

WE HAVE A DREAM: A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM

JANUARY, 2022 - How Am I Called?

We began with a prayer.

The time for action had come and we asked attendees to consider their skills as we discussed proposed actions for our already full plates.

We discussed the ideas generated on 1/5/22, when a small group gathered on zoom to brainstorm:

- 1) how to engage and inspire our parish to join in our racial equity work, and**
- 2) how to be faithful financial stewards of our Racial Equity Fund and support South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT).**

We expressed the need to gain a better understanding of the root causes of racism, what is in the human heart and how we can heal it and correct our unconscious biases.

We agreed on the need to stay informed about SBCLT, so that we can quickly respond to their needs. We discussed suggestions for connections with other parishes to support SBCLT and join us in social justice actions.

There were many ideas for inclusion of “We Have a Dream” on St. V’s website and suggestions for developing relationships with the SBCLT community.

We reviewed a list of proposed actions and asked each person to consider where they could help. Some from our group immediately volunteered to work on specific items. ([Actions and responsibilities link](#))

We decided not to meet in February so we could concentrate on the synodal process, but asked everyone to consider their talents (and those of others they know), to actively engage in our future work and to volunteer for recommended actions. We asked each group member to describe their “Damascus” moment that heightened their awareness of racism and called them to this work, their witness statement.

We mentioned that legislation to diminish racial inequity is critical, and asked everyone to be ready to take action when we send out legislation needs after 3/1/22.

We reported that on March 16, 2022, there will be a Reconciliation Service at St. V’s at 7:00 pm, with a reflection by Skipp Sanders. He will focus on God’s relationship with God’s people and our failure to relate to each other regardless of ethnicity, race or location. Maintaining the barriers of inequity among people does not just blur God’s image but defiles it. As we are finishing the Reconciliation Service, we will hold a short We Have a Dream meeting to discuss our Acknowledgement Letter, our acknowledgement of our complicity in the sin of racism. Those present in church can join us in the rectory and those at home can join via zoom.

We ended the meeting with prayer.