

Restorative Actions

Fact Sheet (June 2021)



White households in America hold 16% more wealth than they would otherwise hold if not for the legacy of property taken, compensation withheld, and the systemic obstruction of wealth accumulation opportunities from Afro-American and Indigenous households. This disparity in the distribution of wealth manifests in a gap of more than \$848,000 between the average wealth of Afro-American and white households, and a gap of more than \$916,000 between the average wealth of Indigenous and white

households. **Across all Afro-American and Indigenous households these gaps add up to more than \$13 trillion today.**

This gap has more than tripled in the past 30 years and is expanding at a progressively greater pace each year. We believe that Reparations on the part of the country and its institutions in addition to racial equity initiatives on the part of its people will be required to address the growing wealth and opportunity gap and to allow for restoration of racial relationships and collective strengthening.

Reparations on the part of the United States requires national acknowledgement, redress (restitution and/or atonement), and closure for the grievous injustices that have been carried out nationally and allowed to persist regionally and institutionally over its history.

Racial equity initiatives acknowledge that the current system is oppressive and work to deconstruct and address the harms caused by those systems.

Restorative Actions provides a mechanism for mid-councils, congregations, individuals and interested organizations to **examine** their assets, **determine** what portion of their wealth can be attributed to white supremacy, and **surrender** that amount to private trusts to increase opportunities to flourish for Indigenous and Afro-American individuals and communities in the United States by funding racial equity initiatives.

Restorative Action is an opportunity to respond to God's abundant grace by surrendering these ill-gotten gains. **It seeks to answer the question, "what can we do?"** by providing **one** avenue to work toward decolonizing wealth, creating parity and eventually putting pressure on the United States to take action regarding reparations.

To date, over \$800,000 has been committed from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, MN, and individuals.

Much more information including a theological grounding, a FAQ document, calculators to assess wealth, and recommendations about how much to surrender and how to do it can be found at <http://restorativeactions.org>. If you have any questions please reach out to admin@restorativeactions.org.