



Social Justice Ministries Working Group

The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna

(5 Minutes)

Overview



Purpose: To integrate and evolve existing ministries for justice and reconciliation.

Mission: Build a united diocesan approach to racial justice, creation care, migration, and other ministries.

Co-Chairs: Cathy Bailey (Bethlehem) & Rev. Celal Kamran (Central PA)

Working alongside clergy, laity, and ministry leaders from both dioceses.

Subgroups



Community Organizing &
Advocacy
Racial Justice
Union of Black Episcopalians
(UBE)
Migration Ministries
Indigenous Ministries

Prison Ministry
Anti-Gun Violence
Comunidades Latinas
LGBTQ+
Feeding & Housing
Creation Care

Community Organizing & Advocacy



Focus: Faith-based organizing at parish level; training lay and clergy leaders.

Goals: Build local social justice teams; resource development; advocacy education.

Current: Identifying coaches/trainers; gathering parish resources.

Chair: Anne Flynn

Racial Justice



Projects: Dismantling Racism Committee; Beloved Community Commission structure; Pilgrimage planning.

Budget: create a proposal for education, reparations, and pilgrimages.

Reading: 'Shouting in the Fire' book study for summer 2025.

Chair: Judie Dickerson

Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE)



Purpose: Strengthen participation and visibility of Black Episcopalians.

Events: Love Gala (scholarship fundraiser honoring Dr. & Mrs. Love).

Programs: Absalom Jones celebrations and student recognition initiatives.

Chair: Sheila Dow Ford

Migration Ministries



Work: Support for refugees and immigrants through resettlement and ESL programs.

Partnerships: Church World Service Harrisburg & Lancaster; local parishes.

Lehigh Valley Response Network active hotline; English classes ongoing.

Chair: Fred Hartman

Indigenous Ministries



Focus: Partnership with Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.

Project: Episcopal Indigenous Justice Pilgrimage (Carlisle School).

Book study on The Land is Not Empty.

Goal: Create Diocesan Land Acknowledgement; deepen truth-telling and reconciliation.

Chair: Sharon England

Prison Ministry



Mission: Extend Episcopal presence in prisons; advocate for restorative justice.

Focus: Rural prison outreach, re-entry support, education, and chaplaincy expansion.

Next Steps: Develop website resources; establish meeting schedule for 2026.

Chair: Jane Miron

Anti-Gun Violence



Program: 'With One Voice' coalition with CeaseFire PA – faith leaders uniting to end gun violence.

Initiatives: Prayer vigils, Souls Shot Portrait Project, advocacy for state reform.

Focus: Saving Lives by Ending Gun Violence Task Force expansion.

Chair: Martha Harris

Comunidades Latinas



Focus: Support and growth of Latino/Hispanic ministries.

Highlights: Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Hispanic Heritage celebration at Nativity Cathedral.

Ongoing: Spanish language ministry training through Stevenson School and discernment of future plans.

Chair: Nolman Bonilla

LGBTQ+ Ministries



Activities: Pride events, resource sharing, diocesan website inclusion.

Goals: Develop affirming ministry spaces, leadership inclusion, and support networks.

Next: Fall planning and continued monthly meetings.

Chair: Shannon Blydenburgh

Feeding & Housing Ministries



Focus: Mapping parish feeding/housing programs and creating diocesan directory.

Goal: Enhance visibility and collaboration among local ministries.

Future: Online directory via diocesan website.

Chair: Wendy Souders

Creation Care



Purpose: Build diocesan environmental action and education network.

Commitment: Climate justice and sustainable stewardship of creation.

Caring for God's Creation Lunch and Learn to be held in early 2026. Come and hear about what parishes are doing for creation care and help form a creation care vision for 2026.

Chair: Cathy Bailey