

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER DISTRICT IV REPORT
For July, 2017 NAR, ILME & Interfaith Meetings

ROSTERS:

Please attach current rosters.

WEEKENDS HELD (November, 2016-May, 2017): *(By Area within your District)*

<u>Dates</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u># couples</u>	<u># Lutheran</u>	<u># Lutheran clergy</u>	<u># Presenters</u>
Nov 4-6, 2016	Renton, WA	Red Lion	7	9	0	3
Mar 17-19, 2017 (CPO)	CO Springs, CO	Glen Eyrie	12	4	0	3 (UME & Non-Denom)

WEEKENDS SCHEDULED: *(By Area within your District)*

<u>Dates</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
July 14-16, 2017	Ten Sleep, WY	Circle J	RV Weekend (CPO w/UME)
Oct 13-15, 2017	Rancho Cordova	Holiday Inn	
Oct 20-22, 2017	CO Springs, CO	Glen Eyrie	CPO w/end w/UME
Fall 2017	Phoenix, AZ		
November 2017	Seattle Area		

PRESENTING COUPLE STRENGTH: *(By Area within your District)*

<u>Area</u>	<u>#Clergy</u>	<u>#3rd Set</u>	<u>#2nd Set</u>	<u>#1st Set</u>	<u>#LOA</u>	<u>#Not CPO Encounter Ready</u>
AZ	0	1	0	0	0	0
CA	1	1	0	1	0	0
Mid Rockies	1	1	0	0	0	0
WA-OR	0, 1-writing	2	0	1, 1-writing	0	0

5 POINT-GOLD STAR THRUST TO THRIVE UPDATES:

What are you doing/planning in your District/Areas to thrive in the following 5 areas. Include personal, couple, Area, and District endeavors.

Prayer: *Include specific prayer plans/activities/other.*

WA-OR Included on Worldwide Prayer Vigil to pray for every weekend.

CO Personally, we set out phone alarm every week so we don't miss our prayer time. Our circles always begin and end with prayer.

Personal Development: *What kinds of things are you doing/planning/do you recommend we incorporate in order to thrive in leadership in LME and in life?*

Pre-Encounter Excellence: *Include inviting/recruiting/publicity/Pre-Encounter Contacts, etc.*

WA-OR Have developed a database of all ELCA, LCMS, LCMC congregations in Western Washington and Oregon – pre-weekend publicity is sent to all 437 congregations. Recently encountered (past 2-3 years) and faithful encountered couples who have sustained contact also receive pre-weekend publicity. Note: not much evidence that the materials sent are used in the congregations or by the couples who receive it. We continue to struggle to get effective publicity materials into the hands of un-encountered couples.

CO We believe it has helped us to partner w/another UME expression. This has given us more couples to do the jobs that are needed, two website and email lists to pull registration from, and just has blessed us with new blood and energy.

Encounter Excellence: *What are you doing /planning to insure excellence in the Encounter Experience?*

WA-OR No specific activity at this time other than helping our two writing couples develop good presentations.

Post-Encounter Excellence: *What is being done/planned to engage/support the newly encountered?*

WA-OR We seem to have small weekends (under 10) that draw couples from a very wide geography and inviting success in our large population centers has not been fruitful. Critical mass of encountered couples in a local community no longer exists. We have several couples who remain faithful to support weekend greet-offs, but local activities and scheduling has become unviable. Whether emailing materials periodically to couples would be fruitful is unknown.

CO We challenge the weekend couples to dialogue for 90 days straight and incentivize them for a free dinner. We send email encouragements along the way (at 15, 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 days). The emails include a suggested dialogue question. One of the couples from last year started a FB group for our Denver area circle/flame.

ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/BEST PRACTICES:

Include things you are piloting or plan to pilot. If tried, please include observations/results.

CO We are trying our second RV weekend this year. The UME community that we partner with is also doing a 3RE pilot in Thermopolis, WY beginning Sept4 – October 16, 2017.

ENRICHMENTS/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

CPO ACTIVITIES:

In what ways are you connecting with other WWME Faith Expressions?

WA-OR Catholic community is the only other faith expression active in Washington and Oregon at this time. Have contacted the Catholic community about where they hold weekends, but response is minimal.

VARIETY OF MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCES:

If you're holding or considering anything other than the traditional Weekend, please include here.

WA-OR No activity at this time.

CO We are trying our second RV weekend this year. It is being held at a Methodist retreat center. The UMME community that we partner with is also doing a 3RE pilot in Thermopolis, WY beginning September 4 – October 16, 2017. UMME has paid for a professional video for the 3RE pilot – we have not seen them yet but expect to shortly.

UPDATES TO SHARE:

STRENGTHS AND HOW WE APPLIED THEM: WA-OR Two very experienced workshoppers – doing our best to support our two writing couples.

WEAKNESSES AND HOW WE ADDRESSED THEM: WA-OR Seeking ways to reach congregations to include weekend publicity and support the LME ministry. We get little or no response from congregations we reach out to.

SUCCESSSES / PROBLEMS SOLVED / OBSTACLES OVERCOME: WA-OR None.

CHALLENGES WE FACE / PROBLEMS THAT NEED SOLVING: WA-OR see “Weaknesses” above.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

WA-OR That we find an effective means of reaching and interesting unencountered couples to experience Marriage Encounter.

CO Pray for reaching the couples God wants on ur weekend and help and new blood for our ministry.

HELP DESIRED:

WA-OR Any publicity ideas and effective communications that has worked elsewhere that we might emply in Washington and Oregon.

CO We always need help. ☺