



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

Date

Clergy Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Subject: Environmental Injustice/Racism

Dear _____,

Peace and blessings. I have asked the co-leads of The Maryland Episcopal Environmental Partners, our environmental mission committee of the Diocese (now nicknamed GreenGrace), to reach out to you to get your perspective on environmental injustice and racism, particularly as experienced in the locale of your church. The GreenGrace team, in cooperation with the Maryland Episcopal Policy Network, is exploring how to support existing or new law and policy at the local and state levels to address unjust environmental and public health issues caused by pollution, flooding, global warming, and traditionally unjust institutionalized policies that primarily impact communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

In conversation with Bernadette Roche and Dick Williams, the co-leads, and Claire Miller, another GreenGrace volunteer, I emphasized the importance of not only hearing from our communities which experience the impact of environmental injustice and racism first-hand, but ensuring inclusion in committee work and policy development. It is vitally important to have representatives from our traditionally black parishes gather to develop strategies to identify and address these issues which have impacted our communities for decades.

Understanding the many demands on your time, I would like to suggest that you encourage and recruit an individual or two from within your parish who would be motivated to engage in these efforts. It could be a parish leader or a student who is interested in developing leadership skills. I think it would be particularly wonderful for a high schooler to engage in this work. This person(s) identified from your parish would be the liaison working with the GreenGrace team and they will have an opportunity to participate in some diocesan-wide activities around environmental justice.

We know that there is much work to be done to address all forms of racism. Environmental racism and injustice as you know, is deeply woven into the fabric of systematic and institutionalized racism that we must continue to address from all angles and aspects. I hope that you agree and that we can count on your support for this important work within our diocese. A representative from GreenGrace will follow up with additional information.

With gratitude and in faithfulness,

Chris+

The Rev. Canon Christine L. McCloud
Canon for Mission