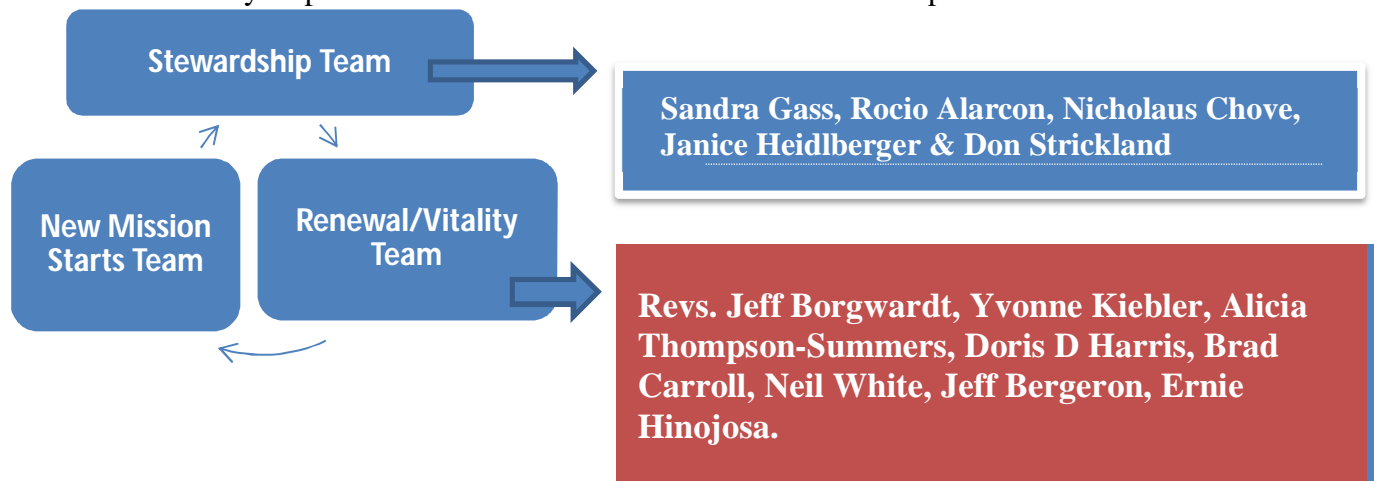




Report to the Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly April 27-28, 2018 Rev. Irma Banales: Director for Evangelical Mission

Dear members of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA; 2017 has been a year of joyful moments and challenging times as well. But I believe I am not alone in this call; [John 15:16](#) ¹⁶*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear first-fruit that will last and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.* God has given us 106 congregations, a Bishop, and a council of leaders with many gifts to be In Mission Together.

Some of my responsibilities as a DEM are to lead three leadership tables:



8 new mission starts; led by Mission Developers lay and Clergy

1. Mision San Mateo, Waco TX
Meeting at St Matthew, Waco TX
2. Iglesia Luterana Adviento, Arlington TX
meeting at Advent, Arlington TX
3. Umoja International Church, Ft Worth TX
Meeting at King of Glory, Ft Worth TX
4. Church of the Damascus Road,
Weatherford TX. Various places
5. Kyrie Mission Pub Church,
Meeting at Chimera Brewing Com.
6. Umoja International Church, Dallas
Meeting at King of Glory, Dallas
7. Dallas Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church
Meeting at St. Luke's Richardson TX
8. Indonesian Lutheran Church Gethsemane
Meeting at Christ the Servant, Allen TX



5 Congregations under development



- + Iglesia Luterana San Gabriel, Alvarado TX
Rev. Jesus Escamilla
- + Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria de Guadalupe, Irving TX
Rev. Gus Vinajeras
- + First Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church, Garland TX
SAWL: Angel Villalobos
- + Emanuel Lutheran Church, Dallas TX
Rev. Cindy Carroll
- + First Lutheran Church, Waco TX;
SAWL: Austin Nickel

In partnership with Ecumenical churches:

- + Louisiana Interchurch Conference Board, representing the NT-NL Synod.
- + Peru for a Reformation Celebration. Methodist, Episcopalian, United Church of Christ, and Lutherans. Visited a couple of Lutheran churches in the country.
- + Church United in Christ Community for a Unity Worship Service.
- + REDIL: Ecumenical Network to Develop the Latino Churches: Presbyterians, Episcopalians, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, United Methodist, and Lutherans.

Participation:

- + “Latino Leadership Initiative” four synods: Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast, Southwestern, Northern Texas- Northern Louisiana, and Oklahoma/Kansas synods are part of this initiative in partnership with Rev. Ruben Duran Director for New Mission Starts and the two Presidents Louise N. Johnson from Wartburg Seminary and Jim Nieman from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.
 - + Tulsa, OK. Workshop Latino Christian Education for Children.
20 of us from our Synod participated.
 - + ELCA Latino Strategy Team. Planning Team: Spanish Coaching.
 - + ELCA Mission Developers/Redevelopers planning Team.
 - + ELCA Stewardship Team
 - + ELCA “Future Directions Table”

Consultations/Meetings:

- + Visited several congregations for conversations about the future of their ministry.
- + Monthly meetings with Mission Developers and Redevelopers in our Synod.
- + The *three African American* Congregations in our synod: Mount Olive, Dallas, St John, Dallas and Community of Hope, Ft Worth, have welcomed me to be part of their partnership and unity
- + Preaching and Sharing the Gospel in several NT-NL Churches.



Thank You to all the Mission Partners who have supported our New Mission Starts and our Mission Developers. Thank you for Your Generosity. Let us continue working In Mission Together +