

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

NAR Executive Report to the NAR Board

July 29 – 31, 2011

The past several months have had emotional ups and downs. We struggle with the loss of Pastor Russ Hillman. He was truly dedicated to the mission of Marriage Encounter. God and all the angels are cheering that he is with them. Russ' YEAH GOD will be with us always. Also, Pastor Dan Teuscher, has had some serious surgery and is regaining strength daily.

FINANCE: During the July NAR meeting Ken and Gina Schiess, finance couple, will be meeting with the District finance couples. Part of the focus will be on forms and reporting information for statistics.

OUTREACH: An outreach manual has been created. We are in the process of selecting a couple to be on NAR board staff as Outreach coordinators. Each District is encouraged to select an outreach coordinator. Districts may want individual areas to have an outreach couple also. A map which shows the larger concentrations of Lutherans has been passed out, and it is hoped that new areas may be developed, or old areas may be renewed.

STRENGTH FINDERS: New board members have now taken the strength finders survey. Strengths will be used during the July meeting to formulate ways to most effectively match revenues to expenses.

MEDIA/MARKETING/SOCIAL NETWORKING: Discussion continues on ways to reach more couples. Concepts of a Seeker website, Monthly church eNewsletter, Seeker Blog, Twitter account, Facebook page, YouTube channel, or updating the current website, are all being considered.

The International Lutheran Marriage Encounter meeting will take place Wednesday and Thursday before the NAR meeting begins on Friday. We welcome the International Lutheran coordinating couple, Anna and Kari Alander, from Finland, and the ER execs lay couple, Gudrun Katrin Eiriksdottir and Johannes Brynjolfsson, Iceland, and the clergy, Martina Brogmus and Sigurjon Aarni Eyujolfsson, Iceland. They will be attending the NAR meeting at the completion of the ILME meeting.

INTERFAITH MEETING

Redmans were privileged to attend the Interfaith Meeting July 9-10 in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting began a few days early with Leadership Through Relationship (LTR) training. The LTR program is developed by the WWME and is required for all their leadership. They were kind enough to grant the Interfaith board's plea and present the program. It was a wonderful experience. (The complete IF report is included in the website for you).

The Catholics are using and encouraging all faith expressions to use the wording "**application**" instead of "**registration.**" It basically means that a couple is "approved" to attend and, according to legal counsel, it should eliminate any legal concerns of a same sex couple registering. Some faith expressions in some areas of the US have encountered problems.

All are encouraged to use the ELF website which contains a lot of resource materials. <http://ELF.wwme.org>. The Lutheran ID is Lutheran and the password is luther.

A Common Protestant Outline (CPO) is being established by the Interfaith Board. Such things as who talks, when, and the timing of talks will all be unified so that presenters can present on other faith weekends. Friday night's talks outlines have been unanimously approved by IF and now need WWME approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean and Marcia Redman, Lay Execs.
Dan and Judy Teuscher, Clergy Execs.