

# Anti-Racism Commission, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

## Annual Report

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The mission of the Anti-Racism Commission is to dismantle systemic racism in the institutional structures of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. To that end, this year the Commission has undertaken the following events and activities:

- **Analyzing and Understanding Systemic Racism workshops:** With our ecumenical partner, the Chicago Metro Synod of the ELCA, we held 2 ½ day workshops in May, 2014, at Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation's Chicago campus and in Oct 2014 at the Lutheran School of Theology, for diocesan staff, clergy and laity.
- **Critical Cultural Competency workshop, Chicago:**
  - At the request of Church of the Advent and Nuestra Senora de las Americas in Chicago, commission members met with leaders from both churches to discuss presenting a Critical Cultural Competency workshop for church members.
  - The Commission hired trainers from Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training to facilitate this workshop.
  - 30 people from the 2 churches attended and members of both churches have subsequently reported that it was a positive experience with positive, on-going results.
- **Critical Cultural Competency workshop, Peoria Deanery:** Commission members are working with representatives of the Peoria Deanery to hold a CCC workshop on Sat, Dec 6, at St Paul's in Peoria.
- **Critical Cultural Competency workshop, St David's, Glenview:** Commission members worked with St David's Rector, Susan Sommer to schedule a CCC workshop in mid-September for members of St David's, St Giles and St James the Less. The workshop has been postponed and is pending rescheduling in 2015.
- **Diocesan Collaborations:**
  - Various members and the co-chairs met with Bishop Lee, Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows and Courtney Reid to discuss the work of dismantling systemic racism in the diocesan structures and churches.
  - Commission members are providing support for the work of the Legacy of Slavery Task Force.
  - Commission members staffed a booth at the 2013 Diocesan Convention.
- **Service outside ARC:** Within the Diocese, commission members served on the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council as ad hoc representatives.
  - Beyond the church, commission members serve as trainer/organizers with Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training and its regional Division, Chicago Regional Organizing for Antiracism (Chicago ROAR)
  - Commission members also co-lead a facilitated discussion of "The Dangers of a Single Story" at Old St Pat's Catholic Church for their Social Justice Team.
- **Leadership and member development:** The commission was pleased to be able to send members to area conferences that helped us grow in our understanding of systemic racism and gain skills in dismantling it.
  - 3 members attended the White Privilege Conference in Madison WI, in March 2014
  - 8 members attended Crossroads' Leadership Development Institute in Chicago in July 2014
- **Racial Identity Caucusing:** At each commission meeting during 2014 we intentionally participated in racial identity caucusing during which we explore the ways in which racism affects each of us, how we play out our internalized feelings of superiority or oppression, and how racism has the power to destroy us all.

Respectfully Submitted by the Antiracism Commission, October 15, 2014

Co-Chairs: Idida Perez and Karen Ziech