

Northeastern Iowa Synod Global Mission Work Group Minutes

Synod Office, Waverly, August 12, 2010

Members present: Else Schardt (chairperson), Pr. Mark Anderson, Marilyn Brocka, Pr. David Grant, Pr. Emily Horrell, Sharon Magelssen, Pr. Troy Pflibsen, Jon Tehven, Pr. Ron Schardt (secretary).

Devotion: Pr. Ron Schardt led a devotion based on the Gospel text for next Sunday, Luke 12:49-56.

Minutes: April 10, 2010 minutes submitted by Jon Tehven were approved as submitted (M-David, S-Sharon).

Chairperson's Report:

Else Schardt provided a written report and emphasized several items. Else attended the Synod Assembly in June, spent some time in the display area, and presented two workshops together with Sharon Magelssen, Cecil Maureen Johnson, and Pr. Phil Olson. The display was in a good location, and a nearby table also featured Food Resource Bank material.

In July Else and Ron again attended a *Global Village Camp* at Pine Lake Bible Camp near Waupaca, WI. This camp sponsored by East Central Synod of Wisconsin featured wonderful international diversity, music, Bible studies, and speakers. The ECSW's companion diocese in South Africa received emphasis, as the synod and diocese struggle to define appropriate forms of relationship. Questions: Would it be possible for our synod to hold a global mission event in an Iowa camp setting? How can we share resources with companion synods? How do we interpret the term "companion?" Synods, both here and overseas, seem to interpret this term in different ways.

Discussion on global events: What do we want to do regarding global events in the next years? *Glocal* events are sponsored by the ELCA Global Mission Unit and are held in certain areas of the country, usually in a parish. These are relatively inexpensive for attendees. Should we encourage NEIS parishioners to attend those events, or should we endeavor to have our own synod global event? We evaluated the synod global mission event at Bethlehem Lutheran, Cedar Falls last November as very successful, attracting 80+ people.

Mark Anderson telephoned the Global Mission Unit in Chicago and received the following information:

- A 2011 *Global Mission Event* (GME) is possible, but not likely to happen due to cost.
- *Glocal* events will definitely be held in the Central States Synod, Nebraska Synod, and in one of the synods in Minnesota in 2011.

Mark suggested we encourage NEIS congregations to take all Church Council members to a *Glocal* Event. Jon thought we should have our own synod global event similar to the "Bethlehem event" annually or bi-annually, and include persons from our companion synods, if possible. The next event should be held at a central location in the synod. Suggestions: Independence, Sumner, or Manchester.

A global village camp type of event would require a couple of years advance planning and would need to be discussed with camp directors at EWALU and Riverside.

MOVED that we plan either a synod global event or a *Glocal* event for the fall of 2011, and that Mark contact the ELCA-GMU regarding the possibility of partnering with us to some degree. Jon will provide an outline model for a synod event, based on the one held in November 2009 (Appendix A). (M-David, S-Jon). Approved.

Other possible action items:

- Contact camp directors regarding the feasibility of holding a *Global Village Camp* event at some time in 2012 or 2013.
- Contact global mission chairpersons for the other two synods in Iowa to inquire what they might be planning, and whether we might work together on a global or *Glocal* event in future.

Reflections on Synod Assembly:

Workshop locations were hard to find and rather inaccessible.

It has been difficult to get the topic of Global Mission on the synod program for plenary discussion. A synod project, or new vision, on the horizon may be missionary sponsorships. Mark will initiate an article for the STAR detailing the process for a congregation to sponsor a missionary.

Namibia sub-group report: Pr David Grant reported that a pastor from Namibia will arrive on October 17th after having spent a month with the New Jersey Synod. Pr. Petrenia Garnuses is newly ordained and in her first call. A one-day forum in Decorah is being planned, and the sub-group is contacting congregations that might serve as hosts during her month in our synod.

The sub-group is also considering a request to raise money for a tractor to be used by a cooperative in Namibia, a project approved by the church in Namibia, and by our synod.

A request by a former missionary for synod support of a hostel where children live while attending school in Namibia is being discussed by the sub-group.

Hungary sub-group report: Pr. Emily Horrell reported that no formal relationship has been formed yet, but our bishop is in the process of contacting Hungarian church leaders.

Mission/service trips: Pr Mark Anderson reported that the trip to Guatemala was very successful. No further trips to Guatemala are being planned. An intergenerational mission trip is being considered for 2011, but likely not an international one because of costs. Something in Maryland may be considered.

Marilyn Brocka and her husband are on the list for proposed Food Resource Bank trips to Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, but it's still uncertain if they will be able to go.

Monthly global nuggets for the STAR: (Handout of suggestions distributed – Appendix B.)

It's desirable that every issue of the STAR includes a short article about our global connections, ideas for missionary support, prayer for missionaries, etc. Mark will ask Marcia Hahn for space dedicated to Global Mission, but articles must be submitted at least two months in advance.

Budget matters: For 2010, the Global Mission Work Group budget was \$7,100. Synod Council will need to make significant budget cuts for 2011, and the GMWG will also share the reduction. Greater frugality in spending will be necessary.

Next meeting: A conference call meeting is scheduled for October 5, at 10:30 a.m. Work Group members will dial 641-715-3300, and then enter the code: 709671#. Mark will send out email reminders with the above calling information.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Schardt, secretary

Celebrate our Global Connections

1. Give Thanks to God for creating each person unique.
2. Pray for one person or one family or one neighbor or one group of people overseas. Do this before or after a meal, or at bedtime with your children, or before a potluck at church, or at a Bible study.
3. Do a family or small-group global search on-line for a particular country. Glean and share information about the people of this country, and pray for them.
4. Does your town have a multi-cultural center? Does it have a safe place where newcomers can feel welcome, have free English lessons, and find access to local services? Become an advocate for those who have no real “voice” in your community.
5. The Evangelical Church in America has 240 missionaries serving in 90 different countries of the world. And that doesn't even count the thousands of local indigenous missionaries serving daily in their villages and towns, sharing the Good News and living it out. Pray for them.
6. Join the Global Links network by receiving Lanny Westphal's monthly Global Links newsletter, brimful of stories, ideas, prayer concerns, celebrations, videos, and other resources you can use in your family and congregation and community. [Global_Mission_Ministries.wmv](#).
7. Become carefully informed and then begin meaningful conversations about controversial topics such as immigration reform. Listen to both sides of arguments. Ask astute questions.
8. Celebrate diversity by encouraging your children and students to read books about and from other cultures. Read such books to them and discuss the common threads that run through all cultures.
9. Where and when are the ELCA's Glocal gatherings this year? Find one in your area or far away, and take yourself and your friends or family for a marvelous global treat for a day and a half, for \$35 per person. Find the list of these gatherings and choose one to attend. E-mail GlobalMissionInfo@elca.org or call 1-800-638-3522 x2642 with questions. They run right into November of 2010 for this year.
10. Invite international students to your home and learn together about one another's cultures and traditions. Learn new words and phrases in another language.
11. Choose a favorite Bible passage to memorize or pray as a family, a passage which reminds us of God's far-reaching love to all. Some of my favorites include Psalm 67: 1-2, psalm 146, Psalm 150, John 3:16-17, John 10:16, Romans 5:1, Romans 8:35-39, and Galatians 3:28.
12. As a congregation or family or group, become a missionary sponsor. Learn about this wonderful partnership across oceans. Find out when your synod or a neighboring one is planning a learning trip and/or service trip to another country; partner by going or by supporting those who can go or by contributing to a life-transforming project there such as digging wells for clean water.
13. The continuing conflict between Israel and Palestine weighs heavily on our hearts. How can we become more aware of the situations there and the ongoing need here to listen, pray, and advocate for justice?

Northeastern Iowa Synod Global Mission Workgroup
Global Mission Event (Draft 8-14-10)

1. Purpose: The purpose of the NEIS Global Mission Event is to engage congregations and their members in the global mission events locally, nationally, and internationally, especially those sponsored by the ELCA.
2. Sponsor: The Northeastern Iowa Synod Global Mission Workgroup (roster attached).
3. Past Experience: The first NEIS Global Mission Event was held in on Sunday, November 8, 2009, from 1:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA. Approximately 80 adults and youth attended. A copy of the program is attached.
4. Host Congregation
 - Facilities: Facilities should be sufficient to provide space for the following:
 - Worship services at beginning and closing of the Event
 - 6 – 8 classrooms for workshops; seating for 20 or more
 - Narthex or suitable space for registration (6' table and chairs)
 - Parish Hall for displays (10 – 15 tables 6' long) space around the perimeter
 - Parish Hall for early gathering and evening meal
 - Attendance expectation: 100 adults and youth.
 - Signage: Signs pointing to Workshop sessions and at each classroom identifying the topic being presented.
 - Food
 - Coffee/pop, etc, and cookie at registration and breaks (see attached schedule)
 - Evening meal (menu agreed upon with Global Mission Workgroup)
 - Cost: covered by registration fee and NEIS (if needed)
 - Resources needed:
 - Organist/piano for opening and closing services
 - Kitchen help for preparing breaks and meals
 - Technology, such as power point projectors, if needed by presenters
 - Janitorial services

5. NEIS Global Mission Workgroup:

- Coordinator: will appoint from its membership a coordinator to work with the Host Congregation
- Workshop Presenters: will secure presenters on mission topics
 - will determine presenter technology needs and secure such if not available from Host Congregation
- Promotion: will promote through NEIS and local media
- Food: will assist in selecting an appropriate 'mission meal'
- Registration: will provide registration staff and collect fees
 - 2009 fees: adults \$10.00; youth \$5.00; family \$25.00
 - 2009 registration fees covered food/janitorial costs

6. Timeline (We did discuss a Spring Event, didn't we?)

- October 2010: Host Congregation selected
- October 2010: Event date set for 2011
- November 2010: Event date publicized in Synod media
- November 2010: Preliminary meeting of Host Congregation Committee and NEIS Global Mission Workgroup.
- December - ??: NEIS Global Mission Workgroup secure presenters
- January 2011: NEIS contacts organizations for displays
- On-going communication with Congregation and Coordinator
- 8 weeks prior to Event, publicity blitz in surrounding Conferences, especially youth groups.
- 2 *Star* issues features prior to the Event
- Week of Event:
 - NEIS prints programs
 - Contacts presenters for confirmation and technology needs

**Global Mission Event
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, IA
Sunday, November 8, 2009 - 1:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Session Title</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla	Accompaniment	Cecil Maureen Johnson
Rev. Dennis Dickman	Living with Islam	Marilyn Brocka
Dr. Fred Strickert**	The Church in Palestine: Undying Witness for Peace	
Rev. Ron & Else Schardt	Papua, New Guinea Ministry & Adventures	
Rev. Herb Hafermann	Stories from Tanzania	
Rev. David & Elayne Werges	The Power of Mission Trips	
NEIS Namibia Visitors	Our Companions in Faith	
Maryn Olson	Who Is My Neighbor – A View from Postville	
Rev. Dr. Jean Rabary	Madagascar	
Ruoxia Li & Yang Xu	The Church in China	
<u>Rev. Mark Anderson</u>	<u>Global Games</u>	

** Needs power point projector

Session 1

1. Padilla – Accompaniment
2. Rabary – Madagascar
3. Hafermann – Tanzania
4. Dickman – Islam
5. Strickert – Church in Palestine
6. Werges – Mission Trips
7. Namibia Visitors – Companion Synod

Session 2

- Padilla – Accompaniment
- Schardt-Papua, New Guinea
- Hafermann – Tanzania
- Olson – Postville
- Strickert – Church in Palestine
- Li & Xu – China
- Namibia Visitors – Companion Synod

Session 3

- Schardt-Papua, New Guinea
- Rabary – Madagascar
- Dickman - Islam
- Olson - Postville
- Werges- Mission Trips
- Li & Xu - China

Sessions 2 & 3: Rev. Mark Anderson – Global Games (?)

Displays:

1. Lutheran World Relief
2. Global Mission (1 and 2 next to each other)
3. Papua, New Guinea (needs outlet)
4. Wartburg College
5. LYO
6. Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity
7. Self Help International
8. Barnabas Uplift
9. Lutheran Services in Iowa
10. Synod Mission Trip to Guatemala
11. Namibia Workgroup
12. Riverside Bible Camp
13. Fair Trade Products

Opening Service

1. Welcome by Cecil Maureen Johnson – GMWG Chair
2. Rev. Eliakim Shaanika – Companion Synod Guest
3. Rev. Rafael Padilla – keynote
4. Music led by Bethlehem Lutheran

Closing Service

1. Led by Cecil Maureen Johnson
2. Music led by ???

Food

All food services provided through Bethlehem Lutheran resources

