

## **Presbytery of Baltimore Reparative Justice Fund**

### **Timeline (Past & Future)**

#### **2015**

The killing of Freddie Gray leads to a conversation with pastors, led by Vice Moderator James Parks, sparking strong interest in the Presbytery to do more about racial justice.

Prayer Vigil on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Trinity Presbyterian Church

Commission on Reconciliation forms a working group to develop an Overture to the General Assembly on racial reconciliation.

#### **2016**

Presbytery passes a resolution to the 222nd General Assembly asking them to adopt Racial Atonement & Reconciliation as its theme in 2020 when Baltimore Presbytery would be the host. The Presbytery also votes to send two Overtures to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016), which were subsequently passed by GA:

- “On the PC(USA) Continuing its Efforts to Dismantle Racism within Our Denomination and the Larger Society” which established a Special Committee on Racism, Truth and Reconciliation for 6 years.
- “To offer an apology to Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians”

Apostles/Disciples of Reconciliation is formed, led by Rev. Michael Moore, offers monthly dialogues with initial 6-month commitment.

Peace & Justice Vigil at Madison Avenue Presbyterian (remembering Freddie Gray).

#### **2017**

MLK, Jr. Day Summit – The Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II is the keynote speaker (former director of the PCUSA Office on Public Policy and later Stated Clerk of the PCUSA) followed by discussion groups on future steps for the Presbytery. Over 130 people attended.

Commission on Reconciliation undertakes Antiracism training for its members

The Presbytery co-sponsors a workshop "Introduction to Systemic Racism" led by Crossroads

Apostles/Disciples Group merges with the *In the Loop Ministry Group* and conducts listening visits to each *In the Loop Church*

## **2018**

MLK, Jr. Day Convening hosted by Knox – 75 people participate from 12 churches and guests

The Commission on Reconciliation establishes an Antiracism Training Working Group.

Lenten Study on *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone led by the African American clergy.

Presbytery adopts a new policy for mandatory Dismantling Racism workshops and establishes the Dismantling Racism Training Team under the Commission on Reconciliation.

Pilot Dismantling Racism Workshop is offered for ministers, staff and Presbytery leaders.

## **2019**

Dismantling Racism Workshops become a standard offering.

## **2020**

Dismantling Racism Workshops continue

“Reform to Transform” Worship Service is offered on-line

Youth Rising Coalition is formed in advance of the PCUSA General Assembly, focused on young African American entrepreneurs.

*In the Loop Ministry Group* launches the *B’More Human Series* online with guest speakers and small group discussion. The series begins with the 1619 Project from Princeton University.

## **2021**

In the Loop Ministry Group continues to host on-line *B’More Human Series*, October 21 is focused on Reparations.

Prayer Vigil For Unity & Hope (on-line) in the wake of the Chauvin Verdict in the murder of George Floyd

Dr. William Yoo, professor at Columbia Theological Seminary and church historian, is keynote speaker at Presbytery of Baltimore 889th Gathering on the topic of historical anti-Black racism.

## **2022**

The Presbytery concurs with an over from Giddings-Lovejoy the 225th General Assembly (2022) to offer AN APOLOGY TO AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR THE SIN OF SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACY.

The Dismantling Racism Team forms a Reparative Justice Working Group and begins historical research.

## **2023**

Historical research continues on Presbytery actions and church case studies

Dismantling Racism Workshops continue.

B'More Human series continues to educate on related topics

A six-month cohort is launched on "Faithful Antiracist Leadership" organized with NEXTChurch. Six teams participated from 5 local churches and one Presbytery commission.

DRT requests information about Presbytery/Trustee reserves.

Presbytery votes to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery.

## **2024**

The Reparative Justice Working Group begins formulating a proposal for the Presbytery.

*The Color of Law* Lenten book study (on-line) - focuses on redlining and racial discrimination in property ownership.

The Center Steering Committee agrees to provide seed money to a restorative justice fund as part of their legacy.

The Presbytery organizes the Mid-Atlantic Matthew 25 Summit with the National Capital Presbytery for over 150 people. Keynote and one workshop focused on Reparations and Repair.

Outreach begins to Presbytery leaders, particularly chairs of the Cabinet, commissions and committees.

## **2025**

Reparative Justice Fund (RJF) is introduced to the Steering Cabinet and to the African American pastors and church leaders.

March - Presentation on the work of Repair at the Presbytery meeting.

**May** - Introduce the Reparative Justice Working Group's report and recommendations for a Reparative Justice Fund for discussion.

**June - September** - Continued consultations to improve the motions with members of Cabinet, staff, Trustees and others.

**September 13, 2025 – Vote on proposal to create the Reparative Justice Fund at the 908<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Meeting**

**October – November:** 3 Working Groups are formed to develop legal documents and Board membership to form the new entity to administer the Reparative Justice Fund:

1. Legal – draft Articles of Incorporation and other legal guidance
2. Board Composition – develop Board membership criteria, profiles and identify nominees for the incorporating board.
3. RJF Outreach & Education – develop and disseminate informational materials about the RJF to promote the work of Reparative Justice.

**November:** Present progress report to the Presbytery at its 909<sup>th</sup> meeting

## **2026**

**March:** Written progress report to the 910th Presbytery meeting -

**May:** 911th Presbytery meeting -

- Present draft legal documents and nominees to the incorporating Board to the Presbytery of Baltimore for approval.
- Introduce Incorporating Board members to the Presbytery

**Fall 2026 and beyond:** Share progress reports of the new Board in developing funding criteria and selection of awards.