



Report of the Multicultural Ministries Unit

Program Committee Members

Mr. Aureo F. Andino, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2009)
Mr. Anthony M. Bateza, Chicago, Ill. (2009)
Mr. Stephen A. Berg, Mankato, Minn. (2009)
Pr. James K. Echols, Chicago, Ill. (2007)
Ms. Grace El-Yateem, Brooklyn, N.Y. (2007)
Pr. Khader N. El-Yateem, Brooklyn, N.Y. (2009)
Ms. Karris Golden, Waterloo, Iowa (2011)
Pr. Larry J. Jorgenson, Anchorage, Alaska (2011)
Pr. Wi Jo Kang, Colorado Springs, Colo. (2007)
Pr. Ramona Soto Rank, Portland, Ore. (2009) [*now deceased*]
Ms. Patricia Robinson, Wyncote, Pa. (2011)
Mr. Alfred Sagar, Brandon, Miss. (2011)
Pr. Rosemary Sanchez-Guzman, El Paso, Texas (2011)
Ms. Alyce Walluk, Wasilla, Alaska (2007)
Mr. Lorenzo Cyril Johnson, Raleigh, N.C. (2009)

Advisory Members

Ms. Faith A. Ashton, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich, Chicago, Ill.
Pr. Chi Shih Chen, Lake Zurich, Ill.
Mr. Joseph A. Husary, San Leandro, Calif.
Pr. W. Arthur Lewis, College Park, Ga.
Pr. Francisco L. Sosa, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
Bp. Margaret G. Payne, Worcester, Mass.
Mr. Larry Thiele, Sheyenne, N.D.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Multicultural Ministries (MM) unit is to assist this church in its central commitment to becoming an anti-racist multicultural church in partnership with African Descent, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian and Alaska Native people within church and society. The program committee is comprised of members from each of the ethnic communities of this church, with 14 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly and one member elected by the Multicultural Advisory Committee of the Lutheran Youth Organization. The constitutional description of this unit appears in continuing resolution 16.12.E06. printed in Section X of this volume.

Report of Work for 2005-2007

As the Multicultural Ministries (MM) unit begins its life as a program unit the staff members are focusing on several strategic areas including: implementation of the ethnic strategies in conjunction with several churchwide units, confronting the scandalous realities of racial, ethnic, and cultural barriers that often are the root causes of exclusion, poverty, hunger, and violence and to pursue the ELCA commitment to becoming more diverse, multicultural, and multigenerational.

Churchwide Strategies

The 2005 Churchwide Assembly approved the “African Descent Strategic Plan” as well as the “Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry Strategy.” All five of the ethnic communities now have their strategic plans in place. Each of Multicultural Ministries ethnic ministry directors and consultant is working with all levels of the church to implement these important documents. A report on the progress of implementation of the strategies will be presented at this assembly.

Leadership

The fourth Asian Lutheran International Conference was held at the newly constructed home office of the Church of Christ in Bangkok, Thailand (February 6-12, 2007). The theme of the conference was “Asian Ministries in Contemporary Contexts.” It is the forum, which convenes every three years, at which 50 ELCA Asian pastors and leaders will meet their counterparts in Asia. They will be joined by 50 leaders representing Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, the Hmong community, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and India. Unlike the first three conferences in the past seven years, the fourth Asian Lutheran International Conference will be open to all people.

The “Leaders of Color Gathering” (July 13-14, 2007) was a pre-event to the “Spirit of Wholeness in Christ: Racial Ethnic Multicultural Event.” This event will assist ELCA rostered and lay leaders of color who carry out their vocation as Chicago churchwide program staff, deployed churchwide staff, shared staff, synod staff synod council members, regional staff, regional governance boards, ELCA Church Council, seminary faculty, ELCA program committee members, the Multicultural Advisory Committee, Lutheran Youth Organization board members, and Synod Lutheran Youth Organization leaders. The event will assist participants in understanding their baptismal vocation as leaders in the ELCA. Attendees also will get an understanding of the current churchwide organization structure related to multicultural ministry.

Stewardship

Asian and Pacific Islander

Cheerful Giving: Asian Lutheran Stewardship is a resource developed in partnership with the former Division for Congregational Ministries, available in six languages, including: Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, and English. The resource was translated into an four additional languages (Laotian, Hmong, Indonesian, and Cambodian) in the summer of 2006.

African Descent

A resource titled *Stories to Tell and Gifts to Share: ELCA African Descent Stewardship Resource* was completed January 2007. The resource fulfills the stewardship African descent strategic goal to, produce culture specific stewardship material, ensuring compatibility with and understanding of stewardship not only as a fiscal responsibility, but also in conjunction with time and talent.

Evangelism and Outreach

The first session of the Indigenous Institute was held in November 2005 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Institute is a joint venture of Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission and Multicultural Ministries. Twenty leaders from several expressions of the ELCA attended. The participants were leaders who either are currently involved or have the potential to be involved in American Indian and Alaska Native outreach and ministry. The second session, American Indian Ministry 101 was held February 2006 in Shakopee, Minnesota, with presentations by local tribal leaders. The third session held in Washington in August 2006 included visits to the National Indian Health Board and the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Tribal Services. The fourth session was held November 2006 in Chicago, with a presentation by Mr. Syd Beane, from the Center for Community Change, titled "An American Indian and Alaska Native Approach to Organizing."

Resource

The *One Body, Many Members* diversity resource was completed December 2006. The biblically-based, action-oriented resource is designed for congregations who want to reach out but are confused and uncertain about how to get started and how to change the congregational culture to be a place of welcome and authentic community. This Web-based resource will: 1) present information on change, culture, conflict, communication, and leadership; 2) share stories of the struggle and learnings of congregations who have been engaged in the process; and 3) address the dynamic process of invitation, welcome, and ongoing change in the life of the congregation.

Ecumenical Multicultural Event

The "Spirit of Wholeness in Christ: Racial Ethnic Multicultural Gathering" (July 11-15, 2007) is a culmination of the collaboration of ethnic specific/racial ethnic, racial justice and multicultural staff in CARE (Communion Agreement Racial Ethnic) group. It will be a joint event that includes the Reformed Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These three church bodies, along with the United Church of Christ, have forged close ties and addressed the group priorities: developing joint ethnic specific and multicultural projects (including the Racial Ethnic/Multicultural Gathering); exploring the implications for people of color leaders working in predominantly White organizations; and continuing to lay a foundation for the development of joint resources designed to address anti-racism and internalized oppression. The event should attract more than 2,000 participants. Several pre-events will precede the gathering which begins July 13, 2007.

New Ethnic Association Created

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affirmed the creation of the European American Lutheran Association during the November 11-13, 2006, meeting. The European-American Association in the ELCA will stand alongside the African American Lutheran Association in the ELCA, the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association in the ELCA, the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the ELCA, and the Association of Latino Ministries in the ELCA. This association will assist this church in efforts to be an anti-racist multicultural church and join in full partnership with the current five associations in this effort. The church renews its commitment to being a truly multicultural church by having the acknowledged and active participation of all members as equal partners at the multicultural table. Prior to the creation of this newest association, those in the European American community have not had the structure to journey together with the five ethnic associations.

Major Directions for 2007-2009

The Multicultural Ministries unit will continue to participate actively in implementing:

- The American Indian and Alaska Native Strategic Plan (1991), Asian and Pacific Islander Strategic Plan (2001), Latino Ministry Strategy (2001), Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry Strategy (2005), African Descent Ministry Strategy (2005); and
- The Multicultural Ministries strategic goals which include: 1) To increase the number of ethnic-specific and multicultural congregations, and deepen the discipleship of congregational members; 2) To increase and strengthen cohesiveness within and among ethnic communities; 3) To equip congregations, synods, seminaries, and the churchwide expression to become an anti-racist, multicultural church; 4) To increase the number of clergy and rostered lay leaders in congregations, synods, seminaries, and the churchwide expression from the African Descent, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, and American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Khader N. El-Yateem, *program committee chair*
Sherman G. Hicks, *executive director*

This page temporarily left blank.