

## **The Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission**

On May 25, 2020, the world witnessed the murder of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement. This brutal event reawakened many to the ongoing reality of racism within individuals and systems.

In response to that tragedy, Bishop Brown created a think tank of laity and clergy. Their charge was to develop a sustainable structure that the Episcopal Church in Delaware (ECD) will use to address systemic racial injustice in our church and the larger society. The think tank based its work on *Becoming Beloved Community*, the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, justice, and reconciliation.

*Becoming Beloved Community* is not a program, but rather a lifelong journey built upon four tenets, grounded in our baptism: *Telling the Truth about the Church and Race; Proclaiming the Dream of Becoming Beloved Community; Practicing the Way of Love; Repairing the Breach in Society and Institutions.*

The think tank returned to Bishop Brown with two strong recommendations: first, form a Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission (RJRC) to carry out this work; second, hire a missioner for racial justice and reconciliation, who will act as a liaison between the ECD and RJRC, and work alongside it to accomplish its goals.

The RJRC has begun its work and meets monthly to consider its goals. It has met with the College of Clergy to assess the needs of diocesan parishes and other organizations in relation to racial justice and reconciliation, as well as with community partners engaged in similar efforts. With God's help, the mission will be accomplished: *to support the ECD in Becoming Beloved Community, one that is diverse; centered on following Jesus; and where every member is valued, celebrated, and honored.*

To learn more about the RJRC, or to join in the mission, feel free to contact either of the co-chairs: the Rev. Chuck Weiss ([cweiss@christchurchdover.org](mailto:cweiss@christchurchdover.org)) or Dr. Sheridan Quarless Kingsberry ([kingsberrysq@gmail.com](mailto:kingsberrysq@gmail.com)).

You are also encouraged to keep up-to-date with this work by going to the [Awakening to Racial Justice in the Episcopal Church in Delaware](#) page on the diocesan website.