



**We are
Called**

TO HEAL. TO UNITE. TO JUSTICE.

Team Reflection - Huddle

No. 21: Putting Our House in Order

CHA's campaign, Confronting Racism by Achieving Health Equity calls for a commitment to put our own house in order. The image of a house is a useful metaphor as some of the great spiritual teachers describe the inner life as different rooms in a home. Dismantling structures of racism and injustices entails dislodging ideas, patterns and prejudices within ourselves, our inner rooms, that prevent accepting others as beloved and blessed by God. In home renovation television shows, homeowners seek the advice of others. Fresh perspectives help them imagine new realities. In a similar way, hearing stories from people harmed by racism and structures of oppression is a critical step in building new and more equitable structures for health care and human flourishing.

Listening to stories - hundreds and thousands of stories - was precisely the process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa following the dismantling of apartheid. Anyone could come forward and tell their story of the oppression, trauma and brutal violence experienced by victims of injustices. [21.1] In the U.S., the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) announced in March 2021 the Descendants Truth and Reconciliation foundation. The religious order has pledged to raise \$100 million for descendants of slaves, while also seeking to advance racial healing and justice. [12.2] In Chicago, a group of religious men and women sponsor a ministry of reconciliation for youth and families impacted by violence and/or conflict, especially with the criminal justice system. [12.3]

In health care, Cone Health in Greensboro, North Carolina, made a public apology in 2016 for its participation in health care discrimination and segregation. [12.4] Like other institutions in similar situations, Cone Health has doubled down on its commitment to health equity, especially to communities of color. These are the types of prophetic, institutional actions and commitments that are not the only solutions but the seeds, the beginnings of racial reconciliation and the healing that our society longs for.

Consider

What walls or structures need to be reconfigured in the U.S. health care system or my own workplace to create greater reconciliation?

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Let us pray together,

God of Heaven and Earth,

*Fill our hearts with love for you and our neighbor
so that we may work with you
in healing our land from racial injustice.*

*Through our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Adapted from the *Prayer Service for Racial Healing*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

[21.1] <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/>

[21.2] <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2021/03/15/jesuits-descendants-slaves-100-million-georgetown-reconciliation-racial>

[21.3] <https://www.pbmr.org/>

[21.4] <https://www.conehealth.com/news/news-search/2016-news-releases/cone-health-honors-dr-alvin-blount/>