

The NT-NL Public Witness Team's understanding of its charge:

*Called to assist the Church
in advancing the causes of justice and peace
as witnesses for the risen Christ*

Some of the activities of the Public Witness team within the past three years of its ten year history:

- Practicing and disseminating a model for Courageous Conversations on Racism
- Participated in training offered by the Southwest Texas Synod in an anti-poverty program, Congregation Initiated Community-Based Advocacy
- Hosting the Bridges book study groups which focused on issues of race in America
- Conducting a Service of Lament following the killing of Dallas police officers in the summer of 2016
- Developing resolutions subsequently adopted by the synod assemblies on addressing racism, affirming the work of immigrant refugee settlement programs, addressing immigration issues, supporting scientists and others who fight against environmental degradation
- Offering legislative updates with Texas Impact
- Conducting hearings and study sessions that contribute to the development of an ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice
- Presenting a seminar on environmental stewardship, "Creation Care and Climate Change – It's about the Kids", featuring a theologian, Dr. Barbara Rossing, a climate scientist, Dr. Mark Jacobson, and state policy expert, Mrs. Bee Moorhead.
- Offering "Know Your Rights" presentations conducted by immigration attorneys for immigrants

Currently the team is developing an "Understanding Racism" seminar that will feature the Rev. Joe Barndt, ELCA pastor and author (Becoming an Anti-Racist Church) and Ms. Joyce James, a racial equity specialist and a former executive with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Target date for the event is March 9-10, 2018. Financial support is both needed and welcomed. (Checks should be made payable to the NT-NL Synod; please write "Public Witness" in the notation line.)

An annotated history of the NT-NL Synod Public Witness team is available by contacting the synod or Pr. Chuck Hubbard (214-395-6978).