

WE HAVE A DREAM: A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM

AUGUST, 2021 - We Acknowledge Our Complicity, But What Can We Do?

We opened with prayer.

People shared what biases and radicalizing they noticed since June. We heard how important it is to recognize our unconscious assessments and not automatically put “the other” in a category. We normally did not categorize when we personally knew those “others”.

Next we discussed the Acknowledgement Letter as part of our “reparations” and admission of our guilt. It became obvious that the draft letter could not cover all the audiences we wanted to reach in the Baltimore community. We needed to specialize it based on the recipient; the press, other Christian churches, etc. We explored what we wanted to add, after incorporating the changes emailed to us, and revised the basic letter. After determining the audience we would need to make sure it would achieve the reaction we intended. We will share it at the Town Meeting next year to see if we would sign it from the parish or from this group.

We also discussed sharing our journey with other parishioners including our church’s and country’s history and our own complicity in systemic racism. We will invite their support and participation.

The trust we have developed with one another will help us go where the Spirit leads us, if we are patient. We discussed if we were ready to be an action group and how to maintain our passion and efforts to help marginalized communities.

We ended with a prayer.