

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church

Dear People of the Diocese of Texas,

When I read the Missionary Vision for Racial Justice, for a moment, to be honest, it took my breath away. And maybe there is a message in that. One translation of the word "inspiration" is "God breathed." What you, the good people of the Diocese of Texas have done together with God is something truly God breathed, inspired! Both in what this will do for so many people and what it may inspire in others, you are reminding us that that for those of us who follow the way of Jesus and his love, all things can change for the good. George Bernard Shaw once said, "Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask, why not." We who follow Jesus and his way of love do not throw up our hands in blind despair merely asking why. We follow Jesus, crucified and yet raised from the dead. And so we dare to declare, why not. Why not a world that looks like God's dream and not a nightmare of human devising. Why not a world where love is the supreme law of our hearts, or lives, our society, our world. Why not an earth that more closely resembles God's heaven.

In this incredible missionary work of repairing the past you are showing us the way to healing and reconciliation that creates the opening for God's future to become ours. St. Paul said it well when he wrote in 2 Corinthians: "If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come. All this is from God who in Christ was reconciling the world to himself. And he has given to us the ministry of reconciliation." This missionary vision is nothing less than following Jesus in the way that leads to a new creation.

Thank you, my brothers and sisters. God love you and bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

Your brother in Christ,

+Michael B. Curry

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