Hopes, Concerns, and responses to “After tonight’s dialogue, what is God calling us to be, do, or change?”

**Hopes**

- Increasingly enlightened dialogue – society in general
- We/Cathedral are a light in darkness, beacon on the hill, voice for the nation, becoming the beloved community, be courageous
- Decreasing segregation in workplaces, bringing spirits and enlightenment
- Closing of the economic gaps people of color live with
- I hope that the removal of these windows will be the beginning of an ongoing effort to uproot the legacy of slavery
- A call to action from the dioceses more visibly
- Using the pulpit as a call to action
- To continue to involve the wider community, including non-church people
- To re-use this dialogue model in our own contexts
- To remain committed to our individual learning and discerning our calling in this work
- That we keep doing the work. (what is our specific work)
- That we take care of each other along the way
- That we name specific hope mindful of where we come
- Our children can move us forward
- Hope for continued action and discussion and then action
- Focus on concrete versus symbolic issues
- That we listen to each other
- I hope that love will take power away from hate
- We/Cathedral can get more disenfranchised to the table – Racists; People who socio-economically less fortunate; Those who think differently
- Test and reaffirm my assumptions re: race
- Proactively facilitate/engage in opportunities for dialogue
- To have more dialogue across the divide that exists. Now! That is people that think exactly opposite from me
- Future Cathedral representations be of values, beliefs, rather than people.
- Hope for continuous courageous conversation
- Hope for internal energy
- Increase skills for dialogue
- Creating space for conversation
- We will challenge racism when it comes up
- Conversation across America
- Cathedral (continues dialogue and welcome others (evangelicals)
- Cross generational conversation (young people)
- Cathedral to train groups to facilitate these kinds of dialogues
- That we’ll hold open a space to hear stories
• Cathedral to take a national leadership role around race – national church serving as bully pulpit
• I’ll learn to hear/feel the hate and move on
• That we as humans find our common ground
• That we listen and learn from each other’s stories
• That we find our love for each other
• I hope that we are in a dark time that will lead to racial healing
• I hope that we can be forgiving
• I hope that we can be honest with each other
• Continued discussion
• Be in more diverse groups
• That I could go to a more black church
• That dialogue continues
• We listen to each other
• We learn unvarnished histories
• This is God’s work
• Live into Baptismal covenant
• That the church continues to hold space
• We hear each other’s stories
• We can hear criticisms of ourselves and continue forward
• The church – its leaders/ministries will foster more dialogue during Sunday services
• Move from demagogy
• Conversation is wider
• All find their better angels
• Young folks will pick up challenge to change
• We will appropriate the language of the church for world issues
• Profiles in kindness
• Appropriating our language of church for the world, profiles is kindness
• Young people/millennials
• That we can take action towards racial reconciliation
• I hope this will lead to people paying more attention to the collapse of the black family and the repercussions, and less attention to easy outrage over monuments
• More than race – human issues and social justice issues
• Establish the truth of history with honesty and accuracy
• Truth will prevail
• Listen, consider, and extend the dialogue
• Hope: That the Washington National Cathedral and the Episcopal Diocese of Washington become true multi-cultural and compelling in or witness to Christ Gospel of love.
• Hopes: We as citizens of the US will continue to acknowledge and eliminate sources of dehumanizing indignity for African Americans, that will aid in changed hearts/attitude, their race will become less of an issue because racial privileges decrease
• Hopes: Minds opened, Ears opened to listen, Everyone be willing to challenge preconceiving notions
• My hope, unfortunately, and not my belief, is that in too generations these conversations no longer need to be done. I hope that every child of God accepts his/her inheritance as theirs to the kingdom – equal education, opportunity and growth
• Hopes: Continue open dialogue on cultural/racial/reconciliation; Acceptance, self-examination, recognition of God in everyone
Concerns

- Our politeness: we need to have relations conversations in conjunction with justice conversations
- Let’s not forget to explore all aspects of racism and all the groups it affects
- That there is too much disagreement for too long. We won’t ever get change
- We will never reach out to other communities or listen to them
- Our children aren’t learning to listen/talk (earbuds) or won’t ever listen to each other.
- See people for who they are
- Engage/interact more with people different than me
- More opportunities to dialogue/listen to others willing to honestly equal on race
- Concerns: Increase and exploitation of racial few
- I fear that the removal of these windows will be an end not a beginning
- Increasingly fractious dialogue
- Reverses in civil rights for citizenship
- Further closing of our immigration gates
- That we might think we’re done now
- That it stops at talk, what action would be helpful?
- Youth flowing into same system
- That we not be overwhelmed and tired
- That we are not integrating, not inter sectioning
- That we are weary
- That our ability to find and build community won’t keep peace with the anger and fear
- That there are those that will never engage
- The lack of trust in the Holy Spirit by ministers of all levels to be present when we intentionally create dialogue space wherever/whenever two or more are gathered
- Once we get to a comfortable place we just carry on as usual
- We get complacent
- We segregate even more
- Talk without action
- Hate
- Denial about experiences of racism
- We get afraid and bail because some can
- We won’t hear
- We won’t turn it over to God
- That I’ll lose hope again
- Blacks and POC won’t participate
- I am concerned things are getting worse in the US
- I am concerned that people will take advantage of honest conversations to derail progress
- I am concerned that the tribalism of humans doom this effort
- The dialogue stops here with these discussions
- No one to do the hard work of being a church
- I’ll never see some members of my group again
- I feel that race dialogue with self-righteous talk will continue to divide us
- Wld like more clear progress in our community towards racial reconciliation
- How do we foster greater empathy toward others?
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- How can we learn best actions to achieve change
- The drive to inflame hatred driven by selfish gain – will prevail over goodness and rationality
- No end with just the windows – continuous
- Washington “bubble” - not perceived as open, embracing or understanding
- Challenge or getting “others” to the table
- How to keep hope alive – find ways to be patient with slow change.
- That our desire for change be overwhelmed by the complex of the lost before us we lose hope
- Move too slow
- Find courage to change
- We not tire of the work
- We are back where we were 50 years ago, what will make it different/new?
- Afraid it won’t change
- For a better world for our children
- That we forget too easily
- That certain people check out and get distracted
- The grievances are so deep
- Too much negative media
- How do we reach the reluctant listeners
- My concern is that those we wish to help will not be able to come for the conversation
- I want to be able to accept myself
- Fears: People on both sides drag in

What are WE CALLED to BE/DO/CHANGE?

- To be brave
- Bring into leadership the diversity we long to see
- I think we are called to tear down the more far reaching legacies of slavery.
- We need to identify any insensitivity we come across and illustrate fairer behavior and attitudes
- Start race relations groups that meet regularly.
- I am going to continue shining light on issues and creating spaces for my students to have dialogue.
- To persist
- Learn to listen to others better, and to understand the journeys of others, and act toward goodness and equality
- Become politically active, organize our precincts, take power away from the politics of hate
- Keep listening to stories of people whose stories have not been heard/honored
- I feel called to listen with the intent to understand, not just the intent to respond. I feel called to help the kids around me begin to practice empathy.
- Link the cathedral to the attacked. Balance the relations come with justice actions. Not just social justice but reparative justice
- Educational opportunity to share everything that is in this building that relates to the issue of race-open dialogues
• I hope that we can find ways to continue this dialogue such that more and more voices can be heard their perspectives worded fully.
• Find ways to tackle big problems in tangible, doable ways that resist in visible change/progress.
• Care for common humanity; Acknowledge we have more in common than different therefore honor all
• Discourage negative talk about others, but encourage love through our example
• Continue the work not give up, and not give out on energy, and not give out on hope
• Recognize our common darkness/frailties and our common goodness/strengths when we meet communicate with people “different” from us
• I believe God is calling me to become more involved with the local community.
• Be more active in organizations concerned with racial justice activities
• “Live /Win” Become beacons in the community
• Recognize racism and call it out
• Intentionally engage in conversation and listen. Practicing prayerful listening (RCG’s) and using African-American writers/words/prayer as opening.
• Continue to educate myself on different ways that those around me perceive our country’s history
• Love – request listen + understand
• Continue to participate in groups on race and other isms
• Be an instrument for change in church + community
• More events like this
• Invite people who we don’t agree with to convince and converse
• Gun control advocacy
• Stop the gun industry
• Expand mental health
• God is calling me to not be comfortable – be engaged
• Stay involved and be part of the solution – inspire young people – starting with my kids – to embrace opportunity for honest discussion on social justice/racial issues
• God, I believe God is calling me to risk being understanding as I engage to be an instrument of kindness through the ministries of baptizing and teaching
• Hope: That members of the baptized aka household of faith we will embrace our distinctive differences as gifts from God since we are created in the image of God
• To continue to be in dialogue with those whom I agree and disagree
• Provide handouts for Thanksgiving dinner
• Meals together
• Diverse Church with blended exchanges regularly, (visit other churches), small group gatherings after, shared meals
• Understand and accept each other
• Continue dialogue, more evenings like this
• To be advocates for our children
• We are called to be a part of the dialogue and call to action at the cathedral community to help dismantle racism, oppression, and to speak out, speak up and be a part of the solution.
• Called to: Be an advocate for peace and justice; show up at the community marches for peace
• Be an active communicator with my legislator
• Engage with others who do not look like me
• To be more consistently involved and aware
• We must listen, respect, and determine to do God’s will
• Be a good parent/friend/neighbor
• Speak up
• Take proactive notions individually and as a group
• Be our better selves
• Reach out to our non-white individuals to learn better what they do, what they think, what they inspire to
• Be a courageous beacon of truth-telling
• Raise my children to be the solution to racism
• Raise children to be advocates for the other
• Call out the sin
• Open my eyes and ears as I keep searching
• Welcome at the table – the disenfranchised – so/ec etc
• One person at a time
• Keep hope alive and be patient, kind, and thoughtful
• Cathedral: Light in Darkness; Beacon on hill for truth; Work towards being support for the truth; Courageous example of truth telling
• We are called to be the beloved community
• To be bolder to be a witness to others on issues God would want the world see his church stand for
• I hope to be more aware, attentive, and responsive to injustice and persevering in seeking to address its inequities