



EXTRAORDINARY
LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES

the mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

ELM Donors Support Innovative Ministry

You and other ELM donors are helping support seven ministries through ELM Ministry Grants this year. Here is a quick look at the work you are supporting:

MISSION START: Spirit of Hope, Detroit, MI: Rev. Matthew Bode: \$5,000

Rev. Matthew Bode will be expanding his duties from being the sole pastor at Spirit of Hope to being part of a team supporting five Detroit Lutheran churches. This will be a new multi-congregation parish. Spirit of Hope and its new partner congregations serve a diverse community across Detroit.



You support ministry like this urban farm project at Spirit of Hope.

COUPLES ENRICHMENT: Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Fairview, NC: Rev. David Eck: \$2,000

This project grant will provide the starting money for LGBTQ Couples enrichment retreats. The program will offer 2 one-day retreats in 2013. The retreats will allow LGBTQ couples to come together for worship, Bible study, fellowship and relationship building. Rev. David Eck will lead portions of the retreat and it will serve couples in the Asheville, NC area.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Open Doors, Sparks, NV: Rev. Paul Gibson: \$2,000.

This grant provides assistance to creating Open Doors, a drop-in center for LGBTQ youth and young adults. The drop in center will be located at Lord of Mercy Lutheran Church in Sparks, Nevada. The drop-in center will create a positive impact in the LGBTQ youth community and provide a space for spiritual and individual growth.



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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*

ELM Announces New Program: Ministry Engagement

There is a clear need in the ELCA for more calls that are open to LGBTQ people. There is a clear gift when we have more LGBTQ-led ministries. ELM is launching a new program called Ministry Engagement to address a growing need for calls and to highlight the gifts of LGBTQ-led ministries.

When the Lutheran church changed its ministry policies in 2009, ELM began to transform our programs to fit the new landscape. In 2010, we transformed our candidacy program to create Candidacy Accompaniment. In the Spring of 2010, we launched Proclaim, the professional community for Lutheran rostered

leaders and seminarians who publicly identify as LGBTQ. Our next step is to transform ministry grants in order to create Ministry Engagement.

There is a working group developing the vision and plan for this new program, but the photo to the right gives an idea of the Board's initial brainstorming. We see Ministry Engagement

focusing on at least the following key areas: identifying ministry and internship sites open to LGBTQ people; creating resources for current and prospective LGBTQ-led ministry sites; and connecting LGBTQ-led ministries. We're excited to see where this leads!



THANK YOU!

As part of this shift from Ministry Grants to Ministry Engagement, we say a huge thank you to those who have served on the ELM Ministry grants team in recent years: Bonny Vaught, Randy Presuhn, Gene Lewis, Mary Hunter, Kathy Yandell, Charlie Horn, Donn Rosenauer, and Fred Wolfe. We could not have done this work at all without the vision and leadership of Margaret Moreland, who has overseen this program for the past several years. Margaret will be part of the team helping develop the Ministry Engagement Program.

Continued Mission Grants for 2013

YOUTH MINISTRY: East Bay Lutheran Youth Program, Oakland, CA: Rev. Craig Minich; \$1,000

The East Bay Lutheran Youth Program (EBLYP) is a joint youth ministry program made up of four congregations. The program ministers to a great diversity of ethnicity, sexual orientation, economic realities, and family make-up. This grant will support the program by ensuring Craig can continue working in a much needed full time capacity.

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY: EcoFaith Recovery, Portland, OR: Rev. Robyn Hartwig: \$4,500

This grant funds the continued development of EcoFaith Recovery as a ministry of Lutherans and ecumenical partners based in the Portland, OR metropolitan area. With this grant EcoFaith Recovery will offer additional leadership training, implement an expanded communication plan, and develop a three-year funding strategy so it can continue to welcome people of faith into recovery from unsustainable ways of life and into the kind of life-giving alternatives our faith calls us to pursue.

PARISH MINISTRY: Grace Lutheran Church, Houston, TX: Rev. Lura Groen: \$2,500

ELM donors have been supporting Grace Lutheran Church since 2008. This grant will allow Grace to focus on growth rather than survival. Grace works on a number of justice ministries such as micro financing, AIDS walks, and supporting the local food pantry.

POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS MINISTRY: Welcome: Rev. Megan Rohrer: \$1,000

Over the years, grant support from ELM has enabled the Welcome Ministry to take their ministry to the next level. This grant will enable Welcome to work with Lutheran congregations across the country respond to poverty & homelessness in their communities. Rev. Megan Rohrer will be working with the ELCA Domestic Hunger Program to create best practices for congregations responding to poverty.

FUTURE LEADERS: We will be providing up to \$12,000 in funding for congregations hosting Proclaim seminary interns during the 2013-2014 year.

Total grants joyfully given: \$30,000

Thank You Carpenter Foundation!

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation is providing continued major support for Proclaim in 2013. Their support has been utterly transformational as Proclaim has grown from around 80 members at this time last year to 125 this month. Thanks to the Carpenter Foundation for their continued support.



Proclaim Updates

Proclaim is growing - there are now 125 people! The fastest growing group within Proclaim is seminarians. Proclaim seminary representatives have been working with Randy Nelson on the development of the candidacy accompaniment program offered by ELM.

Rev. Jeanine Reardon ordained on April 6 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Evanston, IL.

Matthew James called as associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, MA. Amen!

Jim Bischoff installed as Associate Pastor at Gethsemane Lutheran church in Indianapolis & reinstated to the ELCA clergy roster.

Several in Proclaim were assigned for call - some after waiting over a year for this part of the process.

Rev. Mark Allred new Program Director for American Indian & Alaska Native Ministries at ELCA.

Proclaim chaplains have been video chatting with Proclaim members awaiting call.

BY THE NUMBERS

People in Proclaim: 125
Serving in a call: 53
Seminarians: 42
Awaiting call: 23
Retired/Other: 7

Giving thanks for Jen Nagel

We give our thanks to the Rev. Jen Nagel, who recently finished her term as Co-Chair of ELM. Jen provided tremendous vision and thoughtful leadership during her time as Co-Chair and as a board member. Pastor Jen began serving Salem English Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN in 2003 and was extraordinarily ordained in January of 2008. She was received onto the ELCA Clergy Roster in 2010. Jen was instrumental during the implementation of the 2009 ELCA Ministry Policy changes and in helping to shape the future of ELM.

You can send a note of thanks to Jen via Amalia (Director@elm.org) and we will forward it to her.

ELM Welcomes New Board Co-Chair and New Board Members

- Pastor Julie Boleyn has been serving on the ELM Board of Directors since 2011. We welcome her into the role of Co-Chair.

Julie had this to say about her new role, “ELM has such an important role advocating for the ministry of LGBTQ pastors and rostered lay leaders. I am thrilled and humbled to take on this role of leadership, as we together hope for a church that more fully reflects God’s abundant and creative spirit.”

Originally from Oregon, Julie is the pastor of Unity Lutheran Church in Berwyn, IL. She has worked as the Proclaim retreat planner for the current Proclaim retreat and past two. She lives in Berwyn with her partner, the Rev. Jeanine Reardon and their daughter.



Pastor Elise Brown



Asher O'Callaghan

- Pastor Elise Brown was born and raised in Urbandale, Iowa. Elise studied at Union Theological Seminary & Lutheran Seminary in Chicago. She currently is the pastor at Advent Lutheran Church in New York City. Elise enjoys reading, and, if time and resource allows, throwing clay on a potter’s wheel. Most of all, she enjoys travel with trips to Peru, Ecuador and India.
- Asher O’Callaghan came to the Lutheran church via House For All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado. Asher is currently studying at Luther Seminary. Asher has a focus on service to others through mission work, caring for those with mental health concerns, and making personal witness as a person who found Christ anew in Lutheran liturgy and theology.

Every dollar helps. Thank you for sending in a gift or making a gift online today at www.elm.org