**Issue Description:** The social statement “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture” calls the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to confront racism and to pursue justice. As part of the ELCA’s public commitment, a group may choose to implement a policy of making purchases from a diverse pool of services and vendors. Some areas of the country have bodies that list and certify minority, women-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprises and, therefore, such lists could be consulted.

**Sample wording:** “XXX (synod/congregation/organization) chooses to use our selective purchasing power in a manner supportive of diversity. As part of that commitment we support a diversity of suppliers in our preferred pool of product and service vendors.”

or

“In conjunction with XXX (our/synod/congregation/organization)’s overall commitment to diversity and inclusion, it is our policy to promote and increase business opportunities for minority and women-owned business enterprises by purchasing our supplies from a pool of them.”

**Resources:**
Rutgers University - [http://purchasing.rutgers.edu/sdp.html](http://purchasing.rutgers.edu/sdp.html)

Viox-Services - [http://www.viox-services.com/supplier-diversity-program/](http://www.viox-services.com/supplier-diversity-program/)

National Minority Supplier Development Council (a certifying body) - [http://www.nmsdc.org](http://www.nmsdc.org)