

Beloved Community Team Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021

Opening Prayer – Lorina Goodjoint

People who attended – Lorina Goodjoint, Leann & John Kennedy, Adina Reynolds, Kathy Stewart

Update – On August 31st the Beloved Community Team met at John and Leann Kennedy's home to discuss various ways to communicate with other parishioners about our mission statement and our effort to expand our team to include others who are interested in joining our ministry. Our mission statement follows below:

“To foster a space to tell our stories and our truth about racial and social injustices, to begin to understand the past and present effect of racism in our society, and to create a community of healing and reconciliation.”

Lorina recently met with Fr. Kendall upon his return from sabbatical. He liked our mission statement and recommended that we now articulate an “action plan” to answer the question, “What is it that the Beloved Community Team wants to do through Christ?”

Summary of our discussion

The following ideas were discussed to address the question of an “action plan.”

- “Re-assemble” our parish around the topic of social injustice. Get more people engaged and educated on the issues of social injustice. Discuss relevant books, videos, documentaries, etc.) As we begin to gather in person we might consider using the 9:00 AM time on Sundays when “Bridging the Gap” adult education met. We may want to do these sessions in a hybrid fashion by arranging Zoom sessions during the live in-person time.
- “Tell Your Story” Create a series of video conversations with parishioners and Browns Point community members who have stories of St. Matthew's history and the history of Browns Point. Collaborate with NW Historical Society. Relate these stories to possible discrimination and inequities that have occurred in our church and neighborhood. Understanding our past and its present effect of racism is an important step toward creating a community of healing and reconciliation.
- What is the history of the Episcopal Church regarding white supremacy and racial inequities? Discuss the book “The Church Cracked Open.” As Christians we need to stand up, tell our truth, show our love, and work toward social justice. We discussed how important it is to stay Christ-centered during our

conversations and our actions. Without Christ we can do nothing. We are God's hands and feet. Jesus was a radical and our guide for social justice. We are currently in a critical time that requires understanding, reflection, and change.

Closing prayer – Lorina Goodjoint

The next meeting for the Beloved Community Team will be on Thursday, November 18, 2021. All are welcome to attend. Please email Lorina at lorinagoodj@msn.com so she can send you the Zoom link for the meeting.

Minutes by Kathy Stewart