



EXTRAORDINARY
LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES

the • mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

ELM Grants 2011

ELM is making ministry happen. Since 1995, we've given away grants each year to support ministry by LGBTQ Lutheran rostered leaders. Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, ELM will give away \$62,000 in 2011. The following article is a glimpse of your support in action.

Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (IAM) - South Africa: \$8,000

Rev. Pieter Oberholzer

Inclusive & Affirming Ministries (IAM) has a vision of Southern African religious communities that are welcoming and affirming, where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people can participate fully and be strengthened in their spiritual, psychological and sexual identity as human beings. This year's grant will cover the cost of the trainer/supervisor for IAM regional outreach, Rev. Ecclesia de Lange.

Hollywood Lutheran Church - Los Angeles, CA: \$18,000

Rev. Dan Hooper

Rev. Dan Hooper has been doing ministry work in the Hollywood area for a number of years at Hollywood Lutheran Church. Pastor Dan has launched the 'Heart of Hollywood', which provides pastoral work with prisoners, parolees and people in recovery from multiple addictions. This program seeks to serve disaffected LGBT people, indigent people in the community, the homeless, and marginally housed unemployed, mentally ill, parolees and inmates who are referred to them. This ELM grant will provide funds for mental health, case management and drug/alcohol professionals to work with the community.

EcoFaith Recovery - Portland, OR: \$15,000

Rev. Robyn Hartwig

EcoFaith Recovery was founded with an ELM grant, and this is the second year ELM has supported the project. EcoFaith Recovery arises out of the Lutheran Christian tradition in the Pacific Northwest to develop and support processes of spiritual recovery from the addictive patterns of human life that are contributing to the climate crisis, heightening social injustices, depriving people of spiritual meaning, and threatening life on earth. This year's grant helps pay for the operational costs of EcoFaith Recovery.



Rev. Robyn Hartwig of EcoFaith Recovery

Read more about ELM's expanding vision at
www.elm.org



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MISSION

*expanding ministry opportunities
for publicly-identified LGBTQ
Lutheran rostered leaders who are
changing the church and society
through their ministry*

St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square - Chicago, IL: \$6,000

Rev. Erik Christensen

This year's ELM grant will continue to support the redevelopment of this congregation as it moves toward self-sufficiency. St. Luke's is working to foster a community of active, dynamic, passionate spirituality and curious, imaginative, engaged theological reflection. St. Luke's supports this community with expanded Christian education opportunities across the lifespan and continues to create meaningful opportunities for members and friends to deepen their relationships with God and each other, and to grow in faith. A fourth year of grant funding from ELM will be applied against the projected operating deficit for 2010 and to support Pastor Erik's salary.

Grace Lutheran Church - Houston TX: \$15,000

Rev. Lura Groen

Grace Lutheran Church is another congregation in redevelopment. Grace has recently launched Montrose Grace Place. Grace Place provides a safe, welcoming environment for vulnerable homeless youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities. In June, Grace Place opened its doors to the homeless youth (13-21 years old) in the Montrose neighborhood. Grace Place provides referrals, clothing, and hygiene products, and family style meal once a week. Another major project at Grace Lutheran Church has been to re-vamp the Christian Education program and adding Children's Sunday school. The 2011 ELM Grant will assist with Pastor Lura's salary.

In Memory of Paul Egertson, Bishop and Friend

We remember with gratitude and thanksgiving the life of Paul W. Egertson, former ELCA bishop, who passed away on January 5, 2011. Paul was a beloved advocate for the inclusion of LGBTQ people and was serving on the ELM Board of Directors at the time of his death. Paul was tireless in his advocacy for LGBTQ people. Notably, he presided at the 2001 extraordinary ordination of Rev. Anita Hill. He was the only sitting ELCA bishop ever to do so. We continue to remember in our prayers Paul's beloved spouse, Shirley Egertson. We also remember their son, Greg Egertson; a founding member of our movement, as well as Paul and Shirley's other sons and extended family.

Volunteer Recognition

ELM's restructuring means we are saying goodbye to some long-term and notable volunteer positions. We thank all of those who have been central to ELM's growth over the years. In particular we wish to recognize the significant contributions of two non-board volunteer positions. Rev. Megan Rohrer has been involved with extraordinary candidacy since 2005, serving as Director of Candidacy beginning in 2007. As part of her tenure, Megan created a process for dual candidacy and worked with Gary Pence and the ECP board to create a candidacy manual, and a parallel processes for certifying chaplains and deacons. This work greatly helped the ELCA understand ELM candidacy and accept ELM roster members. Rev. Michael Wilker has served as Call Process Coordinator for ELM since 2008. In that role, he worked with congregations who were considering or actively calling pastors from the ELM roster. These two volunteer leaders played instrumental roles in the work of ELM to expand calls for LGBTQ rostered leaders. We'll highlight the work of the Extraordinary Candidacy panels in a future newsletter.

Vision into Action

In our last newsletter we told you about ELM's expanding vision. The ELM Board of Directors has made some changes in the organizational structure to reflect the strategic planning we began in September. We want to keep our supporters informed of these changes, and we invite your feedback. It is a very exciting time as we explore new ways to support publicly-identified LGBTQ rostered leaders in the changed Lutheran landscape!

We have renamed the ELM governing body the Board of Directors (it was previously called the Covenant Circle). There are twelve members of the ELM board, four of which are officers : Co-chairs , Secretary, and Treasurer. We established three ELM programs: Grants, Candidacy Accompaniment, and Proclaim. The Grants program will continue our important work of funding ministry by publicly-identified LGBTQ rostered leaders and seminarians. The Candidacy Accompaniment program will create a network of support and accompaniment for publicly-identified LGBTQ people who are going through Lutheran candidacy. The third program is Proclaim, the professional community for publicly identified LGBTQ Lutheran clergy and rostered lay leaders.

Proclaim is not a "new name" for the ELM roster, but a new community. Proclaim is for those rostered leaders whose sexual orientation or gender identity is a public part of their work to change the church and transform society to be fully inclusive of all people. The ELM roster will continue only for those who need credentialing from ELM or who are in transition to another roster.

April 1-3 ELM will host the first Proclaim gathering for a time of renewal, community building, and professional development. Over 50 people are registered for this exciting event. The guest presenter is Lisa Larges, director of That All May Freely Serve.

In addition, the Board established four committees: Inclusion, Board Recruitment, Development, and Professional Oversight. Each program and committee has a working group made up of board members and other volunteers. This work is the result of your support and we all say: THANK YOU. 🍌

ELCA Gains a Congregation: St. Francis Lutheran Church

On Sunday, February 27, the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA hosted a service of reception for St. Francis Lutheran Church. This is the congregation that, along with First United Lutheran Church, stood up years ago to injustice and spiritual violence in the church when they called lesbian pastors Ruth Frost and Phyllis Zillhart and gay pastor Jeff Johnson, despite a policy barring them from doing so. These congregations issued these calls because they were in the midst of an AIDS crisis and needed the LGBT community to know how truly welcome they were. They issued these calls because they knew that the policy barring partnered lesbian and gay pastors from serving was unjust. The actions of these congregations led to the work now known as Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries.

After a period of conversation and discernment and following an invitation from Sierra Pacific Synod, St. Francis Lutheran Church voted unanimously to once again join the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

At the beginning of a powerful service, Bishop Mark W. Holmerud knocked on the door of the church and was received by the current congregational president and the president serving at the time of St. Francis' expulsion. You can read more about the service and listen online to the sermon by visiting the ELM blog (at www.elm.org) 🍌



St. Francis service procession

ELM has launched a redesigned website!

Please visit www.elm.org to see what's new. We give thanks to Christopher Long, Daniel Stout, and longtime website volunteers Erik Stevens and Brian Knittel who assisted with the redesign process.

Prophets & Workers Update:

ELM's capacity campaign is underway! You will soon receive a mailing with more information. Stay tuned!

IRA Charitable Rollover Provision Extended

Late in 2010, the IRA Charitable Rollover provision was extended through December 31, 2011. This allows donors 70-1/2 years or older to distribute from their traditional or Roth IRA to a public charity up to \$100,000 a year without the distribution being included in taxable income. The distribution counts toward the donor's mandatory withdrawal amount. Your gift can be designated for ELM or could be made to the Lutheran Community Foundation, designated for the ELM Endowment Fund. For more information, please contact your financial planner or Amalia at 563-382-6277.

ELM Receives Grant from the Chapel

ELM has received a grant from the Endowment Fund of University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley to develop artwork/logo for Proclaim. The members of the Endowment Committee wrote, "In making this grant the Chapel reaffirms its long-standing commitment to ELM. We are excited about the steps you are taking to build an even stronger justice-centered community for the future. We are honored to be associated with ELM and with this new project, Proclaim." ELM is so grateful for this generous grant from the Endowment Fund of University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley and for the Chapel's ongoing commitment to ELM's mission and ministry.

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