some is objective truth. Through the work and efforts of the Commission on Racial Justice and Peace, I propose that interested persons embark on a sincere, interpathic examination of personal attitudes and historical places and critical events in the history of the descendants of African slaves in America. This is only a start. There are so many excluded groups

This work will be accomplished through a yearlong study of resources culminating in a pilgrimage to places that hold the histories of enslaved Africans and their descendants.

The journey will begin within each of us. We will work toward confronting ourselves, necessary before we address the concerns of this marginalized group. This is a most existential challenge for each of us.

Self reflection will begin with our developing authentic, respectful relationship with each other and in frank, difficult discussion. We will change. Our relationships will change.

We will take a full year to prepare for the pilgrimage by reading primary texts, viewing films, conducting interviews, to name a few activities.



As we prepare in the coming year, potential activities, starting right here in northern New Jersey, will include but are not limited to:

- 1. Slave burial ground and discussion with local historians.**
- 2. Slave communities, the people who owned the slaves as well as the evolution of those communities. We might start with cites of 17th and 18th century planatations, mills, ironworks, etc.**
- 3. Examination of laws governing the lives of the enslaved; many of these codes still exist.**
- 4. Conversations with researchers at NJ universities that have been centers for this research and those that have struggled with their slaveholding histories**



WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?

Through the work and efforts of the Commission on Racial Justice and Peace I propose that interested persons embark on a sincere, interpathic examination of personal attitudes and historical places and events I an ongoing effort to truly learn the work of racial justice and peace.

Knowledge and authentic engagement with history are key.

This work will be accomplished through a yearlong study of resources culminating in a summer2024 pilgrimage to places that hold the histories of enslaved Africans and their descendants.



WHY IS THIS NECESSARY WORK

In an effort to provide parishes and individuals a starting point for developing a comprehensive understanding of themselves and of Black people and other people of color, it is recommended that participants undertake a mission pilgrimage into the history and experiences of these groups.

The work we are proposing is immersive and profound. The concept of interpathy helps to describe the work. Coined and described by D. Augsberger as the intentional cognitive and affective envisioning of the thoughts and imagining the feelings of a truly separate other.



WHO WILL THE PARTICIPANTS BE?

Anyone can participate, such as members of our Commission, other Commissions and Worship communities with clergy and lay persons. This is a multi cultural, multi ethnic, regardless of your religious traditions. No age restrictions or mobility restrictions.



WHEN WILL THE PROGRAM TAKE PLACE?

Initial study will take place throughout the coming year. Meetings will occur every three weeks; we will share over fifteen meetings. The pilgrimage will take place during early summer 2023.

**This initial work will prepare us for the challenges ahead.
This work is not for everyone!**



WHAT WILL THE PREPARATION FOR THE PILGRIMAGE LOOK LIKE?

This resource is not “one and done.” This resource will engage your entire self. The work is difficult, consuming and profoundly rewarding. This immersive experience will introduce many to the culture and history of the Black American experience and you will become the resource

Through the examination of our own histories, biases and perceptions, primary source materials, various media, interviews and music we come to more fully understand the post slavery trauma that this entire nation suffers.



WHAT SITES WILL WE VISIT?

Our classroom is all around us. New Jersey holds title to being the last state to abolish slavery and at one time had the highest number of enslaved Africans living here. There are an innumerable number of opportunities to visit burial grounds, examine local laws, and to search for slave communities in our county.

The history of our country attests difficulties and successes. We will explore many of our challenges on this Pilgrimage, from museums, rural missions, and interpretive centers. The history of the African American is rich and varied and as we seek to see, hear and understand we will be transformed.



OUR TRAVEL ITINERARY WILL INCLUDE:

African American Museum/Washington DC

**Slave Market Charleston, SC
Ashley Avenue Hanging tree Charleston SC
Saint John's Island Rural Mission, SC**

**Legacy Museum Montgomery AL
Lynching Museum/National Memorial for Peace and Justice Montgomery AL**

Edmund Pettus Bridge Selma AL

16th St Baptist Church, Birmingham AL

Safehouse Museum, Greensboro, AL





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06/25/2012



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06/24/2012



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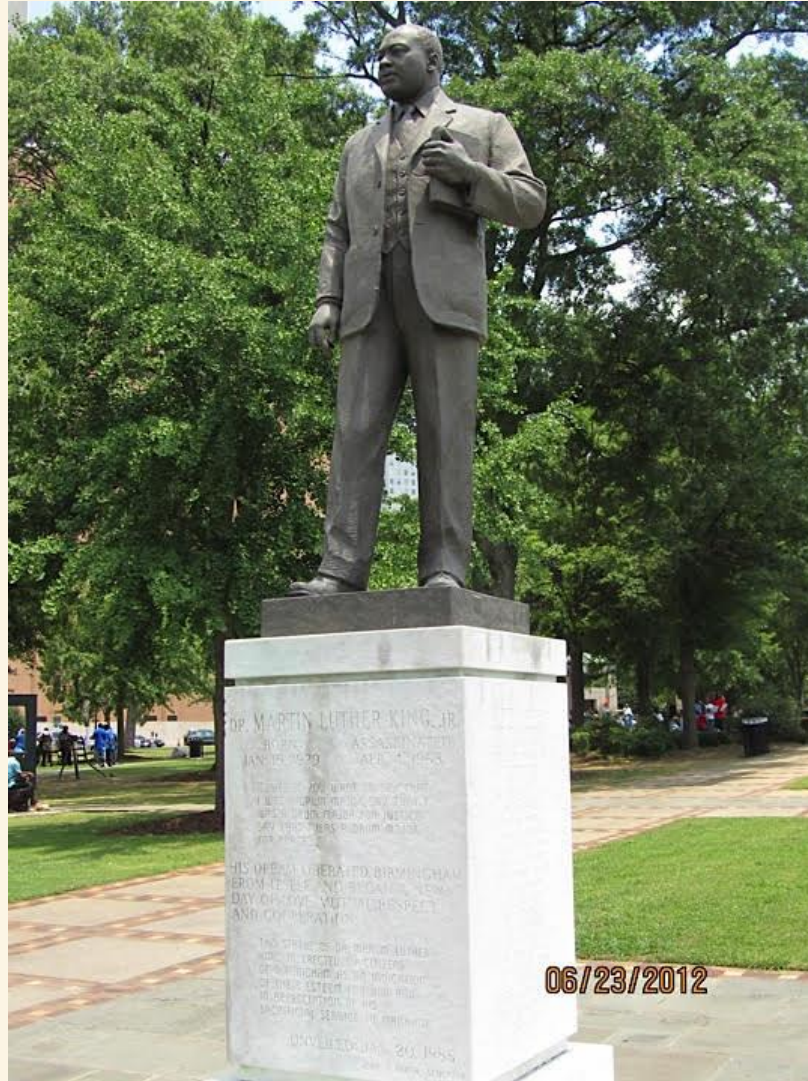
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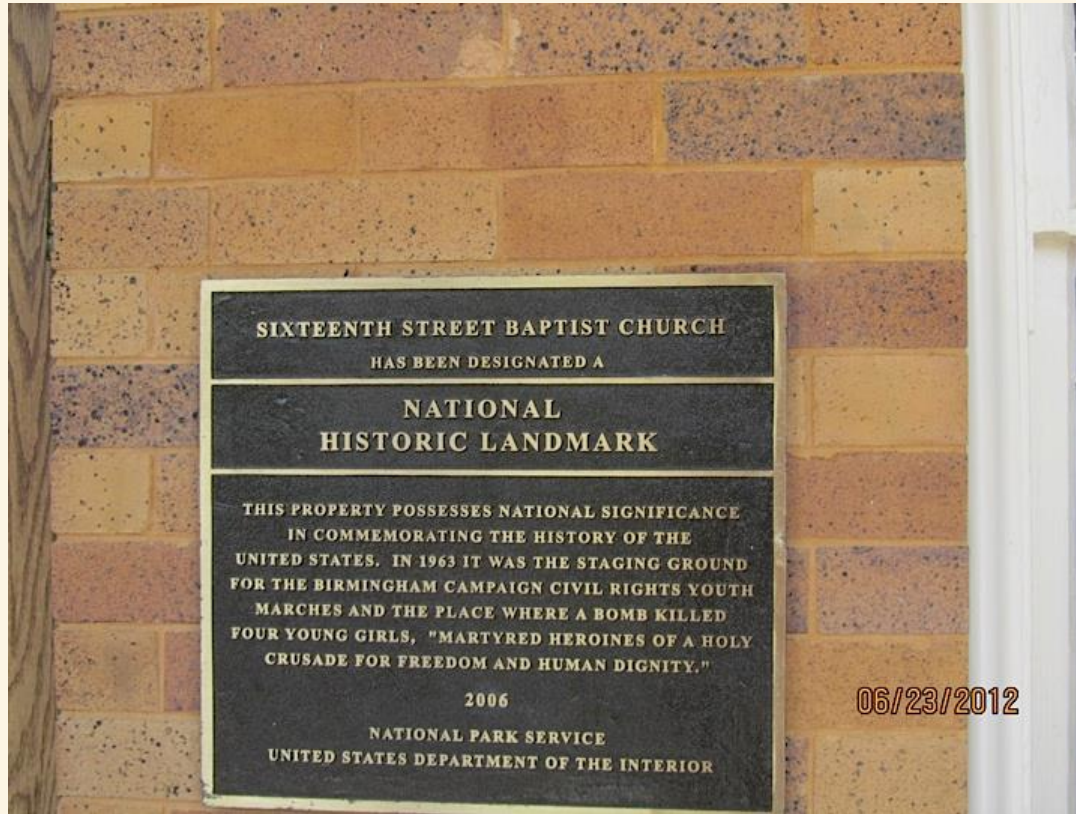




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THANK YOU



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