

## WE HAVE A DREAM: A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM

### **OCTOBER, 2021 - Which Organization Aligns Best With Our Dream?**

We opened with prayer.

The initial mission of We Have a Dream: A World Without Racism, was education and reparation. We wanted to learn more about our racist history, acknowledge that history and build a fund to help reduce systemic and structural racism. Our goal for this meeting was to consider ways to move forward.

We reviewed key points from Dr. Lawrence T. Brown's presentation of The Black Butterfly, including the racial geography of Baltimore city. The injustice of redlining included discrimination in bank lending and home valuation. Dr. Brown listed 16 different areas in which white residents of Baltimore experienced advantages while black residents experienced disadvantages.

We discussed some of the many avenues of response to systemic racism, including those in which parishioners were already involved ([see list](#)). We highlighted potential initiatives in education for institutions with predominately black students, organizations with legislative agendas, neighborhood organizations and interfaith possibilities.

We split into small breakout groups and asked each group to discuss two questions

- What has impacted me in the journey we've taken so far in this group?
- Should We Have a Dream move forward as we are or as a parish-wide initiative?

Groups most frequently mentioned the need to

- Do something specific as a group.
- Address structural and systemic racism.
- Share our personal feelings about what we have learned.
- Share what we have learned with the parish.
- Make reparations.
- Commit to a long-term effort.

Our next step would be to reduce to a few, the organizations we would consider supporting, after learning more about them and how they align with our goals. We plan to ask each organization what it does, how it reduces systemic/structural racism, its financial needs and how our community could best support it.

We closed with prayer.