



MISSION COUNCIL MEETING

Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW Airport, Irving
April 26-27, 2012

Our Partnership: The first guest, **the Rev. Harold McMillan**, who helped coordinate the Hay Lift from his congregation in Iowa to congregations in Alvarado, Avoca, Bastrop, Clifton, Doss, Houston and Miles and other areas, spoke of the fact that in all 48 truck-loads of hay, valued at \$250,000 (including transportation costs), were sent to Texas. The second guest, **the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla**, Executive Director of the ELCA's Global Mission Unit, talked about our shared call to be in mission in the midst of challenging times. The third guest, **Bishop Tom Barnett** of the ELCSL, gave thanks for the partnership our two church bodies share, for the on-going construction of the Jubilee Centre, and for the ministry of Pastor Kate Warn.

Information: The Council heard (1) that the Design & Development Team for Briarwood will be contracting with engineers to create a water drainage plan for the campus; (2) that the Executive Committee approved a three-month sabbatical for Irma Bañales from May 14 to August 18, 2012; (3) that last year's financial summary shows that the NT-NL ended the year up \$7,000 – congregational support did decline but the office was able to hold expenses low and the NT-NL did receive a few extra gifts that made the difference; (4) that, as a result, no changes have been made to the 2012 Spending Plan or the 2013 Mission Strategy – even though giving so far in 2012 is behind expectations; (5) that the “synod” is alive and active in an amazing variety of ways as enumerated in the Bishop's Report to the assembly; (6) that one-fourth of our congregations have not turned in their Parochial Report; (7) that only 32% of NT-NL Portico plan members in the NT-NL have completed the Health Assessment survey; (8) that we have received a \$10,000 grant to participate in the Macedonia Project which grows stewardship in the church; (9) that we remember to say thank-you to the people who are giving to support ministry; (10) that we have many Latino leaders involved in the Parish Lay Mission Academy, or serving as Synodically Authorized Worship Leaders, or ready to enter the TEEM seminary program; (11) that everything is in place to engage the Bishop Election process; and (12) that giving to MEF has increased in the past year.

Actions: The Mission Council (1) approved the Mayborn Convention Center in Temple, Texas, as the site for the 2013 Mission Assembly on April 26-28, 2013 – Pr. Pat Dietrich will serve as chairperson of the planning team; (2) approved motions regarding Grace, Ennis, and Our Saviour, Tyler, to release them from the NT-NL Synod, with regret, noting that this release does not affect any financial obligations that exist between the congregations and the ELCA and synod; (3) approved a motion in support of the ELCA's Malaria Initiative; (4) approved the list of members of the Assembly Standing Committees; (5) adopted the revised Proposed Agenda dated 4/3/12; (6) approved the retirements and on leave requests from several rostered leaders; (7) approved a Letter of Call for Pr. Phil Geleske as Executive Director of Briarwood Lutheran Ministries; (8) approved Timothe Mast, Jean Irwin, and Dan Wittington to serve on the Audit Committee; and (9) approved the constitution of Immanuel, Killeen.

The NT-NL Mission Council is a group of leaders from across the Mission Territory elected by the NT-NL Assembly to carry on the work of the NT-NL in between assemblies. They are charged with the tasks of caring for our present ministries, planning for the future mission work, and connecting congregations, leaders and conferences to each other and to the mission we share.