



Name of Committee, Commission, Task Force or Program:

Wyoming Episcopal Justice (WEJust)

Vision Statement: *To create a Wyoming that is truly the Equality State.*

Mission Statement: *To strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being, through education and advocacy in response to historical and ongoing injustices.*

Purpose As Defined by Diocesan Convention Resolutions:

Resolution 2024-01 established the Wyoming Episcopal Justice (initially the Equal Justice Initiative Task Force) and charged it with growing a Beloved Community of healers, justice-makers and reconcilers in Wyoming, and overseeing and implementing the commitments made in relevant justice resolutions. Becoming Beloved Community is the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society; it emphasizes racial justice and advocacy, criminal justice reform, continued formation and learning, proclamation and prayer.

Resolution 2024-02 specified the diocese's commitment to educate congregations, clergy and communities about our own history as well as the history of the Wind River Reservation, the process by which the reservation acquired its lands, and the difficulties and successes our Native American siblings have had in preserving their culture, their traditions and their land. This resolution also mandated continuing to engage with our Native American siblings to build trust and respectful relationships, continuing to foster conversations around the definition, understanding, and implementation of reparations and other acts of racial reconciliation. WEJust was specifically directed to oversee and implement the commitments made in Resolution 2024-02.

Resolution 2024-03 resolved that the Episcopal Church in Wyoming acknowledge the intergenerational trauma caused by the Doctrine of Discovery, Manifest Destiny, colonialism, genocide and ethnocide through the operation of Indigenous boarding schools and other systems of white supremacy that have oppressed Indigenous

peoples; that the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming follow the lead of Indigenous communities and invest in community-based spiritual healing centers that will work to address the effect of intergenerational trauma by providing mental health and substance abuse counseling, traditional forms of healing, family counseling, and other services and support desired by local communities. WEJust was specifically directed to oversee and implement the commitments made in Resolution 2024-03.

Resolution 2025-01 charged WEJust with sharing knowledge about the presence and long-term consequences of Indigenous residential boarding schools in Wyoming.

Resolution 2025-02 repudiated and renounced the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to our understanding of the inherent rights that individuals and peoples have received from God; 2025-03 required that this declaration be proclaimed among our churches and that all Episcopalians in the diocese be encouraged to seek a greater understanding of the Indigenous Peoples within the geopolitical boundaries claimed by the United States and to support those peoples in their ongoing efforts for their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights as peoples to be respected.

Resolution 2025-03 directed the LGBTQ+ and Gender Justice subcommittee of the Wyoming Episcopal Justice taskforce to recommend or offer education programs to congregations and groups wanting to learn more about the Christian LGBTQIA2S+ community in the Diocese of Wyoming and the church at large, and to better understand the theology, philosophy, and science pertaining to sexuality, gender identity, and expression of LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized populations; formation and education throughout the diocese including sacred journeys and an annual summit.

Summary of Current Year's Activities:

- Monthly meetings of Subcommittees; bimonthly meetings of Steering Committee
- Regular participation by WEJust members in The Episcopal Church's monthly Episcopal Indigenous Justice Roundtable
- WEJust Retreat, February 5-7, at the Diocesan Office
- 2026 WEJust Summit, April 24-26, at Rock Springs: 30 attendees.
 - 11 of 30 participants were- WEJust members => 37%
 - 19 of 30 participants were non-WEJust members => 63%; 4 joined WEJust while there.
 - Allison Duvall, of The Episcopal Church's Public Policy, Partnership, and Engagement Ministry, joined us for the summit and provided several training sessions on Civil Discourse. She also provided an understanding

of The Episcopal Church's commitment to justice work, and showed how it presents the policy priorities of The Episcopal Church to the U.S. government in Washington, D.C.

- The Summit took place in Rock Springs to recognize the 140th anniversary year of the racially motivated massacre of Chinese miners in Rock Springs on September 2, 1885. The Rock Springs Historical Museum along with BOCES hosted a reception and presentation about the incident itself and the memorial event that took place last September. The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming has partnered with The Chinese Massacre Requiem Project in Rock Springs by purchasing a memorial brick to be placed at the base of the bronze statue, **Requiem**, on the site of the racial killings that took place there in 1885. (Resolution 2024-04).
- Evening and morning prayers were led by the different WEJust subcommittees, with an especially poignant Justice Stations of the Cross liturgy on Saturday night. We were reminded of where and how we had failed to love our neighbors and then prayed for courage to right the wrongs as we are best able. Each participant received a "Courage" candle from Thistle Farms to remind them of this work once they got home.
- Hosted four Sacred Ground Circles, which is the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming's foundational Dismantling Racism, Racial Reconciliation, and Healing training course. One of the four was a beta-test group for The Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground Review Committee, led by Committee member and Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming member Charlease Elzenga, who volunteered Wyoming for a test site. These sessions had approximately 30 participants.
- Partnering with tribal elders and institutions to preserve sacred oral histories, promote truth-telling, and support reconciliation efforts following pilgrimages and in accordance with diocesan commitments and resolutions.
- Working on Oral history archiving of Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribal stories. There are some fragile cassette and reel-to-reel tapes housed at the University of Wyoming and in possession of tribal elders that we want to preserve.
- Planning a documentary screening tour of the documentary *Sugarcane* in October 2026 to educate and raise awareness of the history of Indigenous boarding schools in North America.
- Held a book study on the Rt. Rev. Marianne Budde's book **How We Learn to Be Brave**, with 12 participants.
- Created a page on the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming website to share the equal justice work being done and invite people to join in that work.

- Planning a book study on Dr. Keon West's book **The Science of Racism** from October 21 through November 18, 2026.
- Submitted a resolution to the 2026 Annual Diocesan Convention in affirmation of Indigenous Sacred Traditions. Resolution drafted in partnership with Indigenous congregations on the Wind River Reservation.
- Continuing in partnership with the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, supporting a campaign for repair and land and buffalo restoration with the Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative.

Financial Report:

We have not been provided financials during 2026.

Plans and Projections for the Coming Year:

Alabama Sacred Journey (15 people)

Diocesan Cost: \$29,000.00	Total \$48,250.00
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Wind River Sacred Journey (35 people)

Diocesan Cost: \$17,050.00	Total \$25,575.00
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Borderland Ministries Sacred Journey (10 people)

Diocesan Cost: \$14,400.00	Total \$16,400.00
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Wyoming Episcopal Justice Summit (50 people)

Diocesan Cost: \$25,300.00	Total \$32,050.00
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Tentatively scheduled for March 19-21, 2027 in Cody, Wyoming with a focus on Japanese incarceration at Heart Mountain during WWII (in line with Diocesan Resolution 2024-04).

Sacred Ground Training

Diocesan Cost: \$0.00	Total \$0.00
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Book Studies (3 books at \$30 each with 15 people per study)

Diocesan Cost: \$1,350.00	Total \$1,350.00
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Immigration Training (15 people, \$100 per person)

Diocesan Cost: \$1,500.00	Total \$1,500.00
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JustFaith Ministry Training (30 people, \$75 per person)

Diocesan Cost: \$2,250.00	Total \$2,250.00
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"Vote Faithfully" Voter Education mailings

Diocesan Cost: \$1,500.00	Total \$1,500.00
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(1% of WEJust budget)	Diocesan Cost: \$1,260.00	Total \$1,260.00
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Eastern Shoshone & Northern Arapaho Oral History Digitization Project

Diocesan Cost: \$10,500.00	Total \$10,500.00
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Diocesan Cost: \$1,000.00 Total \$1,000.00

Diocesan Cost: \$1,500.00	Total \$1,500.00
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Diocesan Cost: \$1,500.00 Total \$1,500.00

Diocesan Cost: \$5,000.00	Total \$5,000.00
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Diocesan Cost: \$0.00 Total \$0.00

Diocesan Cost: \$5,000.00	Total \$5,000.00
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Diocesan Cost: \$118,110.00 Total 156,885.00

Kira Bachus
Randy Belton
Melinda Bobo
Annemarie Delgado
Allan Doyle
Charlease Elzenga
Mary Erickson
Mary Beth Evers
Roxanne Friday
Helen Gordon
Miranda Marks
Sarah Mentock

Meg Nickles
Andrew Parra
John Peacock
Mark Shipp
Randy Teeuwen
Sandy Thiel
Todd Trosper

WEJust Steering Committee:

- Melinda Bobo and Mary Erickson, WEJust co-chairs
- Sarah Mentock and Amanda Pittman, Indigenous Truth-telling Subcommittee co-chairs
- Mary Erickson and Sandy Thiel, Immigration Subcommittee co-chairs
- Miranda Marks and Kira Bachus, LGBTQIA+ & Gender Justice Subcommittee co-chairs
- Annemarie Delgado, Education and Advocacy Subcommittee chair
- Melinda Bobo and Kira Bachus, Racial Justice Subcommittee co-chairs
- Economic Justice Subcommittee (To Be Determined)

Gratitude/Acknowledgements:

Thank you to our Summit guest speakers whose presentations provided much food for thought and to the WEJust committee chairs who led powerful prayer services to feed our souls throughout the summit.

Thank you to Bishop Ousley for not only participating in the full summit, but for also sharing a very meaningful sermon on our focus scripture to close out the summit.

A HUGE thank you goes to the Rev. Bernadine Craft without whom the entire Summit event would have been much more difficult to organize. She and her wonderful teams at BOCES and Holy Communion are among the most amazing hosts in the entire state of Wyoming. Thank you all so much for your welcome!

Thank you to Bobbe Fitzhugh, Genie Osborn, Kira Bachus, Kristi Wallin, Melissa Anderson, Lara Gilbert, and Debb Rodgers, who have helped corral this herd of cats.

Submitted by: The Rev. Melinda Bobo and Sarah Mentock