

Annual Convention Report

The 132nd Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri

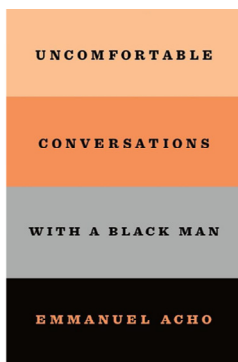


"The fundamental truth undergirding this vision [of the Beloved Community] is that all are made in the image of God. It is in our diversity that we discover the fullness of that image.... Whenever individual or community behaviors work against God's vision, we have promised to respond in ways that will serve to heal: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? I will with God's help (Book of Common Prayer p305)."

March 21, 2006 pastoral letter from the House of Bishops -- "The Sin of Racism: A Call to Covenant"

Below are the articles published in the *New Spirit* and other activities held virtually during the 2021 Pandemic:

Book Review



The Beloved Community of Care and Love Book Club

Diversity and Reconciliation Commission



In his first book, Acho, an analyst for Fox Sports who grew up in Dallas as the son of Nigerian immigrants, addresses White readers who have sent him questions about Black history and culture. "My childhood," he writes, "was one big study abroad in white culture—followed by studying abroad in black culture during college and then during my years in the NFL, which I spent on teams with 80-90 percent black players, each of whom had his own experience of being a person of color in America. Now, I'm fluent in both cultures: black and white." While the author avoids condescending to readers who already acknowledge their White privilege or understand why it's unacceptable to use the N-word, he's also attuned to the sensitive nature of the topic. As such, he has created "a place where questions you may have been afraid to ask get answered." Acho has a deft touch and a historian's knack for marshaling facts. He packs a lot into his concise narrative, from an incisive historical breakdown of American racial unrest and violence to the ways of cultural appropriation: Your friend respecting and appreciating Black arts and culture?

KirkusReviews.com

The [Mis]concept[ion] of Race

Learning transforms because it informs. February is Black History Month, celebrate in part by reading about the [Mis]concept[ion] of race, and open the way for conversation.

“So slavery and the horrors which have followed it did not grow out of racism. Rather racial bias developed to preserve slavery and other economic advantages and privileges.”

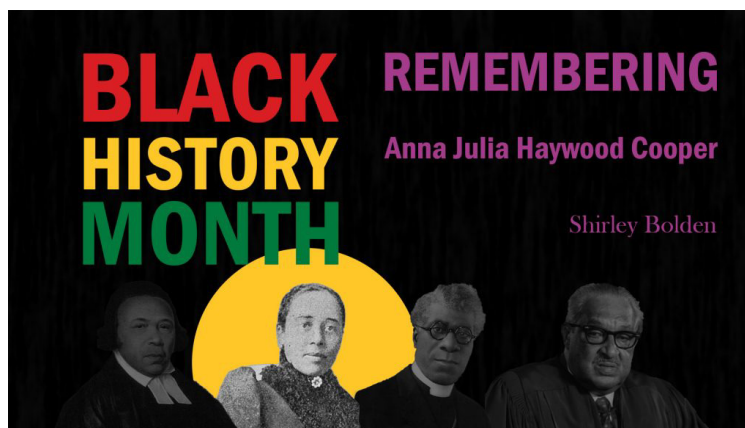


Hope. Image credit: Russell Leffel

“What we may want to ask ourselves is how that knowledge will shape our work toward becoming the Beloved Community and freeing us from this toxic place where we have been for 600 years.”

This article was originally written for the [Everything Holy](#) February packet by Ms. Cheryl Cementina.

Due to the COVID 19-Pandemic, the Annual Absalom Jones Celebration was postponed. Instead, the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission presented a series of short videos during the month of February on prominent Episcopal African Americans.



[Black History Month: Remembering Edward Thomas Demby](#)

February 4, 2021

This is the first in a series of four weekly videos remembering key African American figures in the Episcopal Church and beyond. A new video will be published each Thursday throughout February. This week, Edward Thomas Demby.

[Black History Month: Remembering Absalom Jones](#)

February 11, 2021

This is the second in a series of four weekly videos remembering key African American figures in the Episcopal Church and beyond. A new video will be published each Thursday throughout February. This week, Absalom Jones.

[Black History Month: Remembering Thurgood Marshall](#)

February 18, 2021

This is the third in a series of four weekly videos remembering key African American figures in the Episcopal Church and beyond. A new video will be published each Thursday throughout February. This week, Thurgood Marshall.

[Black History Month: Remembering Anna Julia Haywood Cooper](#)

February 25, 2021

This is the fourth and final video in a series remembering key African American figures in the Episcopal Church and beyond. A new video has been published each Thursday throughout February. This week, Anna Julia Haywood Cooper.

Diversity Workshop: Undoing Racism

When: Every Saturday, April 17 – May 22, 2021, 10 a.m. – noon

Where: Online Training Sessions via Zoom

Who: Diocese-wide.

The purpose of this workshop is to assist the diocese in eliminating the sin of racism. This training fulfills the intent of several General Convention resolutions, which call for leaders at all levels of The Episcopal Church to receive training on the Church's teaching about racial diversity and other forms of diversity present within the human family.



Diversity and Reconciliation Commission Training Resources
May 22, 2021, Online Training Session

- [Undoing Racism : What's Next - Workshop Session 6](#)

May 15, 2021, Online Training Session

- [Systemic and Institutional Racism - Workshop Session 5](#)

May 8, 2021, Online Training Session

- [Power of Racism - Workshop Session 4](#)

May 1, 2021, Online Training Session

- [Privileges of Racial Power - Workshop Session 3](#)

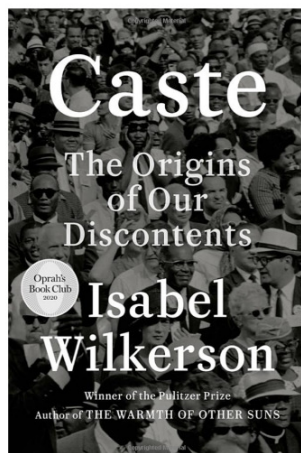
April 22, 2021, Online Training Session

- [Undoing Racism Handout - Workshop Session 2](#)

April 17, 2021, Online Training Session

- [Telling the Truth \(2021\) - Workshop Session 1](#)

Book Review



The Beloved Community *of Care and Love* Book Club

Diversity and Reconciliation Commission



A caste system is an artificial construction, a fixed and embedded ranking of human value that sets the presumed supremacy of one group against the presumed inferiority of other groups on the basis of ancestry and often immutable traits, traits that would be neutral in the abstract but are ascribed life-and-death ...

Juneteenth to become an official federal holiday

June 17, 2021 Article written by Mr. Gary Allman

As federal employees are granted a paid holiday to celebrate Juneteenth, learn more about this commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.



Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it commemorates the announcement on June 19, 1865, of [General Order No. 3](#) by Union Army General Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom from slavery in Texas. Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement.

Taking Pride - a personal reflection

June 17, 2021 Article written by The Very Rev. Charles Marks

For me, Pride Month is about celebrating the grand diversity that God has created in humanity. Pride is a consciousness of the dignity that each of us possesses as a beloved creation of God. It is this particular sense of the word that is meant when we talk about this month celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.



1968 Holy Week Riots in Kansas City, Missouri

June 22, 2021 Article written by The Rev. David Fly

April 4, 1968, was a normal workday for me, starting at 8 a.m. and ending around 5:30 p.m. when I would rush in the door and plop down in front of the television for the evening news. At 6:01 p.m. that evening, the world changed for many in America and was on the verge of changing for me.



Center frame, left Fr. Edward Warner, right, Fr. David Fly.

Image credit: Kansas City Star, from the January 2006 issue of the Missouri Historical Review

Diversity Workshop: Undoing Racism



Summer Diversity Workshop: Undoing Racism in-person was postponed due to the COVID 19 continual outbreak.

We recommend the following resources to you:

- *Center for Racial Healing*
- *List of Historically Black Parishes*
- *Responding to Racist Violence as the People of God*
- Resources for Adult Formation with an Emphasis on Race and Diversity by Katherine Malloy, on Building Faith: A ministry of the Virginia Theological Seminary, <https://buildfaith.org/resources-for-adult-formation-with-an-emphasis-on-race-and-diversity/>
- *The Episcopal Church - Becoming a beloved community - Plan*
- *The Episcopal Church - Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership*
- *The Episcopal Church Office of Black Ministries*
- *The Episcopal Church - Racial Reconciliation*

Diversity Workshop: Undoing Racism



The Diversity and Reconciliation Commission presented “Undoing Racism” on Saturday, September 8 and October 2 online from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We had two sessions of 6 hour each. Each participant must attend both sessions to receive a certificate of completion.

A statement from the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission:

The Diversity & Reconciliation Commission of The Diocese of West Missouri stands in solidarity with the call for justice for all who have suffered from systemic injustice and oppression because of their race. As Episcopalians, we believe that all people are created in God’s image and likeness. We proclaim in our baptismal covenant that we will respect the dignity of all human beings. We believe that respect is not just a state of mind but is demonstrated in what we do. We believe that the sin of racism harms all people of the community—oppressed, oppressors, and indifferent. We, therefore, have committed ourselves to work for the dismantling of racism through education, prayer, repentance, confession, forgiveness, and action, and we call upon all the people of West Missouri to join us. We are here to provide resources, support, education, and training for all who are ready to engage in that redeeming work.

...what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

We say goodbye to one of very faithful commission member, Cheryl Cementina who has retired and moved to be closer to family in Connecticut.

DIVERSITY AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

SHIRLEY BOLDEN, CHAIR
MR. DREW BROWN
MS. CHERYL CEMENTINA
THE VERY REV. DON COMPIER. BKSM DEAN
THE REV. TED ESTES
MRS. MELINDA ESTES
MRS. JEANNE GOOLSBY
THE VERY REV. CHARLES MARKS
THE REV. GALEN SNODGRASS
THE VERY REV. JOS THARAKAN