



European American Lutheran Association **EALA**

To be a visible and nameable anti-racist witness for a cross-cultural church

Spring 2014

EALA Board of Directors to Meet with ALAMEH in October

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Six Common Goals for ELCA Ethnic Associations:

- Listen to the non-affiliated to hear relevance.
- Implement ways to serve those under 35.
- Convene caucuses to hear how young adults would become engaged in church.
- Ethnic Associations assist ELCA in drawing clear map for cross-cultural church.
- Engage Associations in developing young adult leadership.
- Establish communications between synods and Associations.

The EALA Bylaws require an annual face-to-face Board of Directors meeting. Normally the board meets monthly via a telephone conference call. Since board members are assigned as liaisons to different associations and a board goal is to have EALA Biennial Conferences jointly with another association when possible (As was done in 2012 with the American Indian and Alaskan Native Association), a decision was made recently to hold the 2014 Annual Board

Meeting (Face-to-face) while the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage



(ALAMEH) has its annual meeting in early October at the ELCA Churchwide Offices in Chicago. Current plans are for the board to meet

on Friday and then to spend Saturday morning at their conference and to have lunch with them. You can learn more about this association at elca.org click Our Work, then Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries, and then Arab and Middle Eastern.

Invite others to join us through our website crossculturalchurch.org.

Like us on FACEBOOK /EALAnet or follow us on Twitter @EuroAmLuthAssn.



EALA Biennial Conference Postponed to 2015

2014 should be the year for the 3rd EALA Biennial Conference for membership education, relationship building, and the General Assembly, where the association business, including electing the Board of Directors, is done. However, at the first-ever ELCA Ethnic Associations' Leadership Gathering, January 2013 in Chicago, the six associations

were asked to delay any Biennial Association Conferences for 2014 until 2015 so all association members could meet jointly. Those associations with annual conferences would be meeting as usual this year. Our EALA Board of Directors has now officially decided to delay our conference and General Assembly until next year. EALA members will

be receiving information about when and where the joint 2015 ELCA Ethnic Association Conference will be held either later this year or the beginning of next year.



Intercultural and Sustainable: Two Important Words from Columbia Conference

Two board members, Mark Cerniglia (Greenville, SC) and Russell Meyer (Tampa, FL), were invited to attend the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission Unit sponsored Triennial Global Mission Consultation for Latin America and Caribbean Churches in December at Columbia, South America. A brief report was given at the January EALA Board

Meeting indicating that intercultural and sustainable were two words emphasized. The first would move us beyond being only multicultural or crosscultural to suggest that churches seek to actually learn from each other to enhance each other's life. The second word, sustainable, would suggest the need to make sure a ministry or church has the resources to continue. It

was also mentioned that both apply to the ELCA and also requires it then to be anti-racist, so both words could become real among us as we seek to fulfill Christ's mission in the United States of America, an increasingly diverse nation.

"People have been educated and socialized to believe in certain racial characteristics and differences."

Meet Your Board of Directors Online

Recently pictures of our thirteen member Board of Directors were placed on the EALA website, crossculturalchurch.org. To see and read about them click About Us and EALA Board Members. Some are identified with goal teams or committees: Membership Advancement (Developing strategies of growth and outreach within the board and EALA members), Enhancing Communications (Using various means to share about us with EALA members, the ELCA and rostered leadership, synods, and congregations), Public Witness (Suggesting issues and approaches for the

association and her members), Collective Presence (Processing board member relationships with other associations) Get to also know the board through their individual responses to two questions: *"Describe when you first become aware of your white privilege"* and *"What was the attraction for you to join this organization?"*. You may even want to answer the same questions. If you are open to sharing your responses, send them to prbauman@att.net with your first name, city, and state.

Board Members at Upcoming Events

Two members, Mark Cerniglia and Russell Meyer, attended Ecumenical Advocacy Days (advocacydays.org), March 21-24 in Washington, DC. Theme will be "Jesus Weeps—Resisting Violence, Building Peace". Paul Bauman (West Bend, WI), Andrew Tengwall (Kalamazoo, MI), and Fred Thomas-Breitfeld (Milwaukee, WI) are attending the White Privilege Conference (whiteprivilegeconference.com), March 27-29 in Madison, WI. In addition Harlan Johnson (Rockford, IL), who attended the last two conferences, will serve as a volunteer. Theme will be "Building Relationships! Strengthening Communities! Seeking Justice!" In addition Mark Cerniglia will be attending the Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders of the ELCA Conference in April.

Board Members

