

ARE is a public witness group within the Saint Paul Area Synod. We seek to live out the mission of emboldening public witness by empowering God's beloved to confront privilege and racism in and through the Saint Paul Area Synod. Our work consists of holding one another accountable in our shared calling to reform unjust structures by educating congregations about institutional and systemic racism, advocating for racial equity in the church and the world, and building relationships with partners within and outside of the church for more just communities. You are invited into this holy work of being the beloved community together!

ARE's goal is to nurture the church's anti-racist message of reconciliation and pursuit of justice in action. We aim to provide opportunities for building anti-racist community. This year, we focused some of our attention on convening congregations and individuals to share experiences in congregational anti-racist ministries. We welcomed speakers and racial justice teams to several events last Spring with the hope of equipping and empowering leaders to pursue racial justice in their congregational contexts. Every congregation is at a different point in this work and we have found it helpful to encourage learning from one another.

Additionally, ARE has continued to support and deepen our partnerships with other groups pursuing justice. In the last year, we have partnered with Isaiah, FREC (Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative), and the Poor People's Campaign. We continue to sponsor and support the annual Overcoming Racism Conference, hosted by FREC. In the coming year, we are focusing more attention on boosting the efforts of the Poor People's Campaign, especially encouraging the advent of more local organizing and the June trip to DC. Finally, in December ARE hosted a conversation with Shari Seifert to discuss her new book, *Ashes to Action: Finding Myself at the Intersection of the Minneapolis Uprising*. We look forward to deepening our mutual work with other organizations and providing more opportunities for individuals and congregations to learn from one another.