

Diversity Committee Report
September 11, 2022 Meeting

The Diversity Committee held its first in-person meeting since covid rules have been relaxed. The Committee noted that they previously made up an annual calendar documenting events they would be sponsoring or participating in. Based on past things reported or done the following was noted.

- Sept 15 - Oct 15 - Hispanic Heritage month (would make an effort to locate literature that is somewhere in the church and make it available at the welcome center)
- October 22 - Breast Cancer Walk (register on the website and create a sign-up sheet and how to make donations)
- November - Indigenous Peoples - Need to brainstorm activities
- February - Absalom Jones - February 12, 2023 (need to determine speaker, dinner, and other activities)
- Art Walk – February

Discussion regarding having Art Walk shut down in December/January instead of January/February. As in, it makes no sense to be open in December for Art Walk with all of the holiday events occurring. The guest numbers for this month have traditionally been low. January is always closed due to weather and numbers. But February is Black History Month (BHM), and there are a lot of Black artists that could be showcased within our setting. Also, the community is supportive of BHM activities. For St. Paul's to be closed during this time does not foster a feeling of openness and welcome, especially given that the motto we have adopted is "A church with a heart in the heart of the city." For the church to be closed and not participate in any way in BHM activities and events in the center of a predominantly Black city is not a good look. It's important to change the narrative and stay relevant, and this is just one of the ways it can be done.

Requesting that the church be open/participate in February Art Walk going forward

February Art Walk to be focused on Black Artists, music by Black musicians, etc. with

Diversity Committee taking responsibility for artists, and music. Food will be covered per usual.

- Pictures - Barth Hall/Welcome Center

Also discussed were the pictures of past Rector's Cross awardees. While we admire and remember each awardee, the majority of the people featured have passed on, and many of the congregation who knew those individuals have also either passed on or no longer attend St. Paul's. With respect to the pictures, it was suggested to place them in an album and place them in the library or near the location of the other historical materials for St. Paul's available for public perusal.

Likewise, the pictures of past parish priests should also be removed and placed in an album again available for perusal as part of the history of St. Paul's. Respectfully, these pictures do not reflect the welcoming all-inclusive atmosphere that St. Paul's is endeavoring to create.

Future meetings are to be held on the second Sunday of the month immediately following the service.

Next meeting - to continue making out the calendar of activities for the year.

Respectfully submitted

D. Elizabeth Jordan Ph.D

Elder for Diversity