

Region 9 Highlights

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Summer 2005



WHAT DOES A REGIONAL COORDINATOR DO?

At the April 2005 meeting of the Region 9 Council, council members engaged in a detailed discussion about the future of regions in the proposed ELCA restructuring, which will be considered by the Churchwide Assembly in August in Orlando. As part of that discussion, the council identified major responsibilities of the regional coordinator. (Note: In Region 9 one full-time position encompasses the responsibilities of both regional coordinator and deployed staff for the ELCA Division for Ministry and the Department for Synodical Relations with approximately 50% of the time divided between the regional work and the ELCA deployed staff work.)

Among the responsibilities assumed by the regional coordinator are the following:

1. Consultations between synods and churchwide units (e.g., Lutheran Disaster Response, Division or Global Mission, Division for Outreach, and mission support);
2. Establishing and coordinating networks (e.g., youth ministry, stewardship, outdoor ministries, Associates in Ministry);
3. Programmatic work
 - a. Bishop's School – a joint ministry between Region 9 and Southern Seminary;
 - b. Career Crossroads – a weekend seminar in discernment for adults;
 - c. Life Directions – a weekend discernment event for young adults funded by a generous grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 - d. Associates in Ministry Formation Event – an annual event for candidates, inquirers, and commissioned Associates in Ministry.
4. Administrative work, including the Region 9 Council, executive committee, the publication of the *Region 9 Highlights*, Finance Committee, and personnel supervision.

There are a different range of responsibilities for the deployed staff portion of the position:

1. Candidacy, including meeting with candidacy committees in six synods (an average of 2-3 meetings per year per synod), arranging for faculty review panels as requested by synod candidacy committees, working with TEEM candidates (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries), and providing training and orientation for candidacy committee members.
2. Churchwide Assignment Process for first call candidates, including preparation work for two large churchwide assignments per year, handling of the process for restrictions by candidates from Region 9, and coordinating assignments with bishops in Region 9.
3. Support to bishops and synod staff, especially newly elected or appointed persons and the annual synod staff retreat for the region.

First Call Theological Education – maintaining communication and coordination between the Division for Ministry and the six synods in this area.

Financial support for the above staffing arrangement is shared between churchwide and the synods in the region. Of the nearly \$100,000 annual budget, synods in 2005 are providing \$59,800 and ELCA churchwide is providing \$25,358.00.

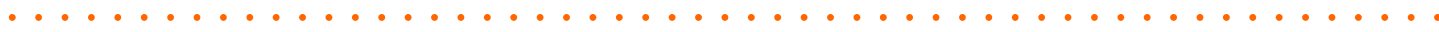
JAMES R. CRUMLEY JR. ARCHIVES

Due to a generous grant from the Michael Peeler Fund in the NC Synod, the Region 9 Archives has been able to purchase new movable shelving units that greatly increase the capacity of the archives to receive and catalog new materials, including the recently acquired collection from the NC Synod.

The Archives are also working with Lutheridge/Lutherock Ministries to receive their archival materials. With the assistance of staff from LLMI, the Archives is preparing a development plan to assist with expanded financial and staff needs

necessitated by the growth in the collection and anticipated future growth. The review and refinement of an amended strategic plan was a major focus of the retreat of the Archives board at Lutheridge November 4-5, 2004.

Recently, Allison Swygert has resigned her position as office manager in order to assume a full-time position with Lexington County schools. Allison has served the Archives very ably for the past five years. In view of this staffing change, the board of the Archives is exploring various staffing options that will best serve present and future needs.



BISHOP'S SCHOOL

Now in its fifteenth year, the Region 9/LTSS Bishop's School welcomed 26 senior high youth from five of the six synods in the region from June 10 through June 18. A 3-day immersion experience in Appalachia was a central component of the week. The bishop in residence this year was Bishop David Donges of the South Carolina Synod. Faculty for the 2005 Bishop's School was the Rev. Dr. Brian Peterson, associate professor of New Testament at LTSS, and the Rev. Dr. Mary Havens, professor of church history at LTSS.

Through relationships formed in the Eastern Cluster of ELCA Seminaries (Southern, Gettysburg, and Philadelphia), a new cooperative venture called Theological Education for Youth (TOY) has been launched to make available offerings in each of the three seminaries to high school youth in three regions of the ELCA – Regions 7, 8, and 9. These offerings include events focused on 9th grade youth (Crossroads at Gettysburg Seminary), 11th grade youth (Theological Education for Youth Academy at Philadelphia), and 11th-12th grade youth (Bishop's School at Southern). Joint publicity for all of the foregoing events was distributed to synods and congregations of all three regions (7, 8, and 9) early in 2005. Further collaboration and coordination among the three seminaries in the area of theological study for youth and young adults is highly likely in view of a recent Lilly grant awarded the Eastern Cluster.



GLOBAL MISSION CONSULTATION

A total of 27 persons representing synodical global missions committees and World Hunger task forces within the region attended a Global Mission Consultation sponsored by the ELCA Division for Global Mission at LTSS September 9-11, 2004. This is the second such consultation held in Region 9 in recent years. The next Global Mission Consultation will be November 3-5, 2005, at Southern Seminary in Columbia.

CAREER CROSSROADS

Career Crossroads is a weekend discernment event for adults seeking to clarify how their God-given gifts can best be used in the church or in the world. The leaders for Career Crossroads are Ms. Sue Setzer, a church career counselor from Charlotte, NC, and the Rev. Harvey Huntley Jr., Region 9 coordinator. The next scheduled Career Crossroads event is October 28-30, 2005, at Southern Seminary. For registration information, contact the Region 9 office or check the Region 9 website at www.elca.org/regions/9.



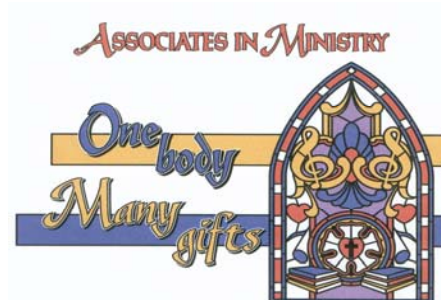
ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY FORMATION EVENT

The theme for the 2005 Region 9 Associates in Ministry Event January 24-26 in Myrtle Beach, SC, was "3R's of Spiritual Formation: Resources, Renewal, Relationships." The Rev. Elizabeth J. Canham, a well-known author and spiritual director from Black Mountain, NC, was the keynote speaker for the event. Another major presenter was Mr. Bill Huff, publisher for congregational life and learning with Augsburg Fortress in Minneapolis. A total of 42 persons attended.

A special emphasis of the 2005 event was orientation for inquirers and candidates. This year the North Carolina Synod Candidacy Committee merged its annual retreat for lay rostered candidates with the regional event; and as a result, a large number of inquirers and candidates attended. The Rev. Cherlyne Beck, the new ELCA

Director for Candidacy with the Division for Ministry, was present for the entire event and served as the preacher for the concluding Eucharist.

Plans are currently in process for the next formation event, scheduled for February 20-22, 2006, at New Ebenezer Conference and Retreat Center in Rincon, GA.



UPDATE ON YOUTH MINISTRY IN REGION 9

Youth leaders, adult workers with youth, and synod staff attended a weekend strategy conference in Atlanta April 1-3, 2005, to set direction for the future role of the region in youth ministry and to strengthen the Lutheran Youth Organization network. Plans are currently under way for a Youth Mission Event to Puerto Rico in the Caribbean Synod. Tentative dates are December 28, 2007 – January 2, 2008.

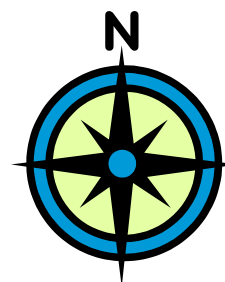
Synod youth staff persons from five synods in the region attended a retreat and joint planning session in mid-January at Luther Springs Camp in Florida. A consultation between synod youth ministry staff persons and church camp directors in the region is being planned for March 5-7, 2006, at Camp Kinard in South Carolina.

LIFE DIRECTIONS

Thanks to a generous grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a discernment event entitled “Life Directions” for young adults (sophomores, juniors, and seniors in college or of comparable age) was offered the weekend of May 27-30, 2005, in Charleston, SC.

Eighteen participants explored questions like the following:

- How does my baptismal vocation give my life direction?
- How can I identify urgent needs in God’s world?
- How can I discover my God-given gifts as clues to God’s calling in my life?
- How can I develop action steps oriented toward a life direction?



The leadership team for Life Directions included Ms. Sue Setzer, a career counselor from Charlotte, NC; the Rev. Louise Johnson, Assistant Director of Admissions from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; Associate in Ministry Shelly Wiskirchen, Assistant Director of Admissions from LTSS; the Rev. Tom Henderson, Director of Admissions at LTSS; Ms. Sandra Holland, Region 9 staff; the Rev. Harvey Huntley Jr., Region 9 Coordinator; Ms. Marilyn Chassie, Thrivent Community Services Manager in New Orleans; Mr. Charles Sonnenberg, also with Thrivent from New Orleans; and Dr. Oris Griffin from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA.

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY GROUP

Within the past year Region 9 has formed a multicultural advisory group consisting of Mr. John Gibson from Atlanta, GA; The Rev. Michael Sewell from Ft. Lauderdale, FL; The Rev. Randy Youngquist-Thurrow from Agape Kure Beach Camp in NC; Dr. Oris Griffin from Harrisonburg, VA; The Rev. Marysol Diaz-Feliciano from San Juan, PR; and The Rev. Dr. Giacomo Cassese from Miami, FL.. Linda Hallberg from Mt. Pleasant, SC, serves as regional staff for multicultural concerns and works with the advisory group along with the regional coordinator.

2005 REGION 9 SUMMIT

The Region 9 Summit is a weekend event for the Region 9 Council, bishops, and synod staff. The dates for 2005 are November 12-14. The Council will meet November 12 and 13; and synod staffs will have a retreat on November 13 and 14. The location will be at White Oak Conference Center north of Winnsboro, SC.

With the anticipated restructuring of the ELCA after the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, there is likely to be a somewhat modified role for regions. Given the emphasis in the new churchwide structure on the functions of collaboration, cooperation, and coordination among units of the ELCA and synods, regions are poised to be a major resource for facilitating and implementing the new approach.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CLERGY CONFERENCE

Region 9 has been asked to coordinate a regional conference for African-American clergy serving in the region. The conference will be July 13, 2005, at the Lutheran Theological Center in the Atlanta University complex. This will be the first such conference of its kind in the region. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has provided a grant of \$1000 to assist with the expenses associated with this conference.

TRAINING FOR TEEM PANELS

Both seminary faculty and synod candidacy committee members who intend to serve on TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) panels will be provided an orientation to their roles October 9-10, 2005, in Chicago under the sponsorship of the Division for Ministry.

The publication of a new ELCA Candidacy Manual and expanded guidelines for TEEM candidates are two key factors in offering this orientation during 2005.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sandra Holland of the Region 9 staff was granted positive endorsement as a candidate for Associate in Ministry in late April by the NC Synod Candidacy Committee. Sandra has met all the requirements and expects to have her approval interview in August 2005. Congratulations to Sandra for work well done and for reaching a significant milestone in her candidacy!

ELCA EVENTS IN REGION 9

Several churchwide events have occurred or will be occurring in Region 9 during the 2005 calendar year:

- **First Call Theological Education Consultation** (Division for Ministry) – Daytona Beach, FL, March 31-April 1;
- **ELCA Candidacy Manual Training** (Division for Ministry) – Daytona Beach, FL, March 29-30;
- **Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) Assembly** – N. Charleston, SC, July 21-24;
- **ELCA Churchwide Assembly** – Orlando, FL, August 8-14

REGION 9/LTSS COUNCIL FOR STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION

Formed in 1991 and funded by a generous bequest to all 8 ELCA seminaries, the Region 9/LTSS Council for Stewardship Education identifies as its purpose “to promote stewardship education at Southern Seminary in students and faculty and to work in partnership with synods to promote stewardship in congregations and pastors of Region 9.” The council is composed of representatives from the six synods in Region 9, Southern Seminary, the ELCA Foundation, and at large members appointed by the council itself. The full council meets annually, usually in the latter part of January.

Each spring the council sponsors a middler retreat for students at LTSS focused on the personal stewardship of rostered leaders. Over 80 participants registered for the 2005 middler retreat. In the fall of 2003 in cooperation with the North Carolina Synod, the council piloted a course on money leadership with First Call Theological Education rostered leaders in North Carolina and representatives from three other synods in the region.

The leadership of the council in 2005 is the Rev. Robert Loshuertos, Huntsville, AL, president; the Rev. Larry Shoberg, Williamsburg, VA, vice president/treasurer; and Jackie Bourque, Front Royal, VA, secretary.

The next full meeting of the council will be January 20, 2006, in Columbia on the seminary campus.

REGION 9 STAFF



Rev. Harvey Huntley, Jr.
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The Region 9 Offices have moved across campus to the second floor of the Price House.

Come see our new home!



Sandra Holland
Administrative Assistant
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