



Report to the Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Annual Report Synod Assembly, 2020 Rev. Irma Bañales: Director for Evangelical Mission

Psalm 24:1-3--- *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he as founded in on the seas and established it on the rivers.*

As a child of God, I believe everything I see and touch belongs to God. I trust the responsibilities I have as the NTNL DEM God is always guiding me. Nevertheless, sometimes I have doubts if I'm doing the correct things I need to do. Knowing that God is in control gives me hope and strength.

2019 has been another blessing year for the Congregational Vitality among our synod and the ELCA. The wonderful vitality in our synod has to do with the leadership at our synod office, synod council, and at our congregations. I am blessed to have such a committed and lovely CV team together we have connected to many congregations to learn, serve each other and share Jesus Great Commission.

Congregational Vitality Team:

- + **Stewardship Table:** PLM Sandra Gass, PLM Rocio Alarcon, TEEM Pastor Nicholas Chove, Rev. Janice Heidlberger, Rev. Tom Schwolert, JJ Dollarhide and Shirley Wilson-Sigler
- + **New Start Table:** Revs: Ernie Hinojosa, Neil White, Linda Anderson-Little, Jesus Escamilla
- + **Renewal Table:** Revs. Jeff Borgwardt, Alicia Thompson-Summers, Joan Ikes, Doris Dupree Harris, PLM; Madeline Richard

2019 Events and Trainings:

- April: NTNL Synod Assembly= Stewardship team introduced “the Generosity Project event”
- April-May: Stewardship table participation. “Generosity Transformed Conference.” Indianapolis IN 4 members from the Stewardship team attended.
- May: First Call Pastors= Generosity Project introduction Workshop event & Mission interpreters at Briarwood.
- May: Ministry Reviews: Nuestro Redentor, Grand Prairie & Church of the Damascus Road.
- June: Renewal Table: Discovering Hope training & small congregations Workshop “Discovering Hope” 14 congregations participated.
- June: Latino Conference: Women Retreat. Briarwood Leadership Center.
- Juneteenth Celebration=African American Congregations. Community of Hope, Ft Worth
- August: Behavioral Interview Training, leading Spanish coaching and Congregational Vitality training, Baltimore Maryland.
- August: Introduction to the Generosity Project. New Hope, Keller
- September: Renewal table= “Discovering Hope workshop” NTNL West Conference. 9 congregations participated.

- September: ELCA Latino Strategy Team & Latino Association Assembly. Tampa FL
4 Latinx congregations from NTNL Synod attended.
- Sep 27-29: Latinx Couples Retreat
- Sep 30-Oct 2: Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference: San Diego CA. 3 members form Stewardship team attended.
- Oct 11-13: NTNL Synodical Women Organization Retreat: Butman Methodist Camp
- Oct. 26: African American Congregations: “Reformation Contextual Worship”
King of Glory, FT Worth
- Oct. 28-30= 5 Partnered Synod Project: “Grief & Transition Training”
- Nov 4: Latinx Church Councils Workshop. ELCA-Rev. Ruben Duran
- Dec 7: Stewardship Team:
Introduction Workshop “the Generosity Project & Mission Interpretation”
Candidacy Committee members & Seminarians; Briarwood Leadership Center.

Visits/Consultations:

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| + Emmanuel, Killeen TX | + Christ the Servant, Allen TX |
| + Rejoice, Frisco TX | + Christ the Servant, Denton TX |
| + Community of Hope,
Fort Worth TX | + Beautiful Savior, Amarillo TX |
| + Umoja, Fort Worth TX | + Lord of Life, Glenn Heights TX |
| + Adviento, Arlington TX | + St Luke’s, Richardson TX |
| + First Sagrada Familia, Garland TX | + Trinity, Miles TX |
| + Hope, Springtown TX | + Rejoice, Coppell TX |
| + Good Shepherd, Marshall TX | + Calvary, San Angelo TX |
| + New Hope, Keller TX | + Faith, Fort Worth TX |
| + San Gabriel, Alvarado TX | + Emanuel, Dallas TX |

Leadership Formation:

- + Teaching Spanish Parish Lay Ministry Academy – 6-8 students
- + ELCA Leading Spanish Coaching trainings
- + Coordinating the Latinx Secondary School of Theological Education 13 students
- + Ministry Reviews and Accompany Mission Developers and Re-developers.

Grants Received:

1. NTNL Mission Endowment Fund: “In mission Together Forming a Generous Church”
2. Stewardship of Life: “Money Matters/Asuntos de Dinero” Latinx Communities
Thrivent, ELCA, NTNL.
3. AMMPARO Initiative: “One Body many Members”
(Accompany Migrant Minors Advocacy Representation and Opportunities)
4. ELCA Holy Innovation: Latinx Secondary School of Theological Education