**An Opportunity to Assess**

**the Racial Attitudes of Your Congregation**

Paula Dempsey, Director of Partnership Relations

Alliance of Baptists

The Alliance of Baptists has received a $1M grant from the Lily foundation to fund the *THRIVE for Racial Justice* project which facilitates the transformation of congregations toward anti-racism. In Fall 2021, *THRIVE* will send out its first online survey to all people in the Alliance of Baptists’ database. This anonymous survey will allow the Alliance to assess the current beliefs, attitudes, and practices of Alliance constituents as well as generate individual reports for *some* congregations.

“A Core Team of professionals and academics has been assembled to design and implement the assessment. It includes Dr. Gerardo Martí, L. Richardson King Professor of Sociology at Davidson College, as leader of the project in partnership with Paula Clayton Dempsey, director of partnership relations for the Alliance of Baptists, sociologists Dr. Mark Mulder, of Calvin University and Dr. Kevin Dougherty, of Baylor University, who have spent their careers examining racial and ethnic dynamics in American churches.” (*As White Churches Confront Racism, Researchers Seek to Create Model for Change* - Davidson College website)

Your congregation is invited to participate and receive a congregational report. To be among the congregations receiving a report assessing the combined responses of your participating congregants, you will provide information (see below), pay a $400 fee and organize the participation of your congregants in the online survey. If the fee creates a too great a barrier for your church, please contact the Evergreen Association office or Rev. Wim Mauldin. The Evergreen Association/Anti-Racism Team offers scholarships for the amount needed.

This first THRIVE survey is VERY important. The more people who take the survey, the more reliable the information. With this information, the THRIVE Core Team will create a report of the 2021 profile of the respondents to the survey. In 2025 your church will have the opportunity to join the rest of the Alliance in taking the survey again, providing an amazing look at the change in your congregation as well as the Alliance family over that time.

In addition to this first THRIVE online survey, 27 congregational partners have committed to engage in a collaborative process to identify and combat structures of racism through their churches as a THRIVE Cohort. One of those churches is First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City. The lessons learned through these efforts will be shared with everyone in the database to encourage congregations to apply lessons learned to the racial justice work across all churches, building a shared capacity to meet the commitment to racial justice.

TO PARTICIPATE AS A CONGREGATION & RECEIVE A REPORT SPECIFIC TO YOUR CHURCH:

**STEP 1**

Send the following information to paula@allianceofbaptists.org

 - church name

 - website

 - postal address

 - email address

 - phone number

 - pastor’s name

 - pastor’s postal address

 - email address

 - phone number

**STEP 2**

Payment: $400 before September 1

 **Payment online** Go to the ‘Give’ page on the Alliance website: <https://www.allianceofbaptists.org/give>

 Go to ‘Other designations’ and write ‘THRIVE online Survey Report’

 Then pay with a credit card

 **Payment by check**: If you are sending a check, you can do STEP 1 & 2 at the same time. Send the information requested in Step 1 and the $400 check to Alliance of Baptists, 1801 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27605

 BE SURE to write on the memo line: “THRIVE Online Survey” or something similar.

**LINKS**: Davidson article: <https://www.davidson.edu/news/2020/10/26/white-churches-confront-racism-researchers-seek-create-model-change>

Dr. Gerardo Marti - <https://www.davidson.edu/people/gerardo-marti>

Dr. Mark Mulder - <https://calvin.edu/directory/people/mark-mulder>

Dr. Kevin Dougherty - <https://www.baylor.edu/sociology/index.php?id=953130>