



Repairers of the Breach Report to 133rd Annual Council 2025

A lot has happened in the two years since my co-chair Charles Farrar and I gave our [Repairers Report](#) to the 131st Annual Council in February 2023. The following month, we held our first official Racial Healing Workshop at St. Andrew's, Newport News. More than twenty workshops have followed, across the Diocese and on Zoom. Later that spring, we met again by Zoom with Dr. Catherine Meeks, the founder and then-director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, who had been our consultant and mentor in developing the workshop. Charles and I did a Juneteenth training for counselors at Chanco-on-the-James and also represented Repairers at the dedication service for the Now and Forever Windows at Washington National Cathedral. In addition to our regular monthly meetings, we had a Repairers retreat morning that November to do some planning and visioning.



In May 2024 the Repairers made a pilgrimage to visit the Library of Virginia's Indigenous Perspectives exhibit and have lunch with our former co-chair the Rev. John Rohrs, now Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond. Several of us then walked the Richmond Slave Trail. Canons Lynn Farlin and Willis Foster did a Racial Healing Workshop for our counterparts in the Diocese of Virginia in September and our dioceses are collaborating on an Internalized Oppression workshop later this spring. Canons Farlin and Foster have also led several online book studies, including *The Misunderstood Jew* by Amy-Jill Levine, *Unsettling Truths* by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah, *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism* by Carter Heyward, and *Mission, Race, and Empire* by Jennifer C. Snow.

Our members also regularly participate in The Episcopal Church's monthly online gatherings for Racial Justice leaders. Some of us have attended churchwide events like last fall's Summit on Truth-Telling and Reparations at Virginia Theological Seminary and a Sacred Ground Regional Gathering in Durham, NC. We also supported Old Donation's "Gathering on Sacred Ground" in September with keynoter Canon Stephanie Spellers, attended by more than 100 people. And Chanco hosted our successful "We Are All Related" Day in October, with Bradley Hauff, Episcopal Church Missioner for Indigenous Ministries.



This spring, thanks to heroic efforts by our member Nina Joyner, we applied for and received an Episcopal Church Becoming Beloved Community Impact Grant which will allow us to expand our Racial Healing efforts and plan more opportunities for people to come together and share their stories. We continue to live into these words of the 2010 Council resolution that brought our Committee into being: "to enable the people of this Diocese to be 'repairers of the breach.'"

While we were all very saddened by the unexpected loss of our dear co-chair Charles Farrar on November 24, we are committed to continuing the vision he so eloquently expressed two years ago: "Our committee exists because racism and white supremacy are real and impact everyone who walks the earth. We hope to create a space safe enough to release what we're afraid of: pride, feeling like victims--and to finally admit the truth that . . . WE ARE NOT WELL. A space where we can hear the voice of Jesus ask, "do you want to be healed?" A place to sit in uncomfortableness, to come to grips with ignorance, fear, blame, shame and giving up privilege. A place to stop hiding ourselves from our own kin and learn to EMPATHIZE with people who are different from us. As we let go and let God, we want to stay mindful that it's not about us . . . not our culture, not our politics . . . it's about Jesus. As Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg writes, it's not up to us to repair the breach. Our responsibility is to keep STANDING and TALKING in the breach so that we keep open a brave space for us to heal our own selves with the help of God."

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Lisa Green

Repairers Members: Renee Escoffery-Torres, Lynn Farlin, Willis Foster, Lisa Green, Nina Joyner, Gareth Kalfas, Dan Ries, Chris Stephenson, Marc Vance, Richard Vinson, Rhonda Wheeler, and the Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, *ex-officio*

