GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD ANTI-RACISM TEAM REPORT

The Anti-Racism Team came into existence through a resolution of the synod assembly in 1998 calling on the synod to move in the direction of developing a more inclusive and anti-racist identity. We see ourselves as working in partnership with the entire synod to provide ideas, direction and resources that will help us develop this vision.

Since the last synod assembly the team celebrates the following actions and accomplishments:

- Hosting two two and a half day training sessions led by Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training that have provided vision and tools for leaders in the synod to carry on the work of anti-racism within their ministry settings.
- Partnered with Lutheran Human Relations Association on a two part multi-day opportunity for people who have taken the first steps of anti-racism work to continue their growth by examining their own internalized racial oppression or racial superiority/privilege.
- Have worked with various groups, congregations, and committees within the synod to help them begin to develop their own anti-racist identity and process within their setting. This has included working closely with the synod staff on their vision for their work together and various conversations with the synod council on how to move forward in their anti-racist work.
- Have served as consultants to various groups in the synod about their work including the group now working on the configuration for clusters in the synod.
- Are in the process of developing tools to help groups discuss racism and our response. The team has done some work on confirmation and youth material and is presently working with the Reconciled in Christ Team on ideas for discussion of the new ELCA statement on criminal justice.
- Have worked with elements in the larger Church committed to anti-racism work. Among the groups we have been in dialog with are the European American Lutheran Association and the Metro Chicago Anti-Racism Team.
- Have been advocates around issues of racism such as concerns about racism in Lutheran Colleges and Universities.
- Have provided various opportunities for discussions of racism including book and movie studies and workshops at various synod events.
- Have continued to seek new members for the team. We also continue to challenge one another as team members to continue our anti-racism journeys.

We have much to celebrate as a synod, but there is still a great deal of work to do. We ask each of you to commit to joining us for a training or discussion in the coming year and we are open to visiting in your congregation if you would like us to come and help you begin your journey. The work we do can only be done together and we invite and encourage you to join us.

Anti-racism team members:
Jerry Key (co-convener)       Chuck Ruehle (co-convener)
Paul Bauman                  Paula Canby
Jim Liedtke                  Jack Loppnow
Marilyn Miller               Linda Moore
Esther Rusch                 Sue Ruehle
David Schoob                 Neliabeth Scovill
Fred Thomas-Breitfeld        Vivian Thomas-Breitfeld