



*WHEREAS, the Justice and Advocacy Discipling Team (JADT) was established to look at ways to help congregations identify and live into ministries in the areas of justice, advocacy, peace, and mercy; and*

*WHEREAS, the JADT believes that “justice” is a state of being to which God asks people to aspire, so that human beings and all living creatures are treated with the respect, care, and dignity deserving of God’s beautiful creation; and*

*WHEREAS, the JADT understands its mission to include the promotion of “advocacy,” which is the means by which people in the church can address unjust barriers, policies, and individual actions, so that all of God’s people and living creatures are treated in a manner consistent with the respect, fairness, and dignity intended by a loving God;*

*THEREFORE, the JADT adopts the following mission statement to guide its work in the Sierra Pacific Synod:*

**In accordance with the promises made in Baptism, we are committed to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth” through:**

- **Educating, equipping, and engaging clergy, congregational leaders and members to plan and do acts of justice and advocacy;**
- **Consulting, analyzing, and advising Synod leaders and congregations on issues of justice and advocacy;**
- **Raising awareness throughout the Synod of opportunities to address justice and advocacy issues, including, without limitation, distribution or discussion of ELCA Social Statements, church doctrines, and policies related to justice and advocacy, and promoting events that address justice, harmony, and equal opportunity for all people;**
- **Providing a voice in the Synod to call upon Synodical, national, and international church leaders and bodies to review, enact, or advocate for policies necessary to achieve justice;**
- **Recommending resolutions and other policy statements to the appropriate governing authorities and committees of the Synod;**
- **Advising the Bishop and Synod Council on the appropriate actions to take in regard to issues of justice and advocacy;**
- **Serving a peacekeeping and team-building role when called to do so, in order to facilitate actions that promote justice and advocacy throughout the Synod.**