

## WE HAVE A DREAM: A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM

### **NOVEMBER, 2021 - Neighborhoods, Education, Legislation?**

We opened with a prayer.

After exploring various paths for how to support possible organizations or neighborhood communities and discussing the summaries of our sub groups last month, we narrowed our list for this group's consideration. Many individuals will continue supporting organizations dear to their hearts, but our interest was determining our parish community's focus to address systemic, structural and cultural racism and reduce inequities in our city.

We shared four options that received prior support, discussed pros and cons, answered questions to gain clarity and mentioned that there were many worthy organizations. There were many questions and we discussed how we reached our final four. After a lively discussion we anonymously voted for each person's first and second choices. This group's first choice was the South Baltimore Community Land Trust. We would assist this Cherry Hill neighborhood organization in their efforts to build community owned, high quality affordable housing without displacement. In addition, their commitment to cleaner energy in an area heavily impacted by environmental pollution made it a perfect fit for us.

There was also strong interest in supporting an educational initiative at St. Frances Academy. It is the oldest Catholic school serving African Americans in the country, but receives very little Archdiocesan financial support. This gives us an opportunity to contribute to their immediate need. We also discussed other groups which also address biases, racism and legislative action to reduce systemic racism, individuals can support.

We noted the need to delay the town meeting because of our parish synodal process. We will cover the acknowledgement letter and our white privilege in future meetings.

We closed with a prayer.