

## Meeting Minutes Pacifica Synod AMMPARO 4.24.2021

### Attendees:

Pastor Karla Halvorson, Pastor St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Deacon Roberta Wall, Pacifica Synod  
Pastor Sarah, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
Bill Radatz, Retired Pastor  
Bruce Potocki, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Cindy Page, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
Diane Anderson, Hope Lutheran Temecula  
Donna Johnson, San Marcos Lutheran Church  
Evy Baca, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Jeff Jacobson, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Kathi Anderson, Survivors of Torture International, St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
Linda Howard, Our Savior's Lutheran Church San Clemente  
Martha Radatz  
Mary Galvan, Madre de Asunta Shelter, Tijuana  
Mary Glauch, St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Nicole Newell, Lutheran Office of Public Policy, California  
Sally MacGuire, Bakersfield, CA  
Susan Connors, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Susan Osborn, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Terri Robertson, Pacifica Synod

### Opening Prayer

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

### 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.

**Pastor Karla introduced Mary Galvan, Administrator Madre de Asunta Shelter in Tijuana.**

**Evy Baca was our translator.**

Mary provided an update on the current status of the Shelter. There is 26 adult women and 42 children with ages ranging from infant to teenagers. They are not seeing many of their occupants being accepted into the United States.

They have a funding shortage for both the teacher and counselor. The children are suffering from trauma associated with the journey from their country of origin and being housed long term with no end in sight. Salary needs for both the teach and counselor are \$300 per month each, or \$600 per month.

**Nicole Newell** shared news on a bill that would provide emergency food access to include undocumented migrants and SB 64 that would modernize SNAP to include undocumented migrants. Please use this link if you want to participate in Lutheran Lobby Day, May 19, 2021.  
<https://lutheranpublicpolicyca.org/lobby-day-2021>

**Bill Radatz** provided an update with the unaccompanied minors that are being housed in the San Diego Convention Center operated by South Bay Community Services (SBCS). SBCS acknowledged the greatest need for the children is pastoral. These are the portals related to the Migrant Youth Shelter at the Convention Center.

1. The SBCS portal to sign up for any volunteer opportunities in the shelter. Everyone wishing to have access into the shelter must complete this application.

<https://app.betterimpact.com/Application?OrganizationGuid=8081b3f0-25d9-4eaf-b9c2-c274fb903869&ApplicationFormNumber=1>

2. The SBCS portal to donate needed items for the shelter. You do not need to have filled out the above application if you are just donating items. The site list the items needed and information about dropping things off.

<https://sbcssandiego.org/gifts-in-kind/>

3. To volunteer in the particular spiritual focus for care of the youth through a program we are calling SAILS, you need to complete and submit this form:

<https://airtable.com/shrJAMnIFZgYfpY00>

**Deacon Roberta** provided an update with the Alerte family. This is the Haitian family that was located in San Diego. San Marcos and St. Andrews Endowment fund have donated funds to assist the family. Provided rent for April and source of food. Team training will be held Monday 26 for the volunteers. Children need to get vaccinations and enrolled in school.

**Jeff** provided an update with the San Diego Rapid Response Network Migrant Shelter. The shelter has assisted over 6,000 migrants since reopening in mid-February. The migrants are housed in several hotels until they clear COVID protocols and then transportation is arranged so

they can either fly or bus to their sponsor's home. If you are interested in volunteering at the shelter please use the link below.

<https://jfssd.galaxydigital.com/user/register/>

Kathy Anderson, Survivors of Torture provided links to assist families and children that are living below poverty levels. See links below under **California Lifeline**.

### **Mark your calendars:**

Planning Meeting May 18 10:30 am

Pacifica Synod AMMPARO Meeting May 22 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.

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

### **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/>

Survivors of Torture, International

<https://notorture.org/>

### **California Lifeline (Phone/Internet Discounts)**

**Website Link:** <https://www.californialifeline.com/en> and

**Phone:** 1-866-272-0349 (English), 1-866-272-0350 (Spanish), 1-866-272-0356 (Mandarin/Cantonese)

**Svc area:** California

**Eligibility:** Must qualify for public assistance programs or be below 135% of federal poverty guidelines (provide copy of paystub or tax return) More information, visit:  
<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=2752#qualify>

**Description:** Financial Help towards cell-phone, home phone, and internet service for low-income persons. Apply online at the site below. If you have questions about your application, or would like an application mailed to you, please email [LifelineSupport@usac.org](mailto:LifelineSupport@usac.org)

How to Apply (flyer):

<https://www.lifelinesupport.org/wp-content/uploads/lifeline/documents/How-to-Apply.pdf>