

Racial Justice Initiative

The Dr. Bertha Sadler Means Endowment for Racial Justice at Seminary of the Southwest

Will fund, in perpetuity, a ministry to support visiting black scholars, research in Texas slavery and racism, teaching racial justice, formation for empowerment of black leaders, and encouragement for Episcopal black ministries in the diocese and the Church.

Bertha Sadler Means is a first-generation member of St. James, Austin, Bertha Means has a legacy as an educator, businesswoman, and a force for desegregation at UT, St. Stephen's School, and various public spaces in Austin. (Learn more about Bertha Means: <https://ssw.edu/citation/bertha-sadler-means/>)

The Rev. Thomas Cain Fund for Historic Black Churches

Grant for the mission, program or maintenance of Historic Black Churches

The Rev. Thomas Cain was the first priest of color in the diocese. He was born into slavery in Virginia but eventually served St. Augustine's in Galveston, and planted churches in East and Central Texas. He was the first priest of color in the Diocese of Texas and represented the Diocese of Texas at General Convention in 1886. He died in the Great Flood of 1900.

The Rev. David Taylor Endowed Scholarship at SSW

Scholarship for students of color working towards an MDiv.

The Rev David Taylor was the first African American priest raised up by the historic black churches in the diocese of Texas. He was first licensed by Bishop Kinsolving in 1904 as a lay reader. He was later ordained and moved to St. Augustine's in Galveston.

The Rev. Pauli Murray Scholarship Fund at SSW

Scholarship to help students of color with living expenses while attending SSW

The Rev. Pauli Murray became the first African American woman to become an Episcopal priest in 1977. She was a legendary civil rights activist.

The Henrietta Wells Scholarship Fund

The monies in this fund are designated for scholarships for students from Historical Black Colleges and Universities across the diocese of Texas. The funds are to be used for choir scholarships and teaching internships in Episcopal schools while attending a Historic Black College or University in Texas.

Henrietta Wells was an Episcopal lay woman who ended her life of ministry at St. James, Houston, where she was a member of the Daughters of the King. She was a student on the campus of Wiley College. She was a member of the great debate team at Wiley College – of which a movie was made.

The Joseph and John Talbot Fund for Racial Reconciliation

Fund to provide a gift to underwrite a program of church community racial reconciliation initiatives that brings together the work of the Equal Justice Initiative's Lynching memorial work and justice work in local communities.

These two gentlemen were the first slaves mentioned in the historic baptismal books of Christ Church Matagorda and belonged to Judge Matthew Talbot who was a member of our first church and leader of the diocese from its founding.