

# Becoming the Beloved Community Antiracism Survey (Draft)

Draft Survey for parishes in the Diocese of East Tennessee, gathering ideas and resources to share the work of Anti-racism and the cultivation of the Beloved Community

Email address \*

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What is the name of your parish? (Please provide the city) \*

St. Paul's, Kingsport

How is/has your parish engaged in the work of economic justice in your community?

We have an active food pantry that distributes USDA and non-USDA items provided by the Second Harvest Food Bank, as well as other personal hygiene and household items.

Our Laundry Love program serves a specific need in Kingsport otherwise unaddressed. We provide laundry cards, detergent, and dryer sheets to 50 people each month. This is an adjustment from pre-pandemic operation, but we have adapted to keep this important ministry functional.

The parish also regularly contributes to KCMC, a local organization that gives financial assistance to people facing eviction or utility cutoff.

Lastly, our discretionary fund is used liberally to provide ad hoc assistance to anyone who might have a need that cannot be met by the aforementioned services.

How is/has your parish engaged in the work of racial justice?

I have personally attended a few protests and vigils hosted by our local Black Lives Matter, and some of our members have participated in the MLK Parade through downtown each year in January (before this year).

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Has your parish heard preaching or have you preached about racial justice in the last year? How often and on what topics?

I have addressed different issues from the pulpit, especially this past summer after the murder of George Floyd and Brianna Taylor, and more recently lamenting the way in which the symbols of white supremacy and christianity often go hand in hand (as evidenced in the capitol on January 6th).

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Has your parish engaged in Christian formation about racial justice in the last year? How often, and what age groups and topics?

During this summer I spent considerable time writing about the protests, about racial violence, and the Christian imagination. While we were on "lockdown", this writing was something of a Lenten discipline last year, and the parish received daily reflections from me, often addressing this subject matter. I have also encouraged out people to read and listen to Dr. King's Beyond Vietnam speeches on his holiday, as well as read his Letter From a Birmingham Jail.

We have also begun training for our youth leaders to facilitate the Absalom Jones Center program for our EYG group. We plan to start that sometime this year, hopefully when we can gather in person. This will also be the theme and topic of our youth pilgrimage if that is to happen this year (postponed from last year).

We are currently engaging an ongoing book study, and I hope to incorporate formation on this topic in that venue as well.

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Does your parish engage in any partnerships (for formation, worship, outreach, etc.) with other parishes that are not predominantly white?

Yes

No

Please describe that partnership, briefly.

I do not believe this has been part of this parish's regular practice in the past.

Are there individuals or unofficial groups with ties to your parish that are engaging in activity that would be considered work for racial justice?

Yes

No

Not sure

If so, what is the nature of the "unofficial" work?

Other than my participation in protests and vigils over the summer, I do not know of any.

What external (non-parochial) organizations are offering helpful partnerships in the work of anti-racism? Would you recommend any organizations for potential partnerships to the other parishes in the Diocese of East Tennessee?

SONG is an organization I have donated to in the past, particularly when they do their campaign to post bail for jailed women (Black women are disproportionately affected by the cash bail system, some of them mothers who are separated from children when they cannot post bail). SONG is not the only organization that does this.

In what ways is your parish engaged in telling stories of our church and regional racial history and the stories of black, indigenous, and people of color in our tradition and present?

Not at the moment

Is there someone else in your parish who might be a good liaison for any future communication from the Becoming the Beloved Community Task Force? If so, please provide name and contact information.

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