

The Metro DC Synod Racial Equity Team, spent the summer and Fall of 2018 in a season of “Listening”. Our Chair, Pastor Karen Brau, was on Sabbatical in the fall, and she also chose the theme of “Listening” for that time apart.

Our team meets monthly, and when we reconnected with our chair in December, we engaged in deep conversation about how to engage more broadly and more effectively across the Synod in conversations about racial equity.

Our first project was to design, prepare and offer to the Synod a set of videos using the tradition of the 7 Last Words. The videos are on the Synod Website and have been viewed by a significant number of people. Using the liturgical traditions as a link to important conversations is effective.

Our one-hour workshop for the Synod Assembly is using a new resource entitled: Lament and Hope, A Pan African Devotional Guide, Commemorating the 2019 Quad-Centennial of the forced Transatlantic Voyage of Enslaved African Peoples to Jamestown, Virginia. This is a resource put together by Bread for the World, and the ELCA is one of the partners in this effort. Hard copies of this resource will be available at the Assembly Display table.

We have set in motion several gatherings for 2019.

We are working on a conversation that would center around the question: “What do Racial Equity Outcomes look like in Congregations?” This part day workshop will be held on a Saturday this summer--the date is TBD very soon.

And on Monday, September 23, 2019, we will host a book reading by The Rev. Lenny Duncan, an ELCA Pastor from Metro NY Synod. Rev Duncan is the pastor of Jehu’s Table, and his new book is entitled, Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US. This event will be held at Luther Place Church on the evening of 9/23. Details to follow.

The team is inviting folks who are interested in ongoing ministry around racial equity to consider being part of our team. If you are interested in a conversation about this ministry area, please reach out to Pastor Karen Brau at [seniorpastor@lutherplace.org](mailto:seniorpastor@lutherplace.org).