

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Immigration/Border Concerns Ministry Team

The charge of this ministry team is to encourage and facilitate congregations of our synod to be welcoming and safe places for immigrants among us, and to be advocates for fair and compassionate policies, practices and protections for immigrants both nationally and globally. Our most recent synod gathering in San Diego carried a special focus on immigration—with a workshop at the border with 65 attending, a pre-gathering overnight opportunity in Mexico, and a booth with resources for information, worship, and advocacy. We again co-sponsored the ecumenical Christmas “Posada Sin Fronteras” event at the border fence, recognizing the nearly 4000 immigrant deaths that have occurred over the past 10 years at our border with Mexico.

The Ministry Team seeks to maintain strong relationships with other faith partners in our role in advocating for immigrants. This past year we participated in the California Immigrant Lobby Day, and the national Ecumenical Advocacy Days. We maintain strong ties with and encourage congregations to keep communications with: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (www.lirs.org), The Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (www.icir.icg.org), La Frontera Ministries, Transformational World Opportunities (<http://web.mac.com/twobill>), and Survivors of Torture, International (www.notorture.org). You can reach the Ministry Team chairperson at 619-575-2845 for information, resources, and questions.

Respectfully Submitted, Bill Radatz, Chair

Youth and Family Leadership Development Ministry Team

The youth and family leadership development of the Pacifica Synod consists of three major areas:

- Networking of Youth Ministers
- Leadership training of Youth Ministers and Youth
- Consultations and Communications with congregations and Youth Ministers

Networking of Youth Ministers

There are four networks that meet monthly:

Orange County Network meets on the third Thursday at the Spaghetti Factory in Fullerton at Noon led by Pastor Judi Miller. This network coordinates a youth rally called “IT” which hosts almost 400 youth for a day with games, youth bands and worship.

North Network meets on Tuesday afternoons at 3:00pm at the Carrows in Banning led by Pastor Tony Scheer. This network went to the Western States Youth Gathering together. They also do a 30 hour famine together and many other trips and retreats.

Central Network led by Ron Stebenne meets on the second Wednesdays of the month at 11:30am at the IHOP in Escondido. They coordinate the Peer Ministry Training and have had regular worship times together in 2005.

South Network led by Blanche Holland meets at Noon on Thursdays at the Baker’s Square in LaMesa. The network has regular meetings called High T.I.D.E. which include worship experiences, service projects and fun outings.

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Leadership Training of Youth Ministers and Youth:

The Peer Ministry retreat was held in March. The "YMT" Youth Ministry Training and the "ITS" Invitation To Service are held every August for three days at CLU. The Extravaganza is a national Lutheran Youth Minister Training held in Orange County last year. There is also a middle school gathering which has training components.

Communication and Consultation:

Pastor Rick Schowalter sends e-mails out to over 90 youth ministers about the latest in resources and events for youth ministers several times each month. Many congregations use this list to post job openings for youth ministers. Pastor Schowalter is also available to meet with churches in consultation about their youth and family ministry needs.



Stewardship Development Ministry Team

Mission

To provide opportunities and events for Stewardship education and growth for the Congregations and individuals of the Pacifica Synod.

Responsibilities:

1. To encourage and equip each of the synod's congregations and their leadership to promote stewardship as a way of life.
2. Facilitate the practice of first fruits percentage giving of financial resources from individuals and congregations.
3. Facilitate a vision of stewardship that engages the resources of time, talent and spiritual gifts.
4. To provide training, interpretation, resources and support for stewardship leaders in congregations of the synod.
5. To develop and promote resources that allow congregations to embrace the overall mission of the Pacifica Synod and the ELCA.

Action Plan for 2005 - 2006:

- < Conduct StewardShops in an effort to define the resources available to congregation leaders and to encourage broad participation in the ministry of stewardship among our congregations.
- < Begin development of StewardShops for 2006 which focus on the year's church-wide Stewardship campaign. These will be provided to assist congregations with their annual campaign, and to help them to define year-around stewardship education in their congregations.
- < Continue to assimilate downloadable resource material on the Synod Web page to place needed tools and training at the fingertips of Stewardship Leaders throughout the Synod.
- < Encourage congregation stewardship leaders to contact the team or Synod for information and resources needed in their local programs.
- < With the assistance of Synod staff and leadership, conduct face-to-face consultation with the leaders of each congregation. Consultations will lift up the work and ministry of the greater church and challenge congregations to stretch their Mission Support giving to the Pacifica Synod/ELCA.

Congregation Action: Congregations/conferences should contact Tom Dudley to schedule StewardShops in your local area.

The Team: Jack Pavelich, Leader; Charon Schalge, Synod Mission Interpreter; Tom Dudley, Resource - Stewardship Consultant; Lyle Peterson, Resource - Pacifica Synod Staff