

## **Report of the North Conference to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod 2008**

The North Conference of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod ELCA continued its pattern established last year of monthly meetings rotating between Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays allowing those with fixed commitments to attend at least two out of three monthly meetings. The morning conference meetings allowed for Professional Leaders of the church to share informal fellowship time, gather for worship and explore some topic or presentation that expands our understanding of our ministry together.

The various programs were as follows:

- Rev. Bob Davis** reported to the conference on various items of business addressed at the National ELCA Assembly.
- Rev. Dave Lerseth**, recently retired Director for Global Mission Support made a presentation on our ELCA Global Mission programs with special attention to projects relating to Madagascar
- Bishop Wayne Miller** presented some of his initial priorities for the synod and vision for ministry in the coming years.
- Rev. Fred Rajan and Good Shepherd Hospital** in Barrington hosted a gather to familiarize clergy with the services and programs of Advocate System Hospitals.
- Gathered to** discuss uses and content of the new ELW Occasional Services Book due out in the fall of 2008.
- Ken Inskip**, Executive for Research and Evaluation from our national ELCA Offices led a discussion of the changing populations to whom we minister and implications for the future of the church.
- Rev. Jim Christian** - Community Chaplain at Alexian Brothers Hospital Network made a presentation of a suicide intervention method called "Question, Persuade, and Refer (QRP).
- Julie Donovan** - Executive Director of Lake County Habitat updated the conference on plans for 2008 construction.
- LSTC presented** a summary of their planned appeal approved by the synod.
- Rev. Dan Schwich** updated the conference on Advocacy issues that challenge our synod and congregations.

In addition to the various programs presented in the synod, the North Conference congregations continued to work to support through mission partnerships, the ministry of Sagrado Corazon. Thanks to the leadership of Pastor Richard Holmer, commitments of over \$30,000 were provided in support of a fulltime ministry at Sagrado Corazon. The recent pastoral vacancy in this mission has raised some concern for the future of this ministry and reminded us once again of the need we have for clergy with a variety of gifts being identified for call to such special settings.

In Christ's service,  
Rev. Douglas L. Meyer  
Dean, North Conference