



Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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Community Circle Report Form

Session #1: Getting Started

Sponsoring Organization: Cathedral Church of St. Mark Date: 2/23/99

Meeting Location: St. Mark's Cathedral Number of Participants: _____

Facilitator: Jan Frankman Scribe: Jack Raick

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about experiences with racism or segregation which your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Our perceptions of racism/discrimination are a product of our upbringing, environment and relationships.

2. Even those who grow up in a "protected" environment like the T.C. eventually are exposed to differences in people through educational, military, judicial system experiences.

3. Economic factors can be a source of discrimination, not just racial/ethnic differences. We are so similar to each other in the T.C. that racial problems/discrimination always seems far away - we are not good at "perceiving the anger" of those in other situations.

4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

Get involved at the local level in political action.

Community Circle Report Form

Session #2: What are the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities?

Sponsoring Organization: Cathedral Church of St. Mark Date: 3/2/99

Meeting Location: St. Mark's Cathedral Number of Participants: _____

Facilitator: Jan Frankman Scribe: Jack Karick

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Racial prejudice and discrimination cause people to live apart. But the problem is more complicated. It also involves economics, land use (e.g. freeways) and the notion of "white flight" to the suburbs.
2. Institutional racism is another cause. Housing, educational opportunities and ~~job~~ employment are arenas for racism ^{in areas like} such as "redlining", ability to pay tuition, hiring practices.
3. Location is important for transportation (eg. bus vs. car) issues, living away from high crime areas, searching for better schools for one's children. Ability to determine location is more open to "privileged."
4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:
Work to uncover inequities in housing like "redlining"; "flipping";
inequities in the justice system

Community Circle Report Form

Session #3: How can we address the housing challenges in the Twin Cities?

Sponsoring Organization: _____ Date: 3/16/99

Meeting Location: St. Mark's Cathedral Number of Participants: _____

Facilitator: Jan Frankman Scribe: Jack Rauck

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the housing challenges we face in the Twin Cities that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Urban sprawl continues to affect housing choices in the T.C. "Bigger is better" ~~into~~ terms of lot size restricts the people ^{not} able to afford larger lots in suburbs.
2. A broader variety of housing choices is needed in a balanced way across the T.C. Along with this goes transportation opportunities affordable to all.
3. Re-investment in the core cities is needed for them to survive. Re-establishment of a strong "sense of community" in inner city neighborhoods would provide incentive for strengthening housing stocks.
4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:
Limit growth and expansion through vehicles like the Met. Council. Provide "affordable housing" across the Metro area. Provide a better residential/retail mix in inner-city neighborhoods. Encourage with low-cost loans, grants the fix-up of property occupied by owners.

Community Circle Report Form

Session #4: What can we do about the achievement gap in our public schools?

Sponsoring Organization: Cathedral Church of St. Mark Date: 3/30/99

Meeting Location: St. Mark's Cathedral Number of Participants: _____

Facilitator: Jan Frankman Scribe: Jack Raick

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the achievement gap in our schools that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

- Good schools come from a cooperative environment with participation of teachers, parents and students. There are good community schools, good magnet schools, good charter schools, etc.
- The move away from neighborhood schools created a change in the educational system. "The pursuit of wisdom" (evidenced by lowered scores in reading, writing) "seems to have been lost."
- Kids of the Nineties are somewhat unique in that they are children of video, they lack the kind of boundaries of the past and they simply memorize what they need to get by.
- Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

Re-structure of the education system is needed.
~~But~~ A single metro-wide school district might help since the "at-risk" population is spread out.
Combination of nbhd./community schools with magnets should be explored.

Community Circle Report Form

Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: Cathedral Church of St. Mark Date: 4/6/99

Meeting Location: St. Mark's Cathedral Number of Participants: _____

Facilitator: Jan Frankman Scribe: Jack Kainik

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *individuals* can take to make a difference?

Participate in the discussion of issues through neighborhood groups, study circles, etc. Get involved in programs like Urban Ventures, Covenant that actually work at the front lines of helping people with housing, education, job issues. Write letters, communicate with government officials.

2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *groups or organizations* can take to make a difference?

Provide educational programs and opportunities for people to get involved. Encourage cooperation between the public and private sectors to study issues, find solutions.

(over)

(Session #5 report form continued)

3. What are two or three of the most powerful steps our *community or region* can take to make a difference?

Provide affordable housing opportunities across the Metro area. Increase pay for teachers to provide great incentive for providing good education. Establish a better public transportation system that serves all the people. Be more creative than in the past in dealing with issues in society.

4. What are some of the things participants said they would do differently in the future as a result of being part of this community circle dialogue?

Become more aware of the local issues by attending events like the Illusion Theater's "Waters Rolling Down", a play about justice in housing. Get involved in organizations like Urban Ventures and Covenant. Continue in the Community Circles program to educate themselves about issues.

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DISCUSSION LEADER'S EVALUATION FORM

This document was adapted from a form developed by Selena Singletary in Springfield, Ohio.

Please complete this form after your last discussion session and return to [address] no later than [date].

1. Your name Jan Frankman
2. The name of your study circle organizer Episcopal Cathedral of St. Mark
3. Where and when (day of the week and time) did your study circle meet?
Tuesday evenings 2/99 - 4/6/99
4. How many times did your study circle meet?
five
5. Number of participants at:
Session I 16 Session II 11 Session III 11 Session IV 12 Session V 10
6. How would you characterize your study circle in terms of gender, racial and ethnic make-up, political spectrum, etc.? liberal white middle class
(two are people of color)
7. What perspectives were well represented in your group? Which were missing?
range of ages (24-80); poor; people of color
8. What were your own observations about the dialogue and group process?
we did well
9. What did members of the group say about their discussions?
they liked it - wanted action
10. What was the topic of the group's liveliest discussion?
the elitism of the Church
11. What were areas of general agreement? What were areas with little consensus?
12 a lot needs to be done; discrimination exists
12. What suggestions came from the group about how people (individuals, organizations, institutions, government) might better address the issue?
(See our notes)
13. Did you have adequate support from your study circle's organizer and from the coordinators of the overall program? If not, what additional support would have been helpful?
Yes
14. If you were to lead another study circle, what would you change? Feel free to comment on discussion materials, organization of the overall study circle program, your meeting site, your performance as discussion leader, and any other aspects.
affirmatively act to ensure a multicultural circle - it was asked for
15. Do you have concerns, or did the group have concerns, which need to be discussed with the study circle program's working group?
participants want to hear different perspectives