



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
!SAMARIA!

Course Offerings

April 26, 2014



# Welcome to the University of ¡Samaria!

**P**repare to meet new neighbors and be challenged by the University of ¡Samaria!, a special feature of the 2014 NTNL Mission Assembly. The 48 sessions and three excursions will introduce you to some of the people and get acquainted with some of the issues that are the ¡Samaria! of our day.

Here you will find everything you need to know to make the most of your experience at the University of ¡Samaria! Use this information to plan your university day. Acquaint yourself with the topics and speakers, and get ready for an amazing Saturday.

## What you need to know

Have questions about the schedule or locations? Visit the University of ¡Samaria! desk next to Mission Assembly registration.

## Cost

If you are registered for the Mission Assembly, there is no extra charge for the University of ¡Samaria! If you are coming just for the day, the \$35 fee includes lunch. You are encouraged to pre-register at [www.ntnl.org](http://www.ntnl.org).

## How to use this booklet

Each University of ¡Samaria! session has a course number, e.g. **US110**. This number points you to the course description and presenter in these pages, and to the time and location on the chart at pages 6 and 7. A map of the hotel conference rooms is on page 13.

## If you are an educator

Check in at the “Region 10” desk if you are a teacher or administrator. Attendance at the University of ¡Samaria! can provide CEU credit. Plan to attend Jose Huerta’s keynote speech and all three University of ¡Samaria! sessions on “Restorative Justice in Education” (course numbers US110, US210 and US315).

## Excursions

Three off-site Excursions are available, detailed on page 12. Space is limited. If you want go on an Excursion, you should pick up a ticket at the University of ¡Samaria! desk beginning at 8:00 a.m. Saturday - first come, first served.

## Courageous Conversations Around Institutional Racism

Participants in Joyce James’ sessions on institutional racism should plan to attend all three classes in sequence.

## Translation to Spanish

University of ¡Samaria! sessions in the Main Ballroom will be translated to Spanish (sessions US110, US210, US310, and US410).

## Prayer and Talk-Back – “I Respectfully Agree or Disagree”

Five opportunities will be provided at 5:00 for talk-back conversations with a pastor or for quiet meditation and prayer on the issues you have encountered. In this way we can help each other process the questions and feelings generated by the intensity of the day. Rooms on the mezzanine level will be labeled for reflection, with one quiet room set aside.

### Pastoral leaders:

The Rev. Jesus Escamilla, San Gabriel Lutheran Church, Alvarado

The Rev. Clayton McCord, VNA Hospice

The Rev. Willard McKiver, Jr., St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Hurst

The Rev. Vicki Taylor, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Glenn Heights





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**US110. Restorative Justice in Education:  
Changing the Culture**

How did a high school principal get his staff and peers, as well as the parents and community, to go along with the idea of re-thinking the policy of suspending students?



**Presenter: Jose Huerta**

Mr. Huerta is the principal at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles. Huerta's policy eliminating suspension of students has gained the attention of everyone interested in education reform. In 2008-2009, 640 students were suspended at Garfield. Two years later that figure had dropped to one suspension. Keeping kids in school rather than sending them home and expelling them is literally saving lives. It gives kids hope for experiencing success and keeps them out of the infamous "pipeline to prison." The graduation rate has jumped from 62 percent in 2011 to 85 percent in 2013.

**US115. Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria de Guadalupe:  
A People's Church**

Santa Maria, under the leadership of the Rev. Pedro Portillo, has the largest weekly worship attendance of any congregation in the NTNL mission territory. Learn about this congregation's unique ministry in its Irving community, especially among the undocumented and those with immigration difficulties. Hear the stories of the lives of those whose problems the church's ministries seek to address.

**Presenter: The Rev. Pedro Portillo of Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria de Guadalupe, with help from congregational and community leaders.**

**US120. Courageous Conversations Around Institutional  
Racism: Turning the Mirror Inward, part 1 of 3  
(three consecutive one-hour segments)**

This sequence of sessions presents a unique opportunity to analyze the structures and relationships, systems and institutions that contribute to racial inequities. We will experience facilitated dialogue and reflection. Participants will examine the historical context in which U.S. institutions were created and the people they were designed to serve. In three sessions we will journey toward understanding institutionalized racism as the underlying

cause of racial inequity and recognizing systems transformation as the cure.



**Presenter: Joyce James**

Ms. James is a racial equity consultant. She has received awards for leadership, advocacy, and willingness to speak out on issues impacting the most vulnerable populations. James began her 33-year professional career with Child Protective Services. She served as the Texas Child Welfare Director and as the Deputy Commissioner for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). James was the Associate Deputy Executive Commissioner for the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities and the Texas State Office of Minority Health at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). She is the author of *Racial Disproportionality and Disparities: Multi-Systemic Approaches*.

**US125. Worshipping Outside the Lines:  
Church in a Pub**

Kyrie - Pub Church worships every Sunday night at Zio Carlo Magnolia Brew Pub in Fort Worth while the pub is open to the public. We've started a Pub Church in Alliance, Ohio and have plans for two more in the DFW area. Come hear how we started and how you might do the same thing in your area of the mission territory.

**Presenters: The Rev. Phil Heinze, the Rev. Erik Gronberg**



Pastor Phil Heinze has been a pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Richland Hills for 23 years. He has served on numerous boards and councils of the NTNL and is an instructor in the Parish Lay Academy. He enjoys cooking gourmet meals, writing songs and riding his Arabian mare, Seraphina.



Pastor Erik Gronberg has been personally involved in Kyrie - Pub Church since its beginning in May 2011 in downtown Fort Worth. His congregation, Trinity-FW, has supported the ministry since then as well, contributing time, people and leadership. Erik believes in the importance of this public worship experience as it both invites and challenges the church and the community to rethink the concepts of sacred and secular space.

### **US130. Dallas Area Interfaith: Living Our Faith in the Public Arena**

Why should the church and Christians be involved with social justice in our society? King of Glory Lutheran Church is a charter member of Dallas Area Interfaith (DAI). DAI is a non-partisan, multi-ethnic, multi-issue group of religious congregations and schools in Dallas and Collin Counties. DAI is about teaching people democracy using social justice issues as the vehicle for training. DAI is about people: developing their innate skills and ability to work with each other to identify common problems, to find or create workable solutions, and to work together to implement systemic changes within society to achieve the common good. Areas of social justice that DAI has been instrumental in bringing changes to our society will be discussed.

***Presenter: Myron Knudson***

Myron is a professional engineer with 50 years experience protecting the environment. His last agency was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Now retired, he is a member of King of Glory Lutheran Church, Dallas, Texas. He works on social-justice issues through Dallas Area Interfaith and the Texas Ramp Project.

### **US135. Women and Justice: One in Christ Justice for Women Social Statement Listening Event**

A listening event is an opportunity to hear insights and concerns on issues of women and justice in church and society from ELCA members. Your input is essential in ensuring that the social statement being developed addresses issues that members find most pressing. In keeping with the goal of an extensive, inclusive, and accepted process of deliberation throughout this church, the ELCA Task Force on Women & Justice: One in Christ has created various study documents to help members of the ELCA study and think about the issues related to women and justice. In addition, all are invited to participate in Listening Events designed to hear from members of the ELCA regarding their insights and concerns around the issues of women and justice in church and society. These events provide early feedback for the task force to hear about hopes, fears, and expectations for the social statement that the task force will develop.

***Presenter: Sarah Skinner***

Sarah Skinner is a member of Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church in Arlington, Texas. She is a Process Builder for the ELCA's Women and Justice: One in Christ social statement.

### **US140. Peace Not Walls: The Three A's Awareness, Accompaniment, Advocacy For Justice in Palestine and Israel**

Tammie Danielsen will present her experience with ELCA/PNW and the three A's (awareness, advocacy and accompaniment). Her examples come from working on justice issues pertaining to the work of the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and affiliated organizations. She will share her experience as an Ecumenical Accompanier in Israel and Palestine as an example of one type of accompaniment the ELCA supports. She will also discuss the awareness and advocacy efforts she has done and continues to do in her home community. Tammie will also share opportunities for those who wish to become more involved in peace and justice efforts.

***Presenter: Tammie Danielsen***

Tammie is a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Austin. She began her advocacy journey in 2005 after a trip to the Holy Land. In 2006 Tammie helped organize and host the Al Raja dance troupe from the Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah. She has since served on the SW Texas PNW Task Force promoting awareness about the situation in the Holy Land and the work of the ELCJHL. In 2011 Tammie participated in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program of Palestine and Israel where she learned the true sense of accompaniment and returned to promote awareness and advocacy in her home community.

### **US145. Better Neighbors: Advocacy and the Story of Community**

Loving our neighbors as ourselves means advocating for policies that promote the wellbeing of all God's children. In 2014, politics seem overwhelmingly divisive and public policy seems too broken to fix. But that's not the story God calls us to tell. We are called to tell the good news of how we can all live together in peace and love. Think you can't say "peace and love" to a legislator? Come to this workshop and find out how to speak the language of faith in the halls of power!

***Presenter: Bee Moorhead***

Ms. Moorhead is the executive director of Texas Impact, a position she has held since 2000. She is also the executive director of the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Texas Impact's sister organization that she helped the Texas Impact board of directors to establish to improve and expand interfaith public policy education and dialogue. Bee holds a Masters degree in Public Affairs from the University of Texas LBJ School. She also holds an undergraduate degree in theatrical costume design from UT Austin, and she has studied theology and New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

## US150 and US250. Veterans and Your Congregation

Even though veterans are not marginal people, they can be a challenge to know and to understand how they react to a new reality after serving in combat. Come hear about the difference between PTSD and issues of the soul and about the new initiative at Brite Divinity School called “Soul Repair,” addressing moral injury and support of our veterans.

### **Presenters: The Rev. Mike Masterson, Dr. Coleman Baker**

Pastor Masterson serves St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in Fort Worth. He graduated from West Point in 1973 and served in various Armor and Cavalry units until he retired in 1993. Following his retirement from the military, Mike attended Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, graduating in 1997, and was assigned to the NTNL Mission Area.

Dr. Coleman Baker is the Program Manager of the Soul Repair Center. A native Texan, Dr. Baker is a biblical scholar whose interest includes religious identity, particularly the use of the religious texts in identity formation. Dr. Baker completed his Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation with an emphasis in New Testament and Early Christianity at Brite in 2010. His work focuses on the role of religious texts in identity formation in early Judaism and Christianity, but his interests extend to identity formation in contemporary religious communities and culture as well, including the role of religious texts in moral identity formation.

## US155. Death and Dying: The Elephant in the Room

Facing one’s own death or the death of a loved one is like a first century Jew facing Samaria; it’s just more comfortable not going there. Death and grief are painful realities like an elephant in the room. We can pretend it’s not there and spend a lot of effort trying to get around it, or we can deal with it. This course will explore healthy ways to face death and dying, loss and grief—whether our own or that of a loved one. We will also consider how congregations may promote a healthy approach to death, and we will explore avenues in which churches may journey with the bereaved toward reconciliation of their loss.

### **Presenter: The Rev. Clayton McCord**

Pastor McCord has a Masters in Divinity from Wartburg Seminary and 25 years of experience as a pastor. For the last 10 years he has ministered to patients and their families through VNA Hospice under NT-NL Mission Council Call. In addition to serving those who are dying, Clayton regularly conducts grief seminars and support groups, educates about hospice care, and writes articles on loss and grief issues.

## US160. Turkish Delight

Come meet folks from the Southwest Dialog Institute (formerly Institute for Interfaith Dialog) and learn of their efforts to

promote friendship and understanding between Muslims of Turkish heritage and Texans of other faiths. Representatives from the Richardson and Arlington groups will share their group’s mission and commitment to peace-making and relationship-building through shared travel, meals, education and conversation.

### **Presenter: The Rev. Deb Loudin-McCann, SDI representatives**

Pastor McCann is a friend of Southwest Dialog Institute, and NTNL Global/Glocal Mission Team Chairperson.

## US165. Organizing for Mission Cohort

Learn about a unique cadre of mission developers and redevelopers who come at their ministries using the tools and principles of community organizing. Their approach is attracting young adults and leaders of color and is drawing their faith communities out into their neighborhoods, collaborating with community partners and taking public action on issues of justice.



### **Presenter: The Rev. Susan Engh**

Pastor Engh began her work as the ELCA’s Director for Congregation-based Organizing in October of 2007. In October of 2012 Rev. Engh’s responsibilities were expanded to include oversight of the Directors for Evangelical Mission (DEM), deployed Churchwide staff members who serve in each of the ELCA’s 65 synods. Previously Rev. Engh served in pastoral roles in two different congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod, from 1987 to 2003. For four subsequent years she served as a full-time organizer for ISAIAH, a State-of-Minnesota congregation-based community organizing network.

## US210. Restorative Justice in Education: Student Care and Community Support

How can a public school best support and encourage kids who are troubled, discouraged and at-risk? Can schools tap in to community services and make a difference for students?



### **Presenter: Jose Huerta**

Mr. Huerta is the principal at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles. Huerta’s policy eliminating suspension of students has gained the attention of everyone interested in education reform.

## US215. The Bible and Creation

Explore Jesus’ radical vision: the kingdom of God as renewal for all creation. Hope for healing-- not destruction-- is the biblical vision for our future on earth. We will read the Bible, especially the apocalyptic book of Revelation, through “green lenses” that might help us see the biblical vision of care for people and God’s world. “On earth as in heaven” gives us Scripture’s promise of a God who cares about air, water, soil and the whole earth.





**Presenter: Dr. Barbara Rossing**

Dr. Rossing is a professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She majored in geology at Carleton College in Minnesota, thinking about a career in science. At a crossroads, Rossing chose to study theology at Yale and Harvard. She has lectured and preached widely for the ELCA, including our own theological conference, as well as ecumenical settings. She is an avid environmentalist and is involved with environmental initiatives at the seminary. She is the author of *The Rapture Exposed*.

**US220. Courageous Conversations Around Institutional Racism: Turning the Mirror Inward, part 2 of 3 (three consecutive one-hour segments)**



**Presenter:**  
*Joyce James, racial equity consultant*

**US225. Reconciling In Christ: The Spiritual Practice of Welcome**

What if a welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people sparked a renewal of your entire community's faith life? ReconcilingWorks (formerly Lutherans Concerned) will share how a public and intentional welcome to LGBT people can help your congregation deepen its mission and ministry. Resources such as the Building an Inclusive Church Toolkit, the one-to-one visit, and graceful engagement will be explored. If your congregation is currently in an RIC process, if you are thinking about starting an RIC process, or if you fear what would happen if you began openly discussing a welcome to LGBT people, this workshop could be for you!

**Presenters: Tim Feiertag, René Garcia**



Tim Feiertag, ReconcilingWorks Grassroots Organizing & Training Coordinator, first joined ReconcilingWorks as a member of the Kansas City-Lawrence chapter in 1993. He served as a regional director from 1995 to 1998 and as co-chair from 1998 to 2002. He left his job with the foster care system in Kansas City to attend the Lutheran seminary at Berkeley, Calif. Currently a church secretary in Kansas City, he helps congregations become places of more intentional, wide-spread, and public welcome!



René García is the Region 4 Coordinator at ReconcilingWorks. He served as a Director of Multicultural Relations on the LC/NA Board of Directors. The son of a German-American Lutheran mom and a Mexican-American Roman Catholic dad, René was raised Lutheran. René was part of the Southwestern Texas Synod Youth

Board. René attended Texas Lutheran College earning a BA in Communication Arts-Media Studies and Spanish. He also earned the college's Certificate of Bicultural Studies. After completing requirements for a Texas Teaching Certificate in Secondary Spanish, he has been teaching for 14 years, currently at Cinco Ranch High School in Katy. René is a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Houston, the only RIC setting in the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

**US230. Hispanic Ministry Panel**

Hispanic ministry in the NTNL. It's not all in Spanish. It's not all in Fort Worth or Dallas. It might sometimes include a parade with horses. Each of the three panelists has a distinct setting for their congregation's ministry and differing joys and ministry challenges as well.

**Panelists: The Rev. Julio Cruz, the Rev. Irma Banales, the Rev. Jesus Escamilla**

Pastor Julio Cruz serves Immanuel Lutheran, Dallas

Pastor Irma Banales serves First Sagrada Familia, Garland TX. She attended Pacific Lutheran Theology Seminary, Berkley, CA; Brite Divinity FT Worth TX; and graduated from NTNL Parish Lay Mission Academy. For 14 years she was part of the staff of the NTNL Mission Area.

Pastor Jesus Escamilla serves San Gabriel Lutheran Church, Alvaredo.

**US235 and US 335. Violence in Families: How Do We Respond?**

Is it possible that good Lutherans may be experiencing violence in their homes? Do we look away, walk away? What can we do as men, women and youth to help? How can we break the silence that surrounds violence in families?



**Presenter: Catherine A. Tietjen**

Catherine is the executive director of Freedom House in Weatherford, Texas, where she has served since 2000. Freedom House serves male, female and child victims of family and sexual violence and victims of child abuse. Her 25+ years of experience include developing and implementing employment and training programs, working with child abuse survivors and troubled teens, as well as working with individuals with disabilities and families focused on moving from poverty. She is a member of Messiah Lutheran Church where she serves on the church council. Catherine is a survivor of family violence.

## US240. Holy Land Witness: 2014 Travel Reflections

Twenty-four members of the NTNL traveled in February 2014 with Bishop Kevin and Billye Jean Kanouse to Bethlehem, the Galilee, Jerusalem, and Jordan. They visited not only the ancient holy sites, but also the “living stones,” the people of the Lutheran Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

**Presenters:** *The Rev. Janet Kraatz, Della South, and other travelers*

Hear the witness from these travelers regarding the ministries, struggles and concerns of our fellow Lutherans who are working for peace, education, wholeness, and justice for their children and their communities while under military occupation.

## US245. Better Neighbors: Know Your Community

We can't save what we don't love, and we can't love what we don't know. That's why advocating for your community starts with knowing your community. Everyone thinks they know their local community, but how well do you really know yours? Local mission activities don't just meet immediate needs—they teach you stories that policymakers need to hear. Find out about the Community Partner Program and other strategies for learning your community's story so you can tell it in the public square.

**Presenter:** *Scott Atnip*

Mr. Atnip serves Texas Impact as Congregational Outreach Director, working to connect the education and advocacy efforts of Texas Impact, the Texas Interfaith Center for Policy Policy and the Community Partners Program with people of faith throughout Texas. Scott has also served as Executive Director of Huntsville's Promise, a non-profit working on youth development and housing issues and Fund Development Manager for the National Office of United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY), a youth home repair mission organization affiliated with the UMC.

## US250. Veterans and Your Congregation Repeat of US150

## US255. The Church of the Damascus Road: A Prison Congregation

Following the model supported by Prison Congregations of America, the Church of the Damascus Road (CDR) is the newest worshipping community of the NTNL and its work belongs to the whole mission territory. The CDR mission is to bring the message and love of Jesus Christ to those who are incarcerated, especially those afflicted with alcohol and drug addiction, and to assist congregations in providing help and support to the incarcerated and to those who are released. Dan Lund, SAWL, the ministry director, has been developing this ministry for seven

years. CDR presently serves two units: the Walker-Sayles Unit in Breckenridge, TX, and the Lindsey Unit in Jacksboro, TX. Come and hear the story of the Church of the Damascus Road and find out how you and your congregation can become partners in ministry.

**Presenters:** *Dan Lund, SAWL, and the Rev. Paul Stone*

Dan has been doing prison ministry for more than seven years. Dan says, "After fighting the battles of alcoholism and addiction, to be able to carry to those with addiction problems the message that sobriety is possible with the love of Jesus Christ is important for my recovery as well as theirs. Because of the grace of God, AA and the Lutheran church, I have 37 and 1/2 years of sobriety."

Pastor Paul Stone serves the 20-year-old Church of the Damascus Road in Fort Dodge and Rockwell City, Iowa, after which our NTNL CDR is named. He has helped to mentor Dan and the board members of NTNL's CDR, and serves on the board of Prison Congregations of America.

## US260. Mosaic: Discover the Possibilities

Hear about the ministry of Mosaic from the people Mosaic serves and their families. You may take the Mosaic excursion, at 1:00. Either way, this session will provide information and motivation to share the Mosaic story with your family, friends and congregation

**Presenters:** *JoBeth Collier, Mosaic Executive Director; Lori Baum Dallas Community Relations Director; and Serina Cole, Waco Community Relations Director.*

## US265. The Power of One-to-One Relational Meetings

Learn how to have natural but uncommon conversations with people you want to know (or know better) about their values, vision, life and motivations. Such intentional conversations can lead to a greater spirit of community as well as the discovery of new leaders and new partners in ministry endeavors. But it does require some new behaviors on your part, and a genuine willingness to listen deeply and to cultivate your own curiosity and courage.



**Presenter:** *The Rev. Susan Engh*

Pastor Engh began her work as the ELCA's Director for Congregation-based Organizing in October of 2007. In October of 2012 Rev. Engh's responsibilities were expanded to include oversight of the Directors for Evangelical Mission (DEM), deployed Churchwide staff members who serve in each of the ELCA's 65 synods. Pastor Engh served in pastoral roles in two different congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod, from 1987 to 2003. For four subsequent years she served as a full-time organizer for ISAIAH, a State-of-Minnesota congregation-based community organizing network.



## CLASS SCHEDULE & LOCATION

**Note:** Use the course number, e.g., US110, to find a complete description in this booklet.

\* CEUs available for educators. Attendance at keynote speech, US110, US210, and US 315 required.

8:00 – 8:30	<b>EXCURSION TICKETS AVAILABLE! • REGISTRATION – for</b>			
8:30 – 9:30	<b>Welcome: Bishop Kevin Kanouse • 8:30-9:15 am: Keynote</b>			
<b>LOCATION ▶ SCHEDULE ▼</b>	Plenary Hall	Mesquite 1 & 2	Bent Tree 1 & 2	Quorum 1 & 2
US100s 9:45 – 10:45	US110* Restorative Justice in Public Education Part 1 of 2  Jose Huerta	US115 Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria de Guadalupe: A People’s Church  Portillo, Local Resources	US120 Courageous Conversations Around Institutional Racism – Part I of 3  James	US125 Worship Outside the Lines: Kyrie - Pub Church  Gronberg, Heinze
US200s 11:00 – 12:00	US210* Restorative Justice in Public Education Part 2 of 2  Jose Huerta	US215 The Bible and Creation  Rossing	US220 Courageous Conversations Around Institu- tional Racism – Part 2 of 3  James	US225 Reconciling in Christ: The Spiritual Practice of Welcome  Garcia, Feiertag
NOON	<b>Box lunch on site for those registered and paid. Portico presentation with Paul Aebischer in 1:00 pm Excursions depart hotel. See catalogue for</b>			
US300s 1:15 – 2:15	US310 Is There a “Christian” Voice in Government?  Stenholm	US315* Restorative Justice in Public Education Panel Discussion  Huerta, Local Resources	US320 Courageous Conversations Around Institu- tional Racism – Part 3 of 3  James	US325 Peacemaking in the Real World  Kern, Gersmehl
US400s 2:30 – 3:30	US410 Musical Expression from the Margins  Jason & deMarco	US415 Understanding Islam and Muslims in America  Elibairy	US420 Bullying: Churches Respond  Tietjen	US425 Face-to-Face With a Congressman  Stenholm
3:30-3:45	<b>Gathering songs: (Plenary Hall)</b>			
3:45 – 4:15	<b>Bible study wrap-up: Dr. Barbara Rossing</b>			
4:15 – 4:45	<b>Follow-up reflections on the day</b>			
4:45	<b>Prayer &amp; Song – End of University of ¡SAMARIA!</b>			
5:00	<b>“I Respectfully Agree or Disagree” Reflection Room</b>			



those coming in for the day. • 8:15 am: MORNING PRAYER

Speaker: Jose Huerta\* • 9:20 am: Introduction to University of ¡SAMARIA! by Pr. Franz Schemmel

Bent Tree III	Quorum 3	Cottonwood	Pecan	Blue Bonnet	Azalea	Yellow Rose	Magnolia
US130 Dallas Area Interfaith: Living Our Faith in the Public Arena  Knudson	US135 Women and Justice Listening Post  Skinner	US140 Peace, Not Walls: Working for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land  Danielson	US145 Better Neighbors: Advocacy and the Story of Community  Moorhead, Atnip	US150 Veterans and Your Congregation  Masterson, Baker	US155 Death & Dying: The Elephant in the Room  McCord	US160 Islamic Interfaith Dialogue  McCann	US165 The Organizing for Mission Cohort  Engh
US230 Hispanic Ministry Panel  Escamilla, Banales, Cruz	US235 Violence in Families: How Do We Respond?  Tietjen	US240 Holy Land Witness: 2014 Travel Trip Reflections  Kraatz, South	US245 Better Neighbors: Know Your Community  Moorhead, Atnip	US250 (Repeat) Veterans and Your Congregation  Masterson, Baker	US255 The Church of Damascus Road: A Prison Congregation  Lund	US260 Mosaic: Discover the Possibilities  Baum	US265 The Power of One-to-One Relational Meetings  Engh

**Conference meetings to be scheduled as requested.**  
**Plenary Hall beginning about 12:20 pm.**  
**details! Get tickets at 8:00 am**

US330 Whose Water Is It Anyway?  Bolton	US335 (Repeat) Violence in Families: How Do We Respond?  Tietjen	US340 Managing Difficult Discussions: Skills for Christians  Warren	US345 Re-entry From Prison: Humanity of the Lost & Responsibility of the Free  Miles	US350 LIRS – 75 Years of Walking with Migrants and Refugees  Olagbaju	US355 Hands Across the Water—Our Companion Synod  McCann, Yanker	US360 Find Your Calling In ¡Macedonia!  Iker, Segaran	US365 Hunger in Our Midst: What the Faith Community Can Do  Jacobson
US430 (Repeat) Whose Water Is It Anyway?  Bolton	US435 Exploring the Death Penalty  Kern, Hood	US440 Mental Health & the Church: Skills for Christians  Warren	US445 Ministry in Your Backyard: Opportunities and Challenges  Foster, Kiebler	US450 (Repeat) LIRS – 75 Years of Walking ...  Olagbaju	US455 Going Glocal (Global + Local = Glocal)  McCann	US460 Leadership Training for Peace-Makers  Gersmehl	US465 A Vision to End Poverty in Texas  Engh, Palmer, Walther, Lien

**3:45 pm – Excursions return to hotel**

**Conversation led by Bishop Kevin Kanouse, Dr. Barbara Rossing, and Pr. Franz Schemmel**

**ns on the Mezzanine Level with pastoral leaders present. Quiet Room for reflection.**

### US310. Is there a 'Christian' Voice in Government?

Congressman Stenholm has been asked by Bishop Kevin to address this question: How has faith formed your leadership in government? With the debate about what leaders who are Christians should say or shouldn't say in the public arena, this is an opportunity for you to hear how a Christian leader walked that tricky line.



**Presenter: Former Congressman Charlie Stenholm**

Mr. Stenholm is a Senior Policy Advisor at the OFW law firm. Stenholm served the 17th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives where he was a member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Stenholm serves as Co-Chair of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and on the Boards of Directors of the Concord Coalition and the Business and Industry Political Action Committee. He is also a member of the Farm Foundation Round Table and the 25x25 Steering Committee.

### US315. Restorative Justice in Education Panel Discussion



Panel discussion featuring Jose Huerta and professionals from various disciplines such as social work, psychology, school administration, and the church, moderated by Dr. Pamela Baker, PhD, Region 10 Education Service Center.

*Presenters; Jose Huerta, other panel members*

### US320. Courageous Conversations Around Institutional Racism, Turning the Mirror Inward - part 3 (three consecutive one-hour segments)



**Presenter:**  
*Joyce James, racial equity consultant*

### US325. Peacemaking in the Real World

Going beyond the habitual options of passivity or violence, Jesus offers a third way for facing and transforming conflict and injustice. We will explore that approach in settings ranging from programs serving people at the margins of society to international conflict. We'll make use of interactive multi-media tools, biblical insights, and examples of nonviolent peace and justice successes from around the world. Our goal is to strengthen and learn to share skills for moving toward reconciliation and wholeness.



**Presenter: Glen Gersmehl**

As national coordinator of Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Glen Gersmehl has led peace & justice and

leadership workshops for hundreds of congregational, synodical, and churchwide groups. He wrote a resolution on the UN Decade for Peace passed by 31 synods, sparking the largest nonviolence education effort in ELCA history. He has developed many engaging small group and computer-based activities used in thousands of classes and groups. Building on that experience and six years as a weekly volunteer with the homeless, he has received grants to train Lutheran volunteers in food banks and meal programs in conflict skills, building companionship rather than charity relationships and more.

### US330 and US430. Whose Water Is It Anyway?

The "Rule of Capture" is not from a videogame! During this workshop we will do a brief overview of water policy and water planning in Texas, touching on the differences in ground water and surface water, how each is regulated (or not) and what entities are responsible for protecting this vital natural resource. We will consider the impact of conservation and efficiency efforts, large and small. Finally, we will discuss how citizens can become engaged in the discussion and the process and impact policy decisions.



**Presenter: Valinda Bolton**

Ms. Bolton focuses on encouraging water conversation and efficiency to ensure Texas has a strong future. She was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2006 and served two terms in office. With her background in community service, Valinda places a high priority on constituent services including forming coalitions to save the drinking water of over one million central Texans, securing funding for safety improvements to Hwy 71, and finding safe solutions for students to cross busy highways. Since leaving the legislature, Valinda has returned to her professional roots working in the non-profit sector.

### US335. Violence in Families: How Do We Respond? Repeat of US235

### US340. How to Manage Difficult Conversations: Skills for Christians

Why do Christians dread speaking their truth to others when the topic is difficult and could result in conflict? Come learn a new way to think about interpersonal conflict, and consider methods to manage it skillfully.



**Presenter Paul L. Warren, Psy.D**

Dr. Warren is a clinical psychologist who works with individuals, couples and families, specializing in communication, relationship building, and mental health recovery. He is in private practice in Fort Worth, Texas.

## US345. Re-entry From Prison: The Humanity of the Lost and the Responsibility of the Free

Prison is not just a physical capture but also a mental state of seizure. A supportive and productive re-entry process is crucial to each individual returning or preparing to return to society, and the church has the power to essentially correct certain aspects that the state simply refuses to acknowledge or fails to change.



**Presenter: Richard Miles**

Mr. Miles was sentenced to 80 years in prison for murder and attempted murder. He was innocent. After 15 years in prison, he was released. The Court of Criminal Appeals ruled his Actual Innocence 2 1/2 years later. During those years, employment and housing were nearly impossible barriers for Miles. Few re-entry organizations were able to provide him with substantive help. This experience brought about Miles of Freedom, a 501(c) 3 non-profit, organization that involves prison ministry, re-entry, and youth mentorship. The goal is to “bridge the gap from prison to promise.”

## US350 and US450. LIRS: 75 Years of Walking with Migrants and Refugees

Participants will learn about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and its 75 years of walking with migrants and refugees through ministries of mercy and justice, reflect on God’s call to look at immigration through the lens of faith, examine the national and local perspectives on immigration reform, discuss LIRS core principles for immigration reform and gather insight and tools for taking action in support of immigration reform in their communities.



**Presenter: Folabi Olagbaju**

Mr. Olagbaju is the National Grassroots Director for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) where he leads the organization’s grassroots campaign engaging Lutherans on key organizational priority advocacy issues. Prior to joining LIRS, Folabi was Director of Amnesty International USA’s (AIUSA) Mid-Atlantic Regional Office where he managed the regional field program work and translated AIUSA’s human rights agenda into grassroots membership organizing plans and transformative human rights victories.

## US355. Hands Across the Water: Our Companion Church Relationship with Sierra Leone

Learn the latest news from our Companion Church the ELCSL (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone) including future adventures in mission together, and how you and your congregation can partner with the NTNL Mission Area to support the work of our brothers and sisters in sharing the Gospel through worship, service and education.

**Presenters: Rev. Deb Loudin-McCann and the Rev. Christopher Yanker**

Pastor Yanker is an ordained pastor of the ELCSL. He is a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Weatherford, where he assists in teaching and preaching. While serving as pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Romankneh, Sierra Leone, Christopher Yanker founded the St. Peter’s Lutheran School. He has been a guest preacher at congregations in the NTNL Mission area and is available to preach, teach and lead workshops on our Companion Church relationship as “Ambassador” for the Team.

## US360. Find Your Calling in Macedonia!

We in the church are often guilty of trying to force round pegs into square holes. The Macedonia Project is a place where followers of Jesus are set free to discover their passion in mission and share that passion with others through projects, fellowship, worship, Bible study, or hospitality. Come to our class and hear first-hand stories of people who found great energy and passion in the Macedonia Project.

**Presenters: The Rev. Joan Iker, The Rev. Gnana Segaran**

Pastor Iker serves as pastor for St. Olaf and Faith Lutheran Churches in Cranfills Gap and Meridian, Texas. Following a career as a secondary teacher in Oklahoma, Joan “retired” to go to seminary. She attended “Macedonia” training at the ELCA in Chicago. The teacher in her likes to make learning fun, and she is committed to being a life-long learner.

Pastor Gnana Segaran is a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Plano. She is retired from ministry. Gnana has been active and involved in the Macedonia project it was initiated in the NTNL Mission Area. She attended Macedonia Project training at Chicago twice. She is a quilter and leads bible study for her family and friends. She loves to share her experience of Macedonia project with others.

## US365. Hunger in Our Midst: What the Faith Community Can Do

Almost 5 million Texans struggle to put food on the dinner table every day. More than 1 in 4 children can’t count on getting something nutritious to eat at the next meal time. Yet as a state and as a country we have more than enough food. Find out some specific ways congregations can make a big difference in closing this gap and ensuring that everybody, young and old, has access to three healthy meals a day.



**Presenter: Marc Jacobson**

Mr. Jacobson is the Dallas Regional Director of the Texas Hunger Initiative. The Texas Hunger Initiative is a statewide anti-hunger organization within the Baylor University School of Social Work that seeks to develop and

implement strategies to end hunger through public-private collaboration, policy, education, research and community organizing. THI seeks to make Texas food secure by ensuring that every individual in the state has access to three healthy meals a day. Marc holds a Master in Public Policy from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University.

### **US410. Dare to Dream: Musical Expression from the Margins**

Join Jason & deMarco, and Jason's parents, for a time of sharing, questions and answers.



**Presenters: Jason & deMarco**

Jason & deMarco will share their journey of reconciliation, how they met, when they decided to have children and the process their family has gone through to watch their dreams come true. It's a story of reconciliation, faith and miracles. There will be time for questions and Jason and deMarco will introduce you to their twin sons, Mason and Noah.

### **US415. New (Muslim) Immigrants: Same Faith - Integration Challenge**

The story of Muslim immigration and integration into our country has gained prominence since the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Less explored is how Muslims have been voluntarily immigrating, settling and contributing quietly to Texas since 1854. Like other faith-based and ethnic immigrants before them, American Muslims were propelled into the national spotlight during the security crisis for our country. How have Christians helped American Muslims address both the Islamophobia and the homegrown radicalization of an alienating security environment?



**Presenter: Mohamed Elibiary**

Mohamed Elibiary is a longtime Texas Muslim community leader active in interfaith relationship building. He is a board member of the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy. As a national security expert, he has testified before congress on domestic intelligence and counter-terrorism policy. He currently serves as a Sr. Fellow on the Secretary's Homeland Security Advisory Council at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He has received the FBI's highest commendation to civilians for his direct assistance on multiple major counterterrorism cases, and has been a guest lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security for several years.

### **US420. Bullying: How Can Churches Respond?**

We have all experienced bullying, whether we were the ones who

were/are bullied or we were/are the bully. We have all witnessed bullying. Now with so much social media, it is easier than ever for bullying to take place. What can we do? This presentation is for youth and adults.



**Presenter: Catherine A. Tietjen**

Catherine is the executive director of Freedom House in Weatherford, Texas where she has served since 2000. Freedom House serves male, female and child victims of family and sexual violence and victims of child abuse. Her 25+ years of experience include developing and implementing employment & training programs, working with child abuse survivors and troubled teens as well as working with individuals with disabilities and families focused on moving from poverty. She is a member of Messiah Lutheran Church where she serves on the church council. Catherine is a survivor of family violence.

### **US425. Face-to-face With a Congressman**

Meet with Congressman Charlie Stenholm in a less formal setting. Learn his background and personal story and discuss issues related to his ballroom presentation on the relationship of Christian faith and public leadership.



**Presenter: Former Congressman Charlie Stenholm**

Mr. Stenholm is a Senior Policy Advisor at the OFW law firm. Stenholm served the 17th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives where he was a member of the House Committee on Agriculture. Stenholm serves as Co-Chair of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and on the Boards of Directors of the Concord Coalition and the Business and Industry Political Action Committee. He is also a member of the Farm Foundation Round Table and the 25x25 Steering Committee.

### **US430. Whose Water Is It Anyway? Repeat of US330**

### **US435. Exploring the Death Penalty**

This presentation will study the biblical witness and our church's teaching regarding the death penalty. The social, economic and political factors that impact the practice of capital punishment will be explored. Participants will have the opportunity to examine and share their own understandings of this aspect of the criminal justice system.

**Presenter: The Rev. Bernard Kern and the Rev. Jeff Hood**

Pastor Kern is a retired pastor of the NTNL Mission Area. He is a former board member of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and a longtime member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. He is a former director of Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth.



The Rev. Jeff Hood is a pastor of the Southern Baptist convention. He is pursuing a doctorate in practical theology at Brite Divinity School. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. He is leading a team to establish a North-Texas chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

### **US440. Let's Talk about Mental Health and the Church: Skills for Christians**

The 2012 ELCA Social Message on Mental Illness calls the Church to offer companionship and hope to those with mental illness. How can we do this with confidence? How can we respond faithfully when behaviors occur that may disrupt congregational peace? Learn the facts about common diagnoses and treatments, explore the role your congregation can play in healing, and prepare your resources before challenges arise.



**Presenter: Paul L. Warren, Psy.D.**

Dr. Warren is a clinical psychologist who works with individuals, couples and families, specializing in communication, relationship building, and mental health recovery. He is in private practice in Fort Worth, Texas.

### **US445. Ministry in Your Backyard: Opportunities and Challenges**

What opportunities for ministry—and accompanying challenges—lie next door to your church? Learn how basketball and breakfast enabled two North Texas congregations to begin to reach out to their neighborhoods.



**Presenters: The Rev. John Foster and the Rev. Yvonne Kiebler**

Pastor John Foster has been serving at Shepherd of Life in Arlington, Texas, for 23 years. He grew up in Arizona and graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1983.

Pastor Yvonne Kiebler is a second-career pastor who has served five congregations on the margins: three rural Panhandle congregations and two Fort Worth churches – Community of Hope and King of Glory, where she presently is the pastor.

### **US450. LIRS: 75 Years of Walking with Migrants and Refugees Repeat of US350**

#### **US455. Going Glocal (Global + Local = Glocal)**

Learn about the newly formed/forming Glocal Mission Table of the NTNL. For the first time the NTNL Mission area will convene a group to co-ordinate the work of the ELCA, the LWF and the many ministries that address issues of hunger, poverty, justice and mission here in our diverse NTNL Mission Area and across the globe. Working together, this group will educate,

facilitate and communicate so that resources and initiatives are shared throughout the Mission Area in an intentional and co-ordinated manner, making the most of our connections and partnerships. Global mission, hunger, poverty, racism, immigration, peace-making initiatives, health issues (eg. malaria and HIV Aids) and stewardship of creation are all areas of concern for this working group. We are still looking for interested folks to join us in this important and challenging work.

**Presenter: The Rev. Deb Loudin-McCann**

Pastor McCann is Associate Pastor at San Gabriel Lutheran Mission in Alvarado, Texas. She serves as current chairperson of the Companion Church Team and convener of the newly formed/forming Glocal Mission Table of the NTNL. She has been a member of the Companion Church team since 1996 and has served as the Global Mission Advocate & Representative from the NTNL for ten years. Her background includes training as an ELCA Hunger Leader and Hispanic/Latino history, culture and theology.

### **US460. Leadership Training for Peacemaking**

Jesus' Way of Shalom opens up a more faithful, and more effective approach to conflict and violence, and to bridging differences with others, especially those at the margins of society. We'll explore this vision, its Biblical grounding, understanding of nonviolence and how we can help others respond to conflict and difference in our personal lives, churches, service programs, and beyond. Over 300 Lutheran congregation, synod, and conference groups have found this workshop to be both eye-opening and empowering.



**Presenter Glen Gersmehl**

Mr. Gersmehl is national coordinator of Lutheran Peace Fellowship. He has led peace and justice and leadership workshops for hundreds of congregation, synod, and churchwide groups. He trains Lutheran volunteers in food banks and meal programs in conflict skills, building companionship rather than charity relationships and more.

### **US465. A Vision to End Poverty in Texas**

Imagine helping to end poverty in the community in which your congregation is positioned. Lutheran congregations in Texas are not only imagining such a possibility but they are learning how they might make it happen! They are part of a vision to End Poverty in Texas. Congregation leaders are learning to listen, build relationships in their community, and moving from charity to change. Learn how your congregation can be part of this vision to change the world one community at a time.

**Presenters: The Rev. Herb Palmer, Coordinator for Missional Leadership, Region 4 (ELCA Churchwide staff); Mary Lou Walther, retired teacher and administrator, Lockhart, Texas; Violet Lien, retired educator, Austin, Texas.**



## Excursions

University of Samaria offers three excursions during the third and fourth class sessions on Saturday afternoon. To participate in an excursion, please sign up Saturday morning at the registration desk, beginning at 8:00 am. First come, first served.

### Mosaic Homes and Vocational Center, Carrollton

Visit one of the homes Mosaic provides for physically and emotionally handicapped residents. The NT-NL Mission Area has been especially supportive of this Lutheran agency's efforts to care for those with special needs. You will visit the Vocational Center in Carrollton, visit some of the residents and see the document-shredding business staffed by the residents of Mosaic.

### Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria de Guadalupe, Irving

Visit one of the largest congregations in the ELCA and learn about its phenomenal growth over the past 15 years. Pastor Pedro Portillo will introduce you to the life and ministry of this Hispanic congregation that has been featured in *The Lutheran* magazine. Meet some of the community leaders and learn about the community connections that have enhanced their growth.

### In The City for Good, Dallas

#### *Outcry in the Barrio*

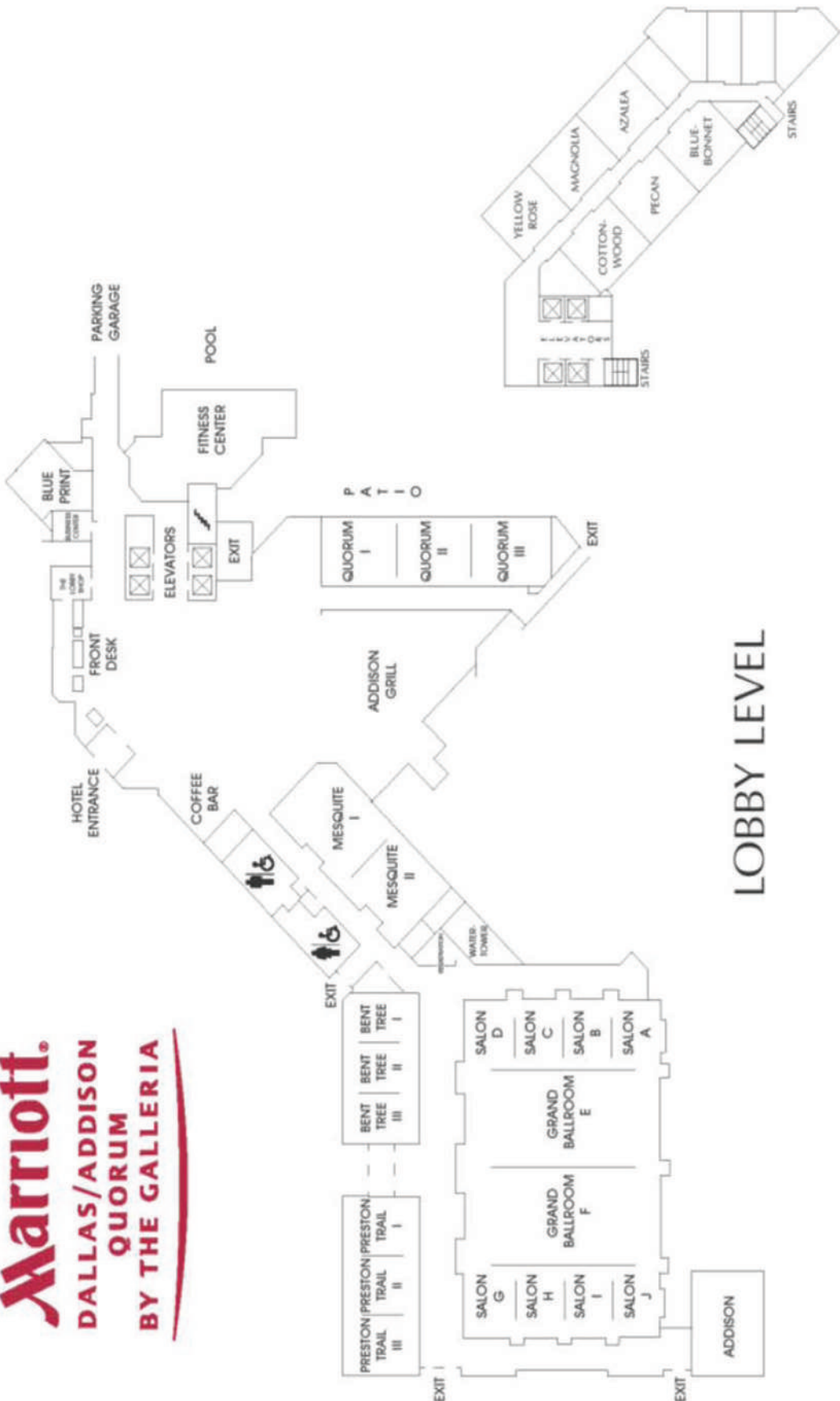
Outcry of the Barrio is a ministry for individuals in the community who may suffer with drug and alcohol addictions as well as other life controlling problems. They are a 501©3 organization under the umbrella of Outcry in the Barrio located in San Antonio, TX. Freddie and Ninfa Garcia established the ministry over 45 years ago. Since Pastor Freddie's passing, they are now under the leadership of Pastor Jubal Garcia. Their fellowship has grown to include over 100 homes, churches and drop-in centers all over Texas, Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, and the Caribbean! It is their mission to transform crime and drug infested neighborhoods through the power of Jesus Christ, one individual at a time.

The home that we will visit in South Dallas houses 40 men and was built by In The City For Good, an outreach ministry of King of Glory Lutheran Church

#### *Mt. Olive Food Pantry*

Mt. Olive Food Pantry is the outreach ministry of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church that was started by Mary Smith 15 years ago. The ministry has grown over the years and now includes a partnership of four Lutheran Churches: Mt. Olive, Christ Lutheran, Bethany Lutheran, and King of Glory. Still lead by Mary, volunteers from these churches come together every Wednesday to serve 300 homeless and 40 families. You will meet the volunteers and learn how they make it all work. After a recent visit by the North Texas Food Bank, they acknowledged that this is one of the best run pantries in North Texas.

**Marriott.**  
**DALLAS/ADDISON**  
**QUORUM**  
**BY THE GALLERIA**



**LOBBY LEVEL**

**MEZZANINE LEVEL**

