

Meeting Minutes Pacifica Synod AMMPARO 1.23.2021

Attendees:

Pastor Karla Halvorson, Pastor St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Deacon Roberta Wall, Pacifica Synod
Pastor Nate Allen, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Pastor Jim Friedrich, First Lutheran Church
Pastor Robert Waworuntu, Imanuel Indonesian
Jeff Jacobson, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Katrina Pimental, Survivors of Torture, International
Esmeralda Vences, Our Savior's Lutheran Church San Diego
Terri Robertson, Pacifica Synod
Linda Howard, Our Savior's Lutheran Church San Clemente
Susan Connors, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Donna Johnson, San Marcos Lutheran Church
Kaye Hambleton, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Alban
Nicolette Rohr, Pacifica Synod
Bob Petrin, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Opening Prayer

Jeff read the Draft Mission Statement for Pacifica Synod AMMPARO:

Pacifica Synod AMMPARO provides advocacy and support services for minors and their families who are asylees, refugees, and migrants seeking asylum regardless of country of origin. We seek to work with ELCA congregations and local and national agencies to assist migrant families in accessing services they may need during and after the hearing process, conducting fundraisers to assist families during transition, communicating emotional based support such as writing letters to migrants in detention centers, advocacy work with local and national organizations and supporting migrant shelters facilities in Mexico.

The goal is to have a final Mission Statement approved at the **February 2021** meeting. Comments are welcomed. This draft is different from last month as it includes comments from Su Connors and Kaye Hambleton. If you have comments please submit them before February's meeting.

Roberta has not heard back from ELCA regarding the AMMPARO Grant Application.

Jeff shared a link to LIRS website with a quiz on asylum seekers. <https://www.lirs.org/quiz-asylum>

Roberta asked the group to sign on and be part of a Home Team to sponsor a seven member Haitian family that recently located to San Diego. A Home Team plan was shared on screen that shows the structure for volunteers to follow. Training will be provided for team members. This will be Pacifica Synod AMMPARO focus for the next few months. It is recognized that due to COVID there may be limitations but we can work around some tasks while staying safe. If you are interested please contact Roberta to be a member of the Home Team

Alban shared his experience in arriving in the United States as an asylum seeker. He is documented and waiting for his next Immigration Court hearing.

Terri provided an update to Pacifica Synod AMMPARO Benevolence account for Madre de Asunta. Since the fund was established in early 2019 the Synod has donated \$25,600 to this Migrant Shelter in Tijuana. Originally the funds were used for teacher salaries and other education needs. Over time the funds have been used to purchase other supplies. This AMMPARO Fund is dedicated to Madre de Asunta. It will require Pacifica Synod AMMPARO to open and designate another fund to be used for other projects like sponsoring asylee families.

Katrina gave a brief summary of Survivors of Torture, International services. With the Biden Administration changes to Immigration Policies the local infrastructure will need to be reenergized. Vaccinations for detainees is still up in the air. Lots of procedural issues within the government.

Esmeralda provided the final numbers of the Tamale fundraiser. Total gross donations were \$7,458.14 with \$1,240.06 in expenses for a net of \$6,218.08. The funds will be used to offset an asylum seeking family's legal fees

Mark your calendars:

Next Planning meeting is scheduled for **February 23, 2021 at 1030**. All are welcome.

Next Pacifica Synod AMMPARO meeting is scheduled for **February 27, 2021 at 1000**. Please join as we learn and grow together in assisting our brothers and sisters.

Zoom links to both meetings will be sent later.

A message to all, it is very easy for our congregations to become an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation. Talk within your community to make it happen.

Helpful Links:

ELCA AMMPARO:

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO#ForSynodsAndCongregations>

Pacifica Synod AMMPARO:

<https://www.pacificasynod.org/about/ministry-teams/pacifica-synod-ammparo-network/>