



July 19, 2011

Rev. John E. Kitagawa, D. Min.
Saint Philip's In the Hills Parish
P.O. Box 65840
Tucson, AZ 85728-5840

Re: Request to Diocese of West Texas re Response to
General Convention Resolution A-143

Dear Rev. Kitagawa,

Bishop David Reed has asked me, as Co-Chair of our Diocesan Reconciliation Commission, to respond to your request concerning how the Diocese of West Texas has responded to Resolution A-143. I am happy to do so.

Although we have been actively engaging the issues around racism in our diocese, we have not taken any specific action in response to A-143, in so far as gathering historical information about complicity in, resistance to or economic benefits from the institution of slavery, or with respect to naming a Day of Repentance and holding a Service of Repentance.

Our Reconciliation Commission was formed by a group of laity and clergy in response to an Anti-Racism training held in DWTX in June of 2008, led by Jane Oasin. Although the initial interest of the group was to continue to address issues of racism, in our conversations we recognized that there were other related issues causing division and discrimination in our diocese, such as gender inequality, cultural diversity and sexual orientation. In addition, the DWTX had recently adopted as one of its core values: "Reconciliation: We are a community committed to living in reconciled relationship with God and all people." Thus, the focus of the group was broadened from anti-racism to reconciliation with respect to this broader spectrum of issues. We also decided early on, rather than focusing on racism or gender discrimination in the abstract, that we would focus on how these biases impede and undermine our ministries. So for example, as parishes seek to reach out to their surrounding neighborhoods, how can they overcome barriers rooted in racism or cultural diversity?

In order to address these issues, we have sponsored several trainings for clergy and lay leaders, including:

- September 2009: Two Conferences providing basic training on leading and participating in Multi-Cultural Ministry, led by Eric Law from the Kaleidoscope Institute.

- November 2009: **Faith-Based Reconciliation: Latino/Anglo Relationships Conference**, led by Rev. Brian Cox of Reconcilers.Net, which examined faith-based reconciliation methods and specifically applied them to Latino/Anglo relationships in our diocese.
- February 2009: **Kaleidoscope Bible Study** training at Diocesan Council, to teach "Respectful Communications Guidelines"
- September 2010: **Blessing Without Borders Conference**, led by Eric Law from the Kaleidoscope Institute, which taught more advanced skills and techniques for reaching out across racial and multi-cultural boundaries to minister in our neighborhoods.
- February 2011: **Missional Church Workshops**, at Diocesan Council, which included presentations from several parishes about missional outreach projects in their communities and "lessons learned" with respect to crossing multi-cultural boundaries.

We are also currently considering scheduling a series of screenings in our diocese of *Traces of the Trade*, lead by Dain and Constance Perry, which specifically addresses and invites reflection on the issues of slavery and racism.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Peace,

The Rev. Robert Woody
Co-Chair Diocesan Reconciliation Commission.