Key Understandings from

***Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture***

An ELCA Social Statement

Reflect on the following understandings from ***Freed in Christ*** using your own experiences and observations. Remember the RESPECT principles for conversation.

1. Racism is a mixture of power, privilege, and prejudice. It is more than a matter of personal attitudes…it spreads like an infection through the whole social system.

 *What are your reactions to this understanding of racism?*

 *How do you see yourself, your community, your congregation caught up in racism?*

 *Where have you experienced systemic or institutional racism?*

2. In our society, white people have been favored and hold unequal power to implement their prejudices – socially, politically, and economically. What has been the case is still the case: skin color makes a difference and white people benefit from a privileged position.

  *What examples from your own experience can you share?*

3. Racism infects and affects everyone with an impact that varies according to race, ethnicity, or culture, and other factors such as gender or economic situation.

 *How do you see or experience these differences?*

4. The sin of racism deforms relationships.

 *How has racism affected your relationships with people who are different from you?*

5. Racism hinders me/us from becoming who God calls me/us to be. As a violation of God’s intention for humanity, racism is sin.

 *How and why does racism affect the person who harbors racism?*

 *What are the personal effects of the sin of racism? What are the systemic effects?*

 *Why is racism a key issue as we live out our Christian life?*