

# Life in the Holy Spirit - Ministry Reports

## Reconciliation and Racial Justice

In 2021, the Reconciliation and Racial Justice Initiative (RRJI) entered its second year, after forming in the summer of 2020. Over the past year, the national conversations around issues of racism have shifted from how to respond to the deaths of men and women, like Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and the resulting protests surrounding their deaths. Now, national conversations seem to be centering around how we discuss racism and racial justice as a society, with a particular focus on whether there is a place, or need, for conversations around racism in schools.

While the focus of the national conversation has shifted, the vision of the RRJI has not changed: We aim to provide guidance and resources for congregations to address issues related to racism, tools for equipping DRM clergy and ordinands for the ministry of reconciliation and racial justice, and promote racial diversity in the diocese. We are passionate about this because we desire to respond rightly to all forms of sin in ourselves and in our communities and our diocese desires to live out our call to grow in Christlikeness and to be agents of God's kingdom and his justice here on earth. This call is both personal and corporate, especially with regard to the sin of racism and its resulting inequities and injustice.

This year we have focused our efforts on developing an initial collection of liturgical and educational resources which are now available on the DRM website. We also hosted a four-week book discussion group for clergy and lay leaders this past summer looking at practical ways that we can respond to racism using Jemar Tisby's *How to Fight Racism* as a guide. We continued conversations with the ACNA Next Generation Leadership Initiative and have partnered with their Antioch Leadership Network to increase the ethnic diversity of clergy in the DRM and the ACNA. The past few months have been a period of regrouping now that many of our churches are back in person and our team is looking forward to beginning 2022 with a renewed energy.

In addition to another book discussion this summer and developing other church resources, we will be focusing on three areas of impact:

1. Developing a curacy for ethnic minority clergy in the DRM in partnership with the ACNA Antioch Leadership Network.
2. Equipping clergy who are in the formation process to address issues of racism in their future ministry contexts.
3. Resourcing rectors and churches for addressing race and racial justice in their local contexts.

This year we are also looking to add a few new members to our team. If you are interested in hearing more about our initiative and vision please email us at [reconciliation@rockymountainanglican.org](mailto:reconciliation@rockymountainanglican.org).