

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana Commission for Racial Reconciliation
Convention 2017 Report for Events and Programming
Between November 2016 through October 2017

Mission Statement:

“Since racism works against our Baptismal covenant, we are committed to promote racial reconciliation in our diocese. We seek God’s help to work in healing our woundedness and to forge a life together where unity overcomes estrangement, forgiveness heals guilt, and joy conquers despair. In our ongoing spiritual formation, we will use prayer, worship, advocacy, intentional action, and education to become the Beloved Community.”

Commission Members 2016-2017

Lindsey Ardrey (St. George’s Episcopal Church)
Orissa Arend (Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans)
Trevor-David Bryan (St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, New Orleans)
Edgar Cage (St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, Zachary)
Patricia Corderman (Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans)
Holly Heine (St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, Metairie)
Joe Hicks (St. Michael’s and All Angels Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge)
Reverend Dan Krutz (St. Francis Episcopal Church, Denham Springs)
Elishia McAllister (Church of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans)
Rachel Nicolosi (St. George’s Episcopal Church, New Orleans)
Richard Saxer (Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans)
Susan Spillman (St. James, Baton Rouge)
Reverend Edward Thompson (All Souls Episcopal Church, New Orleans)

Forward Movement

Within the last year, the Commission for Racial Reconciliation of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana has participated in solidarity marches in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, celebrated the feast day of Blessed Frances Joseph Gaudet, partnered with local community organizing coalition *Justice and Beyond* for an anti-racism workshop, and hosted *Traces of the Trade’s* Katrina Browne as she guided a movement and dance for racial healing workshop. The commission also started building a small collection of books that are expected to grow into a comprehensive library that will serve as catalysts for robust conversations on both the parish and diocesan levels.

As a diocese, we will look to Jesus as our teacher who masters the art of telling a simple story to convey pervasive truths. This fall we will pilot the *Prophetic Storytelling Project* by following Jesus’ evangelical example of inviting people to gather for a meal and becoming storytellers. In the coming months, we will call on congregations and individuals to share a piece of their personal history. It is our intention that this will serve as the opening pages for a book of our collective stories and pave the way for healing. In November and December, the commission will offer a *Hidden History Tour* led by local historian Leon Waters in New Orleans. The invitation will be open to everyone diocesan-wide.

Respectfully submitted by co-chairs Lindsey Ardrey and Trevor-David Bryan on October 10, 2017.