



Clergy Call Summary March 8, 2022

Opening Remarks

Bishop Goff began the meeting with prayer then gave the following opening remarks.

On April 12, the Tuesday of Holy Week, there will be an opportunity for clergy to Renew their Ordination Vows. There will be four services in four different areas of the Diocese. All services will be at 10:30 a.m. Details will be sent soon.

We will not have a Zoom clergy call in April, since it would fall on the same day as the Renewal services. The next Zoom clergy call will be Tuesday, May 10.

Clergy/Clergy Spouse/Lay Professionals Conference at Shrine Mont will be May 2-4. Our focus will be on learning skills for having courageous conversations about race. You will receive details and a registration form soon.

Meet and Greet sessions with the Nominees for the XIV Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia will take place across the Diocese in the week of May 15.

The Electing Convention will take place on June 4 at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in Alexandria, VA.

Report on the work of R-10a from the Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr., Diocesan Missioner for Racial Justice and Healing, presented a short report on the work of R10A: A Resolution to Begin the Work of Reparations in the Diocese of Virginia. In that report a brief overview of the definition, context, history and theology of reparations was presented using the following as primary sources: "Reparation and Beloved Community;" a report from the Theology Committee of the House of Bishops (September 2021); and The Church Cracked Open (Church Publishing, 2021) by the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers.

An outline of R-10a was then presented, highlighting the need to develop a diverse and

skilled Task Force to, among other things, identify and propose, over the next five years, “means by which repair may begin for those areas of our structures, patterns, and common life by which Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)” have been impacted. A timeline of the process was outlined, and encouragement was given to the entire diocesan family to make nominations and encourage application of individuals, within our Diocese, to the Task Force before the deadline of Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Those possessing special skills and knowledge in the following areas were especially encouraged to make application or be nominated: Prayer and Spirituality; Education; Theology and Ethics; Finance and Investment; Legal Matters: Constitutions and Canons; Community Wisdom; History; Communication; Marketing, and the Arts.

Resources

- [Presentation on R-10a to Clergy on March 8, 2022](#)
- [R-10a Task Force Nomination Application form](#)
- [FAQs about R-10a email](#)
- [Full text of R-10a: A Resolution to Begin the Work of Reparation in the Diocese of Virginia](#)

Q and A with the Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr.

Will we get a copy of the slides for further reflection?

Yes, they can be found here: [Presentation on R-10a to Clergy on March 8, 2022](#)

Will we have the opportunity to identify, name and acknowledge the “breaches” in the history of the Diocese?

I think this is an important question. In my mind part of the work that the Task Force will do will certainly involve listening to the community at large. I think the first part of the work is education and answering questions like: What do we mean by reparations, and what does it look like in Virginia, regionally, and locally? I believe that this will absolutely involve naming and acknowledging the breaches that are, and that have existed, in the Diocese of Virginia. Part of that naming has been done within the resolution, but it is not exhaustive. Yes, there will be ample space for that important input.

Are there many nominations coming in so far?

We have not received a grand number of nominations. Here is where we are hoping and wanting for all of you to search within your communities to help identify folks that you think would be excellent members of this task force – folks who have a passion and interest for this work, and folks who have questions and uncertainty about this work. We are looking for individuals to make application, and for others to make nominations. [Access the R-10a Task Force Nomination Application form here.](#)

Will there be an effort to have representation from – if not all diocesan regions – the geographical regions and the rural regions of the Diocese?

That is our grand hope. We hope that we will have a broad geographic diversity across the board from our Diocese. We want to be able to represent the full Diocese as much as we possibly can.

Who will chair the Task Force?

The chair of the Task Force has not been named. It is our hope that as the Task Force shapes itself that we will have a co-chair leadership, so that two folks will be able to share in the leadership. We believe that it is too much for one person, so having two folks to share is the model we are advancing.

Is there a chance you might extend the deadline for nominations?

We are hopeful that we will not need to extend the deadline for nominations and applications. We hope that over the next week, we will start to receive many nominations and applications to the Task Force.

Do applicants need to be confirmed/received Episcopalians, or can they be baptized members of a parish/mission? Are there criteria such as our Church confirmation, reception, baptism or membership?

The criteria is that you need to be a member of the Episcopal Church of Virginia and that is the primary criteria. You will need to have a letter noting that. If a parishioner is making application, the Rector or the Vicar will need to write a short letter letting us know they are a member of your congregation in good standing. If you are applying as a clergy person your Dean would need to write a short note.

How do you nominate someone and submit the application?

The [R-10a Task Force Nomination Application form](#) is available here.

We will include the link to the application in the FAQ. It is also available on the [Ministry of Racial Justice and Healing's page](#) on the diocesan website. On the application you can note that you are making a nomination of a person or completing a self-nomination.

Can you say something about the principle of having the people affected included around the table that is making recommendations/decisions?

So, part of our hope is that the Task Force consist of individuals who are active members of the Diocese. However, what we anticipate happening is that there will be wider circles of individuals from the community who may not be a part of the Episcopal Church who may offer us wisdom and advice as we are moving forward in our work. What we realize is that our community is much larger than just the Episcopal Church, and we want to include as many voices as possible. So, when we talk about perhaps the area of community wisdom, there may be space for partnership with organizations like Richmond Hill or VTS to offer wisdom around the ways in which they have constructed their work in the area of reparations, or even other dioceses as they have done their work. We want to involve as

many folks as possible at the table, including folks who have been impacted.

How many people will be on this Task Force?

The Task Force will consist of somewhere between 9 and 12 folks.

**Will meetings be virtual/hybrid to allow more people access to serve on the Task Force?
And at what times will the Task Force meet? Evenings for working people?**

Yes, we will be doing everything in our power to ensure that the meetings are accessible. As we are moving out of this virtual space into more real space together, we want to ensure that there are opportunities to have face-to-face encounters, but we also do not want to miss out on the opportunity for folks who are distanced and remote to participate. We will find a way to ensure that we are doing both virtual, hybrid and in-person gatherings.

Even as it is a diocesan effort, is there any interest/linkage to the other dioceses in Virginia?

At this current time, we are focused on our work right now. We want to encourage the other dioceses here in the Commonwealth of Virginia to begin their work and to explore the work that we are doing – and even to be supportive of what we are doing. But in terms of our diocesan effort, our focus is on lifting our work at the present time.

How frequently will the Task Force meet?

We have not established that. We are hopeful that once the Task Force constitutes itself that they will determine the frequency of their meeting.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr. at jhill@thediocese.net.

Other Questions:

Will there be a renewal service online?

Bishop Goff stated we have not planned to do that, but instead we have four services in person in different parts of the Diocese. Let us know if that is not workable for you, for any reason, and we will explore that.