

Upcoming Opportunities to Discuss our Draft Race & Equity Statement

by The Rev. Sarah Reynolds, Associate Rector

In his Rector's Corner video last week, Sari announced our decision to replace the promised survey on St. John's draft statement on race and equity with opportunities, instead, to unpack and discuss the statement in community. The reason for this, as he stated, is that while a survey can collect data, it doesn't create space for discussion, for feelings, for wrestling with the big issues. And those are things we need to make space for, as a community, as we journey together toward our vision of becoming Beloved Community.

In January, we'll offer a couple different opportunities to unpack and respond to our draft statement. Join us in person after worship on Sunday, January 15th, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. Or join the conversation on Zoom the following Wednesday, January 18th, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. In these sessions, we'll walk through each section of the statement in a guided reading and discussion. In order to use our time together to really talk about the statement itself and the issues it addresses, we ask that you read the statement beforehand, which you can find [here](#). You can also find a glossary of terms [here](#), so that we are all working from the same definitions of various terms used.

It is our hope that these sessions provide the space and opportunity not only to reach clarity on the statement itself, but also to allow the space to explore our sticking points so that we can move forward in this work *together* as a community. We won't all be in the same place with these issues, and we won't arrive at our goal of Beloved Community and embodying God's radical welcome overnight. That's okay. This work is part of our discipleship journey – both as individuals and as a parish – and we understand that discipleship work is life's work: long and slow and, hopefully, both rewarding and transformative.

These opportunities for discussion are an important part of our work together. And the key word here is *together*; please make a note of these sessions and plan to attend. Take time to read the statement and take note of your response: where are you all in? Where do you feel unsure? What are your misgivings? Where does your energy lie? Bring your questions and concerns, along with your open heart and curious mind, to these discussions. And in the meantime, feel free to raise questions or concerns with any St. John's clergy, vestry members, or members of our Racial Justice and Equity task force.