

Doing Justice Means Doing What Matters to God

As we more fully focus on the ARE endeavor, three points, which are helpful in insisting on justice, come to the fore:

- **Be who you are.** We are people called by the covenant of our baptism to insist on justice. We are capable of insisting on justice and we are called out of our selves to do this.
- **See what you have.** This is a matter of “radical attentiveness” to the injustices of our world, systems of poverty and despair. This is not what God wants, a model of consumptive competition with winners and losers. What we have are tools to engage in conversation, to make our congregations places of moral deliberation.
- **Do what matters.** The prophet Micah urges us to “love kindness and do justice.” More often than not, we do the opposite; we love justice, but we do kindness. What matters is that having seen what is, we **do** justice, because we are the baptized children of God, that’s who we are.

In my own ministry for the New England Synod, many networks for moral deliberation have been enabled:

- Lobbying to repeal the **death penalty**
- Informational sessions on **healthcare**
- Legislative **alerts** both regionally and nationally in conjunction with our partners, LSSNE, LIRS, ELCJHL, HLC, on topics that work with our ELCA Social Statements
- **Contacts** with partner lobbyists, councils of churches and other religious groups
- Initiatives for **energy conservation** and stewardship of the **environment**
- **World hunger** awareness and advocacy with Pr. David and Doreen Rinas and Amy Cady
- **Immigration** reform conversations
- **Genetics** conversations
- Lobbying for **equity** regarding the differently-abled in public access to services and healthcare
- **Global mission** work

As staff, we are not gatekeepers, nor do we head these initiatives. Instead, we endeavor to help pastors, congregations, and individuals to see what is, and to use what we have, to Do What Matters.

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