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Commitment to Racial Justice and Reconciliation

The Gathering of Leaders unites in solidarity with the leadership of The Episcopal Church in condemning the murder of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement Memorial Day 2020. His tragic death is a reminder of the legacy of white supremacy that infects our systems, even the Church, the Body of Christ. Our mission statement underscores our reason for existing: “to assist in the empowerment, support and development of transformational leaders.” As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry stated in his letter of May 30: “Our long-term commitment to racial justice and reconciliation is embedded in our identity as baptized followers of Jesus. We will still be doing it when the news cameras are long gone.”

The Gathering of Leaders encourages its members to pray, teach, preach, and work toward being agents who will continue the work of leading The Episcopal Church to welcome the diversity manifested by the Holy Spirit.

2018 Theme: Racial Reconciliation and Discipleship in the Ministry of the Church

The Gathering of Leaders theme for 2018 was *Racial Reconciliation and Discipleship in the Missionary Church*. Our executive leadership and board firmly believe that the document and video resources from the 2018 gathering will prove helpful and relevant given our current situation. Please visit the [portal to access](#) the material.

The Theme: Racial Reconciliation and Discipleship in the Missionary Church

Our Presiding Bishop has called us into a deeper understanding of the relationship between evangelism and racial reconciliation. It has been said that Sunday morning is the most segregated time in America, because our worshipping communities often reflect the dividing lines of race rather than the unity of Christ’s Body or the glorious diversity of God’s creation. At this year’s gathering we wish to explore the connection between discipleship, mission, and racial reconciliation. We understand ourselves, as Christians, to be called to reconciliation. How does making disciples facilitate and celebrate racial reconciliation in our particular contexts? How are the church’s legacies of racial division and racial healing affecting your work of evangelism and mission? What signs of hope do you see? Within the context of the Great Commission, what roles do confession, repentance, forgiveness and reparation play in the work of racial reconciliation within ourselves, our congregations and the Episcopal Church?

Guest Speakers

Insight from two theologians who presented in 2018 speak to our current time. The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Battle presented on the diversity within the Christian Church being the image and reflection of the Holy Spirit. The Church is not living into its mission if physical diversity is not visible. Dr. J. Kameron Carter presented racial reconciliation within the theological framework of Christology, critiquing the work of formation into the Western Church's image of Jesus Christ.

Additional Resources

In your own work and studies, if you have additional resources to share with the GOL community, please email them to our Executive Director for inclusion on the resource page.

Faithfully,

The Board of Directors
The Gathering of Leaders