

Meeting Minutes Pacifica Synod AMMPARO 2.27.2021

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 Sarah, St. Andrews Lutheran Church
Jeff Jacobson, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Kathi Anderson, Survivors of Torture, International
Terri Robertson, Pacifica Synod
Susan Connors, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Donna Johnson, San Marcos Lutheran Church
Kaye Hambleton, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Giovana Oaxaca, AMMPARO ELCA
Diana Coker, San Marcos Lutheran Church
Katrina Bruins, Jewish Family Services
Peggy Leimbach, St. Andrews Lutheran Church
Doris Payne, San Marcos Lutheran Church
Jim Erlichmann, St. Andrews Lutheran Church
Cynthia Jorstad, San Marcos Lutheran Church
Nancy Marlin, SOLACE
Jacqueline Hanson, Christ Lutheran Church
Cindy Page, St. Andrews Lutheran Church
Karla Strazicich, San Marcos Lutheran Church

Opening Prayer

Deacon Roberta shared housekeeping notes for the meeting including an announcement that the meeting is being recorded.

Jeff read Pacifica Synod AMMPARO Mission Statement:

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

Jeff introduced the panel of special guests.

Giovana Oaxaca, Program Director for Migration Policy for the Service and Justice Home Area of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Giovana spoke about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

Diana Coker, Partner with Larrabee Abi Coker LLP in San Diego. Diana spoke about Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP).

Katrina Bruins, Community & Volunteer Engagement Supervisor/ Shelter Program & Volunteer Coordinator, Jewish Family Services spoke about the Migrant Shelter and volunteer opportunities.

A recording of the entire meeting is available on the Pacifica Synod website.

Deacon Roberta shared the good news about two grants that have been received, Matthew 25 and AMMPARO grant. The funds will be used to support migrant families attending Lutheran camps, cover the cost for immersion trips to Tijuana shelters and to provide support to the Bridge Team for the Haitian Bridge Alliance family that recently located in San Diego.

Deacon Roberta described the Bridge Team duties that requires a small group of volunteers to help the Haitian family get acclimated to living in San Diego. If you are interested in volunteering for this important ministry please email Deacon Roberta soon.

Mark your calendars:

Planning Meeting March 23 10:30 am

Pacifica Synod AMMPARO Meeting March 27 at 10:00 am

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.

Closing Prayer

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/>

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

<https://www.lirs.org/>

