

## WE HAVE A DREAM: A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM

### **APRIL, 2021 - How Can We Repair The Damage?**

We opened with prayer.

After seven months of learning and discussing our history of racism, we took a pulse on where the group stood on “reparations” or a racial equity fund and how we could impact systemic/ structural racism, asking what we wanted to accomplish and how? We used brainstorming so that everyone could contribute and advised we would not give feedback, but just listen.

It was clear that everyone wanted some form of “reparations” to include acknowledgement of complicity and a fund to support our work for racial equity. Our work must address the systems and structures in place that still impact people of color. There was interest in following Dr. Brown’s model of supporting a redlined neighborhood. We discussed the need for our own deeper education on racism and white supremacy, and accurate racial history in school curricula. We committed to work for legislative change that impacts racial injustice, including environmental legislation. There was also interest in joining with other parishes, publicizing our efforts, addressing healthcare and child care issues, and celebrating black role models, all in our attempt to transform hearts.

Next we thanked the legislative team for all their work and for those who took action on the racial and environmental bills we supported. We reported on those sent to the Governor for signing into law.

We announced a task group with varied neighborhood development experience that would explore options for action for this group.

We closed with a prayer.