



East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

August 5, 2022

Dear Leaders and Congregations of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin,

Our church is engaged in the work of racial equity. We do this work for many reasons: primarily we acknowledge that racism is a sin that denies the reconciling work of the cross. We feel the effects of this in our institutional church - *discriminatory treatment within the call process, inequitable compensation of clergy of color, racial segregation, divestment from black communities and congregations, systemic policies and organizational practices, and failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of people of African descent.*¹

In our synod, the newly formed Racial Equity team is working to educate, equip, and empower individuals and congregations to act boldly by working for racial justice. My letter to you accompanies a request from that team to support this work. The work of this team is a priority for me as a synod bishop, and I'm grateful for all the congregations, organizations and individuals who are participating and engaging in this work in different ways, including through financial support.

When we do this work together, we become what we receive from the Lord: one Body in Christ - living and active - at work in the world and making a difference in Christ's name.

Gratefully,

Bishop Anne Edison Albright

¹ This language is from the "Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent," a statement adopted at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.