

Report on St. Mark's Fall 2020 Survey on Racial and Social Justice

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Conducted by St. Mark's Dismantling Racism Ministry and St. Mark's Micah Ministry

Survey Context

St. Mark's Survey on Racism and Social Justice arose from discussions in June 2020 at a joint meeting of St. Mark's Vestry, Clergy, Staff, and Dismantling Racism Ministry about how the Parish should respond to issues of racial justice around the death of George Floyd.

Who Took the Survey?

- 90 parishioners responded to an email survey for an excellent 35.7% return rate.
- 93% of respondents identified as white.
- 73% of respondents identified an age range. 77% of those who indicated an age range are above the age of 55 years.

Summary of Results

Although a significant majority of respondents agree on their answers for any one question, there is not universal agreement for any of the questions. In this context, it is important to recognize the strength of what unites us as Christians in the Episcopal tradition and that diversity of experience and perspective is a source of growth and vibrancy. A simple survey cannot do justice to nuanced responses or the complexity of reasons and experiences that inform individual responses. This survey cannot substitute for dialogue with each other on important issues regarding how we live the gospel. The Dismantling Racism Ministry and Micah Ministry intend for the survey to be a starting point for dialogue. Please join a discussion group of the survey results and next steps.

What are Your Perceptions and Experiences of Racism?

- 80% or more of respondents believe that racism occurs across multiple social contexts, that racist incidents are not rare, and that racist events are primarily or to a significant degree due to established systems.
- Affordable housing, homelessness, and educational equity rank among the top areas of concern.
- A strong majority of respondents indicate that their awareness and knowledge of racism has changed over the past two years due to the pandemic, current events, and reading.

How Do You Perceive the Church and St. Mark's?

- 78% or more of respondents believe that addressing racism and social justice are important in the Church's mission and that it is necessary to work with other organizations in this mission.
- St. Mark's is generally viewed as a voice for progressive change (72% of respondents).
- 55% of respondents say they would like to see more social change leadership and 35% say they are happy with the current level of social change leadership.
- St. Mark's is generally viewed as welcoming to people of color and those less fortunate (70% of respondents) and 93% of the respondents indicate that they personally feel welcome.

What Would You Like to Do Now?

- Areas of greatest interest: Volunteering with other organizations on occasion; connecting with people of diverse racial and ethnic identities; developing applicable skills; attending an occasional lecture or movie.

A full report will be provided to those who register below, and to the full congregation at a later date.

DISCUSSION GROUP 1:

Sunday February 28,
1:00-2:30 p.m. (via Zoom)
Register at <http://bit.ly/STMGroup1>

DISCUSSION GROUP 2:

Monday March 1,
7:00-8:30 p.m. (via Zoom)
Register at <http://bit.ly/STMGroup2>