Racial, Ethnic, Language and Religious Justice – Racial, ethnic, language, and religious freedoms are central values of the NVP organization. When those values are attacked, NVP believes there must be a call to public witness.

In January 2017, NVP responded to concerns from leaders of the United Muslim Masjid, an NVP member organization, about increased incidents of racism and bigotry suffered by members of their community by organizing an Interfaith Peace and Unity Gathering in partnership with the Mosque. Over 250 NVP members and guests celebrated the diversity of their many faiths, ethnic and cultural heritages, and languages. Many individuals—including those with Irish, Puerto Rican, Lebanese, African, as well as Muslim roots—spoke firsthand of their experiences of discrimination in the past and at the present time. In a moving spirit of unity, the entire gathering publicly pledged to support Muslims, and any other targeted group, to live in peace in their many urban and suburban communities, and across the state. NVP acted for the rights of Muslims and Jews against increased levels of hatred and violence instigated at the highest levels of our government. NVP will continue to stand up in solidarity whenever any segment of our community is marginalized.

In October 2018, NVP and the United Muslim Jasjid organized a Solidarity Gathering of 250 people to offer public support to our region’s Jewish community four days after the massacre of worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Protestant, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, Latino and African-American leaders delivered messages of love for the Jewish people from their congregations and communities.

Healthcare Justice - NVP is fighting for a community benefit agreement (CBA) with the for-profit company, Prospect Medical Holdings, Inc., that now owns Waterbury Hospital. NVP’s work has focused on specific issues of concern that Valley residents want to see addressed in a community benefit agreement, i.e. the need for increased pastoral care staffing at the hospital, an improved patient discharge process, and a decrease in the number of readmissions overall, but particularly in the Valley’s neighborhoods (zip codes) of color. During the fall of 2018, the national agency in charge of monitoring readmission rates at
hospitals throughout the country, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), cited Waterbury Hospital as having the highest rate of readmissions for any hospital in the state.

**Affordable Housing Justice** - Surveying Valley seniors, NVP’s Aging with Dignity/ Affordable Housing Committee has isolated affordable housing as the most important concern for the region’s elderly and is now researching ways to increase affordable housing in communities throughout the Naugatuck Valley, including the City of Waterbury and its suburbs. Several New England and national church organizations are working with NVP as they see affordable housing as one of the most important concerns of their members throughout New England and the country. Without quality housing that costs a family no more than 30% of their income, life can become very unstable for children and adults alike.

**Worker Rights Justice** – During 2019, NVP will be working in partnership with the Connecticut Statewide Domestic Worker Coalition, that includes the Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford, the Connecticut Catholic Conference, the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Universalist-Unitarian Society East, the Brazilian Workers Center, United Action (a faith-based community organization in Meriden, CT), and the Service Employees International Union 1199 New England. We will be listening and talking with personal care aides, nannies, housekeepers, home healthcare workers and others who do a variety of important jobs, from caring for the elderly in their homes to caring for children as nannies. They will be sharing their stories, attending meetings, and gathering together to bring their stories out of the shadows and into the public arena. We hope to be ready to win passage of a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights for consideration by the Connecticut legislature during its 2020 session to extend generally accepted worker rights’ protections (the right to a minimum wage, the right to protection from sexual harassment, the right to a day off after 6 days of work, etc.) to the majority immigrant, majority women of color workforce laboring as domestic workers in Connecticut. With an estimated 40,000 domestic workers in Connecticut, we believe that uplifting the dignity of the job and respect for the women (and men) who do the job will improve the lives of thousands of families in our state.

**Environmental Justice** - NVP’s Environmental Justice Committee is just getting organized. Leaders living in the South End of Waterbury brought two environmental issues affecting their neighborhood to the NVP membership meeting: 1) a major expansion of Waterbury’s garbage burning facility has been approved by the state’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and 2) the Bristol Babcock brownfield is discharging dangerous substances into the air and water in their neighborhood. The NVP membership voted at their meeting in November 2018 to form an Environmental Justice Committee to bring about change regarding these two concerns and others that they expect will be raised by members throughout the Naugatuck Valley in the future.