



Bishop's Task Force on Anti-Racism Names Leadership

In consultation with the appointive cabinet and Dr. Sharon Austin, Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries, Bishop Ken Carter has announced the leadership of three teams that will lead our annual conference in doing the work of anti-racism in 2020-2021.

The three teams are Training and Accountability, Public Witness and Policy, and Beloved Community.

Training and Accountability Team

Dr. Candace Lewis, Rev. Esther Rodriguez and Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson.

This team will design and implement required anti-racism training for clergy and leaders, and link this with systems of accountability in collaboration with the appointive cabinet (in matters of supervision) and in the work of local churches, districts and the annual conference.

Public Witness and Policy Team

Rev. Juana Jordan, Heather Pancoast and Rev. David Williamson

This team will be a voice of the church in shaping laws that are anti-racist, beginning with work related to policing practices and access to voting and democratic processes across our state. They will also work with ecumenical partners to develop responses to the legacies of slavery and lynching.

Beloved Community

Rev. Corey Jones and Alice Williams

This is an already established initiative, building on the work done several years ago in the Visions process. Beginning with the end—a beloved community—in mind, this team works with the concepts of awareness, practice and accountability in developing learning communities that can do the work of anti-racism.

The composition of each team will be shared in the coming days. We are grateful especially to Dr. Sharon Austin who, through justice ministries, resources the work of the Commission on Religion and Race and the Beloved Community.

This work is in continuity with ministry that has taken place over many years. We invite you to see the [recent cabinet statement](#) and the [resources we've compiled on race](#). At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed inequities in our society, and the recent killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks have led to the urgent need to respond more clearly and intentionally to racism within our annual conference and across our state. The Bishop's Task Force on Anti-Racism is one facet of this response. We solicit your support, your engagement and your prayers.