

Global Mission Ministry Team

2017 Fall Area Gathering Report

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:3

You will notice several changes that have happened in this past year with the ministry and our report. First, we have changed our name. This brings us into an easier understanding for our colleagues in this work as many use the title, "Global Mission".

Secondly, we have added to the Global Mission Ministry Team; the Rev. Dr. James Hendrickson (Hosanna, Edmonton) has now joined us.

Some ministry areas that we are working on at present are the following:

1. Colombia: We welcome Bishop Atahualpa Hernandez as the new Bishop of IELCO. We are working on plans for him and a group from Colombia, coming to visit Alberta beginning at the next Synod convention in June 2018. Two working groups have been established to help him and his wife, as well as a delegation from the church, to tour our Synod and be with congregations who have been involved with the ministry there. A new agreement between our two synods' is being prepared and hopefully will be signed during the convention.
2. Mission Trip: The next journey to Colombia is tentatively planned for July 26-August 6 in 2018. Bishop Larry will be leading this trip and more information will be coming out as details are firmed up.
3. El Salvador: Pr. Brian Rude continues his work and presence there. His situation with the Synod has been clarified recently as we need to abide by CRA regulations.

Some other matters that I would bring to your attention as well.

- A. National Church policy. You will all have received a brochure in your congregational mailings about the on-going nature of missions. We encourage you to review it.
- B. Companionship. We are continuing to strengthen our relationships with our sister synods in the ELCA that are partnered with us in Colombia. This also helps to strengthen our witness. Plans are underway for us to hopefully and prayerfully participate in some joint events, though this is still in the planning stage.

As I write this, hurricane season in the Atlantic is in full swing. While this is not news, the severity of the storms are; please pray for our sisters and brothers in the faith in the Caribbean basin. I would ask also for prayers for Mexico and Central America over the latest earthquake to hit the region and our southern US brothers and sister along the Gulf Coast who are directly affected by the storms.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. L. Scott Brown, chair.