



Report of the Commission for Multicultural Ministries

Organization

Steering Committee

The steering committee consists of 24 people, four from each of the following communities: African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, and White membership of this church.

Pr. Corazon G. Aguilar, San Leandro, Calif. (2005)
Pr. Javier R. Alanis, Austin, Texas (2007)
Ms. Maxine L. Amos, Lumberton, N.C. (2007)
Ms. Leila Amro, South Elgin, Ill. (2009)
Pr. Lawrence J. Clark, Chicago, Ill. (2007)
Mr. Tony Clemente, Brooklyn, N.Y. (2009)
Pr. James K. Echols, Chicago, Ill. (2007)
Ms. Grace G. El-Yateem, *chair*, Brooklyn, N.Y. (2007)
Pr. Khadar N. El-Yateem, Brooklyn, N.Y. (2007)
Ms. Christine Holler-Dinsmore, Wolf Point, Mont. (2005)
Mr. Joseph Husary, San Leandro, Calif. (2009)
Ms. Eleanore H. Johnson, Wittenberg, Wis. (2009)
Pr. Larry J. Jorgenson, Anchorage, Alaska (2009)
Pr. Wi Jo Kang, Colorado Springs, Colo. (2007)
Mr. Justin M. Oakman, St. Paul, Minn. (2005)
Mr. John Prabhakar, *vice chair*, Rochelle, Ill. (2005)
Ms. Patricia M. Robinson, Philadelphia, Pa. (2005)
Pr. Jack D. Russell, Albert, Kan. (2007)
Pr. Rosemary Sanchez-Guzman, El Paso, Texas (2009)
Mr. Daniel N. Solee, Laurel, Md. (2007)
Ms. Saitong Urramporn, Woodridge, Ill. (2007)
Ms. Denise E. Vazquez-Ortiz, *secretary*, Chicago, Ill. (2007)
Pr. Beth Marie Warpmaeker, Minneapolis, Minn. (2009)
(Vacant: 1)

Advisors

Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich, executive assistant to the presiding bishop and director, Department for Synodical Relations
Ms. Joanne Chadwick, executive director, Commission for Women

Ethnic Association Presidents

African American Lutheran Association: Ms. Annette Sample
American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association:
Mr. Larry Thiele
Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage:
Mr. Joseph Husary
Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders: Pr. James Moy
Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos de la Iglesia Evangélica
Luterana en América: Pr. Francisco L. Sosa

Executive Staff

Executive Director: Pr. Frederick E. N. Rajan
Associate Executive Director: Ms. Rosemary Dyson
Director for Racial Justice Ministries: Ms. D. Christine May
Director for African American Ministries: Pr. Julius Carroll
Director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries:
Ms. Marilyn M. Sorenson
Director for Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries: Pr. Pongsak
Limthongviratn
Director for Latino Ministries: Ms. Carmen M. Rodriguez Rivera
Consultant for Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries: Pr. Bassam J.
Abdallah

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this commission is to assist this church in working toward the goal of full partnership and participation of African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino people in the life of this church. The governing description of this unit appears in continuing resolution 16.22.A00, printed in Section X of this *Pre-Assembly Report*.

Report of Work for 2003-2005

Resource: *Weaving God's Love Across Cultures: Transracial Adoption and Faith*

This faith-based resource addresses the needs of transracial families formed through adoption and ministry opportunities for congregations.

Resource: *Synodical Multicultural Ministry Handbook*

In response to the request from synods for tools to strengthen synodical multicultural ministry work, this handbook was developed and distributed to the synods.

Resource: *Lutheran Basics in Nine Asian Languages*

In partnership with the Division for Congregational Ministries, this commission produced and distributed *Lutheran Basics* in nine of the Asian languages (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Laotian, Hmong, Cambodian, and Indonesian).

Resource: *Breaking the Bonds of Internalized Oppression*

For the first time in the life of any mainline denomination, this commission developed a resource that addresses the internalized racial oppression experienced by people of color and its impact on their lives, families, and community. This resource offers suggestions on liberation from this oppression.

Resource: *Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church*

This resource developed by White people for White people addresses the reality of White privilege and how to bring about racial healing in church and society.

Training: *Leadership 101*

This training event was developed to assist, equip, and nurture American Indian and Alaska Native lay members and develop their leadership skills.

Training: *Asian Evangelism Training*

This commission organized an evangelism training event in 2003 and trained over 100 Asian leaders in culturally relevant evangelization models to reach the unchurched of the Asian community.

Gathering: *2004 Multicultural Gathering*

The 2004 Multicultural Gathering was held under the theme, "Lift Every Voice: In Praise, In Song, and In Dance." More than

700 people attended this joint endeavor of this commission and the five ethnic associations.

Gathering: *Latino International Conference*

This commission, in partnership with the Division for Global Mission, organized the first Latino International Conference in Mexico City, Mexico, in 2004. This conference addressed Lutheran identity in this pluralistic society.

Strategy: *ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry Strategy*

With the growing Arab and Middle Eastern population and the need to serve effectively the emerging Arab and Middle Eastern membership in this church, this commission, in partnership with the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, developed a strategy for consideration and possible adoption at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly.

Strategy: *ELCA African Descent Ministry Strategy*

In partnership with the African American Lutheran Association this commission developed an African Descent Ministry Strategy to strengthen the ministry with African Americans, Blacks, and Africans. This strategy will be presented at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly for consideration and adoption.

Major Program Directions for 2005-2007

This commission will participate actively in implementing:

- the Multicultural Mission Strategy (1991), American Indian and Alaska Native Strategic Plan (1999), Asian and Pacific Islander Strategic Plan (2001), Latino Ministry Strategy (2001), and the two new strategies (Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry Strategy, and African Descent Ministry Strategy);
- a multicultural gathering in 2006 in partnership with ecumenical partners (the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)), and the five ethnic associations utilizing the salient features of the successful 2004 Multicultural Gathering; and
- a training program that will assist ELCA congregations to address the racial, ethnic diversity of their congregations and communities.

COMMISSION FOR MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

Grace El-Yateem, *chair*

Frederick E.N. Rajan, *executive director*