

AED Archdeacon and Deacon Directors' Conference, 2016

Racial Reconciliation

February 2/27/16

Facilitated by Jan Grinnell, Scribe Connie Campbell-Pearson

Also Present: Cookie Clark, Bonnie Matthews, Tim Spannaus, Lauren Welch, Jen Grewell, Kristi Neal, Sarah Ross, Bette Kaufman, Carter Hawley, Scott Williams, Janet Tidwell, Sarah Getts, Tom Mariconda, Kate Harrigan ; Anne Ried, Roxanne Klingensmith

Jan explained the impetus for the Center of Racial Reconciliation that they are building. It began when Katrina Browne went to last Triennial (2013 in Williamsburg) with documentary called Traces of the Trade. Her family had made their wealth from the slave trade and Rhode Island (Jan's state) had the largest slave trade. The General Convention had made a resolution that we need to do something about racial reconciliation. Jan had it birthed in her to do this Diaconal work. There is a cathedral in Rhode Island that they envision it becoming a museum about Racial Reconciliation.

Suggested Books:

- Dear White Christian - Jennifer Harvey
- Between the World and Me - Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race - Debbie Irving
- Birth of a White Nation - Jacqueline Batalourie
- White Privilege - Paula Rothenberg
- Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism - Jamel Loewen
- America's Original Sin by Jim Wallis
- Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do it - Shelly Tochluk
- Gather at the Table: A Healing Journey of a Daughter of Slavery and a Son of the Slave Trade - Thomas DeWolf

Conference materials available online: Trinity Institute 2016 - Listen for A Change: Website is trinitywallstreet.org

Conference coming up: White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia, PA April 14-17, 2016, theme: Let Freedom Ring: Re-imagining Equality and Justice in the United States

Resources: Duke Divinity School has a center for reconciliation - they have a summer institute for reconciliation. This year, they are having an excellent week of training June 6 - June 10.

Check out the Website - Kaleidoscope Institute - Eric Law - kscopeinstitute.org that provides resources to equip church leaders to create sustainable churches.

Some have experienced resistance from people saying that you need to be reconciled to yourself first. The paradigm is to move from a paradigm of Reconciliation to paradigm of Repentance, Reparation, Then Reconciliation.

Cookie Clark was a legislative aide at convention. One of the testimonies called for us to stop having the reconciliation ceremonies, a begin to deal with white privilege. In Western Louisiana and several other Dioceses, their commission is called Dismantling Racism rather than Anti-Racism.

Connie and Sarah: RE: Native American work - Navajo Land has a new Canon to the Navajo. Montana has an Assisting Bishop that is Cherokee and is working with our parishes to created sacred space for Urban Natives. We are in the listening phase.

Bette: - very hands on building relationships. They are collaborating with other churches. What is one thing we can do together? They had a meal together. They thought it was probably the first time black and white had eaten together without one serving the other.

Bonnie: It doesn't need to be just about race. We need sacred listening.

Janet - Instead of calling it Anti-Racism training they are calling it The Beloved Dismantling Racism. Shame and blame is not the way to get to reconciliation. They have movies and books to start a conversation. There is a display on Lynchings at the Tubman Theatre. Next year they are planning to go to Athens, Georgia, putting markers and memorials there. Catherine Meeks could come to Dioceses as a speaker.

Connecticut - having one day mini visions training to discuss different cultures. Be aware of the language that we use that is sexist. How we put down groups without being aware of it.

Cookie - decided to use Just Mercy for Lent. Very poor attendance. Brian Stevenson has YouTube that can be seen.

Lauren - going to walk Route 40 that intersects where there have been many shootings. Going two by two to build relationships. Collaborating with several churches. Part of the Reconciliation Commission in Maryland.

Hartford - they did a similar walk specifically about the gun violence.

Scott (Mississippi) - There has been much influence with past and current bishops, Duncan Gray, Duncan Gray, Jr and Duncan Gray III. They are building a museum in downtown Jackson. It is supposed to be a place of healing. Duncan the 3rd was threatened many times. Read the book, And Also With You, about Duncan's father. Dr. Anita George is in their diocese and is on the national committee of Racism. She can certainly provide resources.

Janet cautioned the group to be careful with doing one thing and then nothing comes out of it. Be intentional about what we do and why we are doing it. It would be helpful to have videos of Catherine and Anita that could be shared with other dioceses.

Kristi - the committee to dismantle racism is looking for new material. It requires that you have people of different cultures present. They had no one from other ethnicities and will now begin to focus on white privilege because they need to start there.

Sarah from Arizona is incorporating Latinos in their work with different ethnicities.

Kate: In their trainings they talked about how you talk to others about racial issues and white privilege. No matter how hard you try, no matter how empathetic you are, you really can't walk in someone else's shoes. There is no such thing as being color blind.

Lauren is using the Seeing the Face of God curriculum that shows white privilege.
Janet used a program called Step Forward, Step Back aka Race to the Wall. As the exercise unfolded the white people saw what was happening and began to take smaller steps. LOL!! Nothing like a visual example to really show white privilege.

Jan described an exercise they used at a student leadership conference in which they divided children into three groups who then went into separate rooms to write down what they would like to have in a community within a city. There was one jail in the city. The city was divided into three areas depending on the amount of resources. The smallest area had the smallest amount of resources, but the the most population and so on. Each group was given a different amount of resources - large, medium and small. The smallest community were denied housing because they didn't have enough money or there weren't any houses left that they could afford. At one point they joined arms and crossed their line, at which point they were put into jail.