



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

July 11, 2011

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Antiracism Committee

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland's Response to A143

An extensive report was given to the 76th General Convention detailing research that was compiled by Mary Kline, archivist and the Rev. Kingsley Smith, historiographer. Since then efforts have continued via the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

TRC began its work last fall and was officially recognized at the 227th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Maryland. This commission is divided into working groups that focus on the following: education, research, pilgrimage sites, and reconciliation teams. Future efforts will include environmental justice. The Episcopal Church has a long history of plodding along with hit or miss efforts in this area. However, we believe each small step taken over time can make a difference. Real change occurs through educational opportunities that foster interaction between people. Our 2011 priority is offering *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other*. It is through this experience that individuals are often awakened to the sin of racism and then compelled to take action. In the spring of 2011 three workshops were held with a total of forty-three participants. Four additional workshops are scheduled for September, October, November and December. The education working group has other resources that are less time consuming yet thought provoking. The research and pilgrimage working group continues with two goals in mind, 1) congregations are encouraged to do their own research, 2) establishing pilgrimage sites throughout the diocese. Reconciliation teams will be formed to assist when conflict erupts in and outside of congregations with the hope of the Episcopal Church being known as an agent for peace.

A Day of Service and Repentance is being planned for November 1, 2014 which is the day Maryland ended slavery in 1864. This 150th anniversary will be an occasion to remember the past, acknowledge the progress we have made, and continue the journey.

Submitted by,

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