



EXTRAORDINARY
LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES

the • mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

The Big One

Three years after the ELCA voted to change their ministry policies in order to allow partnered gay and lesbian people to serve as rostered leaders, we are starting to see the full impact of the decisions... and it feels like a big wave coming on.

Right now, 10 pastors are eager to serve, but unable to find a congregation that will call them. Next fall, 20-30 out seminarians will be looking for an internship congregation.

There are pastors who want to become public about their sexual orientation or gender identity, but not sure if their congregation will embrace them—or ask them to leave.

There are new students at our Lutheran schools wondering if they're the only gay person in their class.

In short, there are many fully qualified lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer-identified pastors and seminarians ready to serve the church, but the church is not yet ready for them.

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries is determined to support these faith leaders and the ministries that call them.

Through **Proclaim**, we provide community, resources, and networking for these pastors and seminarians. This year, you've helped leaders like Pastor Caleb Crainer, who writes,

"I give credit to Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and Proclaim for my eventual ordination for several reasons. The support and love that I found in this community, along with the sage wisdom from other leaders helped me navigate the various processes."



Photo by M. Klingensmith.



2649 N. Francisco Ave.
Chicago, IL
60647
www.elm.org
info@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*

ELM's **Candidacy Accompaniment** program provides vital guidance, resources and support for those in Lutheran candidacy. We're currently working with over 40 candidates for ministry, like Joe Graumann, who sent me this note,

"Without the work of ELM, my education - let alone my participation in the Fund for Leaders program - would not be possible...Because of ELM's work, I have found a welcome place both at Gettysburg and in the wider church."

Our **Ministry Grants** program provides funding for congregations and ministries - making it possible for them to support calls and internships for pastors and seminarians.

One of this year's grant recipients is Grace Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas where Pastor Lura Groen serves. Lura shared this good news with us:

"Perhaps most exciting for our small urban congregation has been the influx of young people in the last few months, many of whom come from religious traditions that have rejected them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. For the first time in years we have a young adult Bible study, started because our new members asked for it."

Your support of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries makes all of this work possible.

Resources for ELCA Candidacy Committees

This fall, ELM Candidacy Accompaniment program chair, Randy Nelson and Executive Director Amalia Vagts have been meeting with ELCA Churchwide staff to explore ways that ELM can be a resource to those in the ELCA working with LGBTQ candidates for ministry. We're glad to announce the ELCA has provided us with a grant to develop resources materials for ELCA synodical and Churchwide staff and volunteers based on our history of working with LGBTQ candidates for ministry and the direct experiences of the Proclaim community. Stay tuned to learn more about these resources in 2013!

ELM Worship Banners

Thanks to generous ELM donors we now have silk worship banners for celebration events such as Proclaim members ordinations, installations and reinstatements. The banners were made possible by special gifts from Bonny and John Vaught, Erik Stevens, the Revs. Jen Nagel & Jane McBride, Jerry & Val Vagts, David Lester & Amalia Vagts, and other friends from Holden Village. The banners were handmade by Kristen Gilje, the former long-time Holden Village Resident Artist. You can read the process and see photographs by visiting Kristen's blog here: www.kristengilje.com/



SAVE THE DATE:



PROCLAIM

2013 Proclaim Retreat
April 12-15, 2013

The Bishop's Ranch
Sonoma, California



A weekend of retreat and learning for Lutheran rostered leaders, seminarians, and candidates who publicly identify as LGBTQ.

You are worth this time. Commit to this weekend away for nourishment and renewal.

"strengthened and renewed"



"an amazing weekend"



"a much needed oasis"



"perfect and essential"



"much needed source of community and support"



Learn more: www.elm.org/retreat info@elm.org



PROCLAIM

Proclaim Updates

Kyle Severson- recommended for endorsement.

Carolina Glauster- recommended for endorsement.

Paul Johnson - recommended for endorsement.

Rev. Darin Easler- Chaplain at Fairview Ridges Hospital in Burnsville, MN.

Rev. John Roberts- Reinstated and installed to Chicago Metro Synod on November 18, 2012.

Rev. Caleb Crainer- Installed at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in west Los Angeles, CA. on November 17, 2012.

Proclaim retreat

The 3rd annual Proclaim retreat is just months away! This year's retreat, "Wade in the Water" will be at The Bishop's Ranch in gorgeous Sonoma County, CA: April 12-15, 2013.

Our featured keynote is Bishop Yvette Flunder. Bishop Flunder is the founder and pastor of The City of Refuge UCC in San Francisco, CA. City of Refuge is a thriving inner-city congregation that celebrates the radically inclusive love of Jesus Christ. In June 2003 Bishop Flunder was consecrated Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship, a multi-denominational fellowship of 110 primarily African American Christian leaders and laity representing 56 churches and faith-based organizations from all parts of the United States Mexico and Africa.

The Proclaim retreat is a gathering of publicly identified LGBTQ rostered leaders and seminarians for a time of renewal, community building, and professional development. While registration fees cover most of the costs of the retreat, additional support for scholarships comes from ELM donors. Thanks to your support for the 2012 retreat we were able to offer 22 scholarships to pastors and seminarians which covered their registration fee. You can learn more about the retreat here: www.elm.org/retreat

You can provide a full scholarship with your gift of \$375. If you are interested in learning more about sponsoring an attendee, contact Amalia at Director@elm.org.

Please remember all of the Proclaim community in your prayers. We love to share good news about Proclaim leaders being ordained, finding calls, and doing great ministry. There are also Proclaim members facing challenges. Your gifts to ELM help us support seminarians looking for internship, rostered leaders looking for calls, and others facing various kinds of hardship.

Please send a check or give online today to support these wonderful pastors and leaders who are working for a justice-based and inclusive church! Your contribution of any amount will be used to support these leaders.

Embracing the Wave

We couldn't do any of this without you. Our funding comes from individuals and congregations who care about these faith leaders. You and other individuals provide the prayer, outreach and financial support that keep these programs going.

With your help, we can "catch" this wave towards a new day in our church. So, please, use the enclosed envelope to send in a contribution – or open your computer and make a secure gift through our website, www.elm.org.

Despite the great advances the ELCA has made in recent years, there's still so much work to do. Together, we can ensure that all are free to serve God according to their spiritual gifts.

In partnership,



Photo by Amalia Vagts

2013 Ministry Grants Announced!

ELM is excited to announce the 2013 Mission Grants recipients. Our Spring 2013 Mission will give an in-depth look into these ministries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FUTURE LEADERS: 2013 Interns: \$12,000

Total grants joyfully given: \$30,000

Learn more at www.elm.org/grants.

Give online today at www.elm.org

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