Gracious and Courageous Conversations
Sunday, October 15, 2017
Report out from small groups

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

**Hopes**

- This space continues and deepens
- We talk to more people than ourselves
- We take our work into the community
- The dialogue continues
- The dialogue is informed by the gospel
- Create safe space/invite more people
- White congregants okay with discomfort and notice our privilege more
- Continue dialogue
- Learn from one another
- Look beyond symbols to other/larger issues
- Sense of humor and humility
- Ability to sit with ambiguity
- Sitting
- We carry what we heard and discussed into day-to-day living
- We see and act on these issues in the context of being a Christian
- That the cathedral can move forward as a voice for these concerns
- That the cathedral can play an active, positive role on leading the nation toward racial reconciliation
- Teach school – history and geography
- Know more about each other
- More dialogue
- 3 concerns – intolerance among people
- To be able to accept who I am
- Being comfortable with ambiguity
- Continue these discussions perhaps being joined a black congregation in the area
- Elevate all ways
- Call to action and more beyond talking
- Ability to learn and speak from each other, we will no longer have a need to do this type of work
- All feel comfortable within this community to voice their thoughts and feelings without judgement
- That we – i.e. NC Congregation – can change hearts and minds of decent, non – racist southerners who love their monuments – for measures of regional justice – that they are more understanding of how these monuments are viewed by non- whites – an KKK, neo - Nazis, etc.
- Race reconciliation prayer in every service
- Raise concerns about race in prayer life permanently
- Advocacy and conversation for diocese
- Permanent leadership on race and reconciliation
- Tell personal stories of suffering
- Continue education on race relations, history, and educational racial sensitivity cathedral
- My hope is that we can undo the knots of our refusal to accept unconditional love, because we have lost our hope and joy in the Lord, who is strong nearer than we can see
- Cathedral/chapels engage in ___ about the windows and their broader significance today sooner than later
- Keep talking and building skills for effective communication
- Invite all stakeholders into honest dialogue
- Change hearts and minds
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- Engage more people at the table who don’t think like us  
- Continue conversations… perhaps create a “DOCC like” program to make meaning and take action  
- Become more like MLK’s beloved community  
- We open our minds and hearts to the findings, etc

- That cathedral will atone/acknowledge its own history of racism against people of color as guests – clergy  
- Courage, justice, love, and kindness  
- Integrate our racial reconciliation into our regular interracial life (i.e. Prayers of the People, special service that captures and creates outreach, atonement, social justice)

**Concerns**

- We become complacent  
- We don’t continue these conversations  
- Dialogue stops us  
- Is hijacked by hidden agendas (eg economics)  
- Polarization  
- Lack of diversity in the room and in the cathedral  
- We stay in conversation but don’t take action  
- Anger out of control will lead to more isolation  
- Being tired, fatigued, burned out  
- We won’t spread God’s message and do God’s work  
- Mistrust  
- Categorizing others  
- Division  
- Lack of diversity within the Cathedral Community – will impact work (members/clergy)  
- Lose momentum to take this on  
- Be aware of the privilege we do have… are we? How can we learn/see more?  
- How diocese raises race concerns in segregated congregations  
- Folks may leave instead of listen and congregation grow in love  
- Windows occupy the dialogue, move forward

- Think/Act only in the context of larger action, not day-day  
- We limit our view/concerns to aspects of these issues, not the larger work  
- We do not rush to think that reconciliation comes as a result of this discussion  
- Finish up common space and care to begin busy (?) dialogue among people with ____ and experiences  
- The concern is that we cannot hold open psychic space. There is such a fragility in our wounded souls  
- Fear  
- Stop reaching out  
- Being able to examine our own biases  
- Certainty about being right/wrong  
- A divided country that is becoming move so  
- A society that is being A-Factual  
- Noxious myths becoming common currency  
- That anyone in the cathedral community who opposed the windows removal does not feel put off from being part of the community  
- Concerned that personal interest in doing something personal and substantive will fade  
- We leave this discussion in the room  
- That the race issue will fade off daily news before enough progress is made
What is God calling US to BE/DO/CHANGE?

- Cathedral continues to lead
- Those whose opinions are different feel included
- Concern for us
- Have a dialogue(s) with people NOT like us
- Be aware, listen, use discernment, act when appropriate
- To “re” – humanize the “others” that we have dehumanized or “demonized”
- Use the discussion around the windows as a starting point for broader action in this city and in this country
- Be open
- Don’t be dismissive by others’ views
- Find common ground with those whom who disagree
- Be an instrument of God’s peace, as St. Francis spoke and did. Do the deep search of inner conversion so I am one in Jesus’ love that transmutes our fears and anguish. Turn; follow, learn, pray, serve, worship, pray
- See the face of Christ in each other, and be as Christ to each other
- Prophetic and fearless voice of love, compassion, and reconciliation
- Learn more historical perspectives of others lived experiences
- Listen and Hear one another
- White folks in this country need to spend more time and energy to understand the depth and extent of white privilege.
- Cathedral has to inculcate processes that include examining race as it plans all programs, outreach.
- As a cathedral community we’re one model for open dialogue where we acknowledge each other as human beings despite our sufferings.
- To continue to listen and grow aware of racial injustices and what I can do to right them.
- Hate comes from fear; fear is the absence of faith; have faith in God
- Be a positive model of peace and love
- Encourage: personal participation & opportunities to explain/engage in dialogue on better understanding of experiences/view/feelings of those who have been oppressed/marginalized by current society and government
- Gain clarity about issues
- Listen thoroughly to others experiences
- Challenge (constructively) people acting disrespectfully and damaging way
- Be a leader by example
- Be more aware (seriously)
- Be more active
• Dig deeply into issues of race, racism and privilege personally as we seek to build a Congregation more deeply committed to racial reconciliation.

• God is calling us to understand where racism of all kinds comes from. To be open to listening and then to take action to try to change, through education, activism, and confrontation where necessary, to bring people together and find common ground.

• To acknowledge that silence = complicity. As a community, we have to bravely speak out against racial sin, eg. Bishop MaryAnn’s and Gary Hall’s response to the Newtown shootings.

• We need to listen to and for the sadness, fear, forgetting, and my pain and all the people.

• Stand up for those who are targeted with hate

• Tell more honest stories about ourselves and each other

• The Cathedral will be a strong voice of change and example to the community

• Pray for God’s power and strength to make a difference wherever HE chooses the use me.

• Practice the golden rule and be the change you want to be

• He is calling us to more dialogue and continued work to keep moving for our nation toward a beloved community.

• Me: * Be a prophetic voice against racism, bigotry, and prejudices of all kinds; Cathedral: prophetic voice for the Nation, be brave, not cave into fear or politics.

• Be a beacon for our children/future generations

• To recognize where there are other injustices

• Continue Conversation

• Keep an open mind

• Love one another

• God is calling us to be a people that listen deeply, acknowledge division and work to heal the breach

• Cathedral Committee on race relations

• God is calling me to take care not to dismiss those who disagree with me, and to be alert to injustices which are sometimes difficult to discern.

• Continue to keep the mission that all people are equal and should be treated equal

• God calls us to love both those we agree with and those we do not. How do we get into dialogue with those holding different views? Is that at some point validity?

• To spread love and acceptance. Love is love is love is love is love.

• To be strong and help others who need strength, love, and support.

• Not grow weary

• Find a way to open a dialogue with those who have differing views from us (Cathedral Community).

• To be aware of Historical reality versus nostalgia
• To Learn and change, actively, racism’s, sexism’ ageism’s, inequalities in every aspect of our lives and institutions.
• Move from conversation in the cathedral and the close to ACTION in the community.
• Install new stained glass windows honoring African American females – including Dr. Pauli Murray
• To constantly remain sensitive to the feelings of others – to try and understand racism from the other side.
• Listen to other perspectives; advocate for the change
• To get off Mt. St. Alban more often to be a part of a more diverse environment and invite people of all different backgrounds and races to join this conversation.
• Manifest a shift from personal success to kindness in dealing with others perspective of race.
• For WNC to assemble a leadership role in national dialogue re: Confederate monuments – WNC has dealt with issues and we’re appealing to basically decent people.