

Province V Dismantling Racism Network  
June 2022 notes

Presenter: Crystal Plummer, Director of networking for the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

The Episcopal Church has a number of projects underway at the diocesan level to advance the work of dismantling racism. Crystal highlighted for us the ministries of:

- Chicago Regional Organizing for Antiracism (<https://crossroadsantiracism.org/chicago/>) partnership with the diocese to offer training workshops. This partnership was recently covered in an episode of Reset on WBEZ (<https://www.wbez.org/stories/chicago-groups-are-teaching-people-to-be-anti-racist/4f544cf7-9469-4449-9989-8e85040ff31b>)
- Partnership with Bexley-Seabury to develop a cost-effective means of making more publically accessible the Diocesan Anti-racism Training canonically required for ordination.
- Peace and Justice Committee on April 7, 2022 offered a Workshop of Reckoning and Reconciliation with Our Indigenous Neighbors: A Primer for All Who Seek for Justice (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWDsEhWyeVg> for the workshop recording)
- The Chicago Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) is burgeoning, having reformed itself like a phoenix from the ashes. Recent projects have included:
  - Sending representatives to the Churchwide UBE Convention
  - Partnership with the Campaign for Poor People
  - Support of Holy Family Schools (<https://www.hfm.org/>), a joint Episcopal/ELCA partnership to “provide educational opportunities for children, youth, and families in Chicago's under-resourced neighborhoods to excel academically, grow spiritually, expand life experiences, and become exceptional leaders through a faith-based approach.”
- Staff Engagement: Both Crystal and Ciara Reyes—who has joined the Diocesan Staff as Interim Associate for Ministries, coming from the Diocese of Colorado—will be participating in the Black Ministries Convocation this Summer in Atlantic City, NJ
- A Clergy of Color Caucus organized around the bishop election and is in the process of forming its identity, especially as Bishop-elect Paula Clark is consecrated and develops her own platform.
- Diocesan leaders are increasingly being tapped by other religious leaders in Chicago to collaborate on regional issues such as violence.

In other Province V news:

- The Diocese of Northern Michigan has just called Leora Miskowaaganikwe to serve as Missioner for Diversity and Inclusion.

Recommended Resources:

- What Does it Mean to Be White? (<https://myersparkbaptist.org/what-does-it-mean-to-be-white/>)—a resource offered by the Myers Park Baptist Church
- Canonical Training Offered by the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey via Zoom (<https://dioceseofnj.org/event/anti-racism-training-2/>)
- My Work To Do (<https://www.myworktodo.com/>)— an online affinity group designed to help white people build stamina for discussing racism, systemic injustice, racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in their everyday lives.
- Tell Me the Truth About Racism (<https://www.tellmethetruthaboutracism.org/>)—a curriculum frames racism through the lens of Christian faith for children aged 5-12.