

Statement of Atonement

As Episcopal City Mission (ECM), we recognize that our founding in 1844 was built on a foundation of Christian domination and white supremacy, which laid the groundwork for the harms we and our organization have committed against Black and Indigenous communities in Boston. While ECM strives towards racial and economic justice in our work, we must acknowledge that both our actions and our inactions have caused significant harm. Throughout our history we have had a growing understanding of the need to do better and want to rectify and redress both past and current hurt or suffering we have caused in order to work toward reconciliation.

- We deeply regret the spiritual harms Episcopal City Mission has caused. In our belief that we were providing moral guidance to poor and immigrant communities, we disregarded and often destroyed the rich religious and spiritual traditions of many. We recognize our failure to challenge the dominance and power of Christian institutions that have oppressed others both internally in our organization and externally in our communities.
- We also acknowledge the material harm that Episcopal City Mission has inflicted. We have benefited from financial resources tied to the transatlantic slave trade and the exploitative textile industry, which included reliance on cotton and enslaved workers. Our participation in broader church activities has contributed to the displacement of Indigenous communities removing them from their sacred land.

Statement of Atonement (cont.)

- We lament our failures to use our influence for transformational justice. Our history shows a pattern of seeking minor improvements rather than addressing the root causes of inequality, thereby preserving the comfort of those in power. These harms are not just historical; they persist today and we have an obligation as a faith-based organization to address and reform our current policies and practices – as well as repair the damage of the past.
- We are grateful to the BIPOC leaders, partners and community members who guide and support us in this journey. Episcopal City Mission pledges to engage in this work with the dedication and respect that honors their contributions and those of their predecessors and commits to using our resources toward reparative action and reparative payments in Black and Indigenous organizations in Massachusetts.
- We humbly ask for forgiveness from members of the Black and Indigenous communities that Episcopal City Mission has harmed. We seek to be in a relationship with you, to listen, to learn, and to journey alongside you. We are committed to helping repair the damage we have done and want to work together to build a more just and equitable future leading to the liberation of all people.

