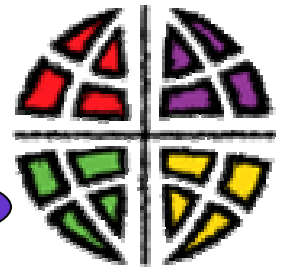


Region 9 Highlights



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Summer 2006

STAFF CHANGES

Sandra Holland, who has been serving for nearly three years as administrative assistant in the Region 9 office, has been approved as an Associate in Ministry by the NC Synod and assigned to the SC Synod. In February she received a call as Associate Director for Ministry, Region 9, from the ELCA Church Council. She was commissioned as an Associate in Ministry on February 23, 2006, by Bishop Donges at Christ Chapel on the Southern Seminary campus and installed in her new position. Among Sandra's main responsibilities are the Servant Summer project, Bishop's School, the Region 9 Associates in Ministry Formation Event, and Career Crossroads.

In mid-January 2006 the region welcomed Tiffany Pieters as a new part-time administrative assistant. Tiffany is assuming many of the administrative and secretarial responsibilities previously handled by Sandra Holland.



SERVANT SUMMER

In early December 2005 the region learned it had been awarded a \$100,000 grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a new young adult project called "Servant Summer: Exploring Your Life Directions." This project is a partnership involving three regions of the ELCA (7,8, and 9) and three ELCA seminaries (Southern, Gettysburg and Philadelphia). It will offer young adults ages 18-24 an opportunity to participate in a significant service project of their design somewhere in the eastern US. Sites include work with a Lutheran social service agency, outdoor ministry, city government, synodical youth ministry, and Appalachia. The eight week work experience is preceded by a four day orientation/discernment retreat and concludes with a two day evaluation/reflection retreat.

For this Summer, 8 highly qualified and motivated young women were chosen out of the application process. It was exciting to see how God used each of them in new ways of service. The application process for 2007 will begin in January.

CHARITABLE GIVING PROJECT

In late December 2005 the region received notification from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans that it had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Thrivent Foundation for a new project focused on charitable giving. This grant is a cooperative venture among the SC Synod, the ELCA Foundation, Newberry College, Southern Seminary, Lutheridge-Lutherock Ministries, Lutheran Homes of SC, and Lutheran Conference and Retreat Centers (SC). It is a two year grant with a total projected budget from all sources of \$240,000. The grant makes possible a full-time staff position with the ELCA Foundation in SC for planned giving to benefit the six partners named above.

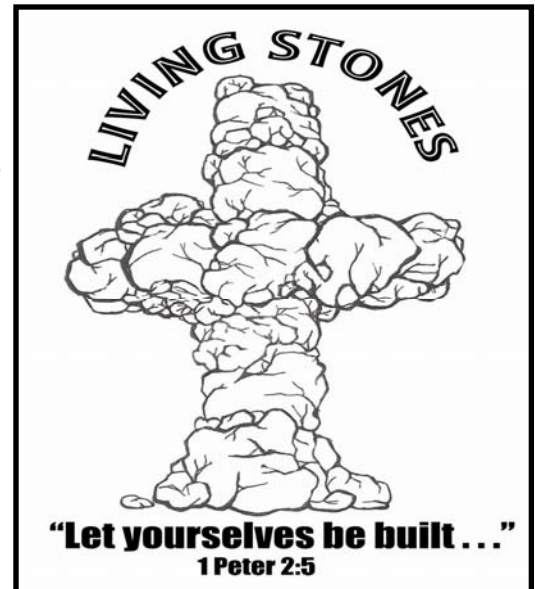
At present this project is still in the formative stages and no staff person has yet been identified. It is likely that the project will be fully operational hopefully by the fall of this year.

SYNOD STAFF EVENT

Synodical bishops and their assistants attended a three day Region 9 staff event April 6-8, 2006, in Delray Beach FL. The purpose of this event was to provide information to synod staffs on ELCA restructuring, orientation for new assistants, and sharing among synod staff in areas of common interest and responsibility. The Region 9 Council has agreed to offer a similar event for synod staffs in the region in alternating years. The next synod staff event will be in 2008. In February 2007 there will be a churchwide event for bishops' assistants provided by the ELCA Department for Synodical Relations.

PUERTO RICO IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Plans are under way for a multicultural experience for senior high youth December 26, 2007-January 2, 2008 in Puerto Rico. It is being planned by a task force from various synods in Region 9, including the Caribbean Synod. Sue Mendenhall from the Florida-Bahamas Synod is serving as the chair of the task force. The first announcement of the experience has been distributed to synods and congregations across Region 9. Registration information will be available beginning in the fall of 2006. For more information, contact the Region 9 office or one of the synod youth ministry staff persons.



REGION 9 / LTSS COUNCIL ON STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION

The Region 9 / LTSS Council on Stewardship Education met January 20, 2006, in Columbia. The council consists of representatives from each of the six synods in Region 9, seminary representatives, at-large members appointed by the council, ELCA Foundation staff serving in Region 9, churchwide stewardship staff, and the regional coordinator. Most of the business of the council is addressed at the annual council meeting. A smaller executive committee meets periodically throughout the year to oversee council projects and initiatives. In March the council sponsored a middler retreat at Southern Seminary on stewardship in preparation for internship. This retreat is funded by a bequest from the estate of Mr. Art Larson. Generally, there are three focal points to the retreat: a biblical understanding of stewardship, a theological understanding, and practical aspects. In addition to the retreat, seniors at LTSS take a spring semester course on stewardship and evangelism. Resource materials and books for the course are provided by the council. Currently, the chair of the council is the Rev. Bob Loshuertos of Huntsville, AL, and the Region 9 Coordinator serves as staff for the council. The next meeting of the full council will be January 19, 2007, at the seminary in Columbia, SC.

ELCA RESTRUCTURING

With the new ELCA organizational plan, the Region 9 Coordinator has a new position title – Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, Region 9.

This position continues to relate to the ELCA Department for Synodical Relations and will now relate to the new Vocation and Education Unit. The latter now encompasses candidacy, theological education, ministry in daily life, higher education, campus ministry, outdoor ministries, and youth and young adult ministries.



INITIAL INTERVIEW TRAINING

Candidacy Committee members from four synods in the region attended a two day initial interview training event on the Southern Seminary campus March 2-3, 2006. Leaders for the event were the Rev. Cherlyne Beck, former Director for Candidacy for the ELCA, and the Rev. Harvey Huntley, Jr., Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, Region 9. The initial interview is an autobiographical interview conducted early in the candidacy process. Candidacy committees use the interview report in making an entrance decision on a candidate. The training focuses on an overview of the ELCA candidacy process, interviewing skills and techniques, and analysis for written reports submitted to the synodical candidacy committee.

FIRST CALL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION REGIONAL RETREAT

In January 2006 four synods in the region – CB, FB, SE, and SC- worked together in planning and offering a First Call Theological Education retreat for first call rostered leaders. The theme for the conference was conflict management. The event was at the New Ebenezer Conference Center in Rincon, GA. The event was well received by participants. The same synods are planning to offer a sequel FCTE event January 22-24, 2007.

LAY ROSTERED LEADERS FORMATION EVENT



Approximately 30 lay rostered leaders and candidates attended a Region 9 Formation Event at New Ebenezer Conference Center in Rincon, GA in mid-February 2006. The theme of the conference was the future of lay rosters in the ELCA. Dr. Michael Root from LTSS and the Rev. Craig Settlege from the Vocation and Education Unit of the ELCA were the featured presenters. The next Formation Event for Lay Rostered leaders will be held February 12-14, 2007 at Lutheridge in Arden, NC.

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR THE REGION 9 COUNCIL

At its spring 2006 meeting, the Region 9 Council (consisting of synod council vice presidents, synod staff from each synod in the region, Bishop David Donges, and Tammy Jackson from the Department for Synodical Relations) elected the following officers:

- The Rev. "Chip" Gunsten (VA Synod) – President
- The Rev. Phil Tonneson (NC Synod) – Vice President
- Mr. Rand Smith (SE Synod) – Secretary
- Mr. Wilbur Smith (SC Synod) - Treasurer

A special word of gratitude goes to the Rev. Mel Amundson (SC Synod) who has served faithfully and effectively as Region 9 Council President for two terms (6 years) and to Ms. Phyllis Wallace (CB Synod), who served for five years as council vice president. Officers are limited to two terms in succession. Pastor Amundson continues to serve with the council from the SC Synod staff. Ms. Wallace has completed her terms as CB Synod Council Vice President and is succeeded on the Region 9 Council by Ms. Fern LaBorde, the new CB Synod Council Vice President.



BISHOP'S SCHOOL



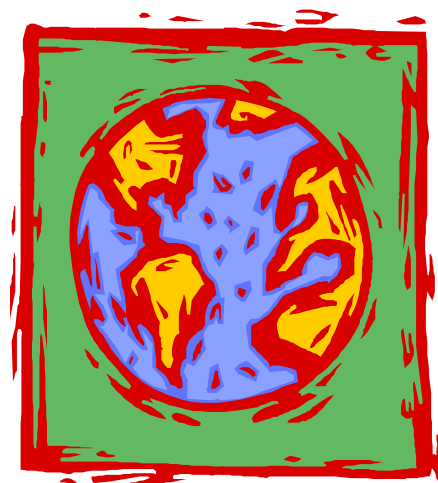
The 2006 Bishop's School was held June 10-17 in Columbia, SC. This was an opportunity for Juniors and Seniors in high school to experience in-depth study of the Christian faith with seminary faculty and to learn about people and situations from different cultures. The multicultural focus this year was African-American. The group worshipped in an African-American church, visited the African-American monument at the SC State house and did a service project at a camp started in the 1940's for African-American children. They also listened to faith stories from several people including retired educator Dr. Milton Kimpson and met with Judge Matthew Perry in the federal courthouse in SC named for him. Twenty-six students from all 6 synods in Region 9 participated in the week. Bishop Ron Warren was the Bishop in Residence and provided worship leadership during the week.

GLOBAL MISSION CONSULTATION—OCTOBER 26-28, 2006

The ELCA Division for Global Mission is sponsoring a Region 9 Consultation at LTSS in Columbia October 26-28 for synod global mission and world hunger leaders. Registration information is available from the Region 9 office and will be mailed to synod leaders by the end of August. This will be the fourth such global mission consultation held in the region.

At least three individuals from each synod – preferably leaders appointed by synods to serve as chair and staff liaisons for global mission and companion synod committees as well as world hunger leaders will gather to:

1. Encounter new resources and information from ELCA Global Mission
2. Hear from and dialogue with an international guest from a companion church or organization
3. Participate in a three-hour workshop on cross-cultural relations
4. Share stories of global mission work in their own synod
5. Deepen their understanding of the accompaniment model for mission
6. Discuss the results of last year's network survey and plan
7. Learn about the Global Mission Education Team's strategic plan and begin to develop a strategic plan to guide their committee in engaging ELCA congregations and members.



CAREER CROSSROADS



Career Crossroads is a spiritual retreat for finding work that fits gifts and mission in life. This event was held on the campus of Southern Seminary August 25-27, 2006. Sixteen people attended. Harvey Huntley and Sandra Holland were the co-leaders for the workshop. This annual event has helped many people through the years discern how God may be calling them through vocation. This event is geared not only for people who sense a call to rostered ministry, but also for people who sense a call to ministry in daily life. For more information and a brochure, please see our website at www.elca.org/regions/9.

REGION 9 ARCHIVES CELEBRATION



The James R. Crumley, Jr. Archives is celebrating its recent major acquisitions and storage expansion due to the movement of the North Carolina Synod archival materials to the regional archives with a special banquet on Friday, November 10, 2006, at the Summit Club (on the 20th floor of the Wilbur Smith building) in downtown Columbia across from the State Capitol. The keynote speaker for the occasion will be the Rev. James R. Crumley, Jr., former presiding bishop of the Lutheran Church in America. The Rev. Dr. Raymond Bost from North Carolina will be a special honoree. Tickets for the banquet are \$50.00 per person. For more information contact the Region 9 office or Jeanette Bergeron at the archives – (803)461-3234 or email: JBergeron@ltss.edu. The Board of Directors for the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives will have its fall meeting in Columbia on Saturday, November 11, 2006, from 8:30 am to 1 pm.

The Rev. Dr. James R. Crumley Jr.

REGION 9 STAFF



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