



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- Advancing UM Ministries Among Korean Americans (Page 1)
- New Hispanic Ministries in Desert Southwest (Page 1)
- Troy Conference: Progress in Hispanic Ministries (Page 2)
- Partnerships Strengthen African-American Churches (Page 3)
- National Committee Considers Critical Issues (Page 3)
- Samoans Knocked and the Door Opened at the Other End of the Ocean (Page 4)
- First Pastoral Gathering (Page 4)
- Native Church Established in Albuquerque (Page 5)
- Wesley Promotes Race Relations (Page 5)
- It's a Family Affair—Tongan Style (Page 6)
- District Superintendent Runs to Support New Hispanic Church (Page 6)
- ELCC Resources and Contacts (Page 7)
- Upcoming Events in the Southeastern Jurisdiction (Page 7)

Advancing UM Ministries Among Korean Americans

By Rev. Dr. Brandon Cho

With an overwhelming support of the 2000 General Conference, the Korean American National Plan is in full swing. The UM Council on Korean American Ministries has been organized to coordinate the implementation of this vital National Plan.

- The Plan's goals include:
- Starting 20 new Next Generation English Ministries
- Starting 15 new Campus Ministries
- Starting 30 new Korean Language churches
- Raising up 40 new seminaries for our UM ministries.

The Plan also focuses on developing leaders, especially among laity, clergywomen, and clergymen.

We are happy to share with you that we are making a good progress with our efforts. New ministries are being born in partnership with annual conferences! New nationwide programs for leadership development are being implemented in partnership with various general program boards.

We want to say a big "thank you" for all our mission partners in The United Methodist Church. Indeed we are sharing God's mission. "The growth of Korean American United Methodist churches means growth for the whole UMC."

The quarterly newsletter of the Korean American National Plan, "Working Together", has been designed.

New Hispanic Ministries in Desert Southwest

From Committee on Hispanic Ministries Newsletter

In an effort to serve the 1.2 million Hispanics living in Arizona and Southern Nevada, the Desert Southwest Conference Hispanic Ministries Committee has recently set

out five strategic goals: 1) Strengthening existing Hispanic congregations and faith communities; 2) Recruiting clergy and lay Hispanic

Continued on page 2

New Hispanic Ministries in DSW continued from page 1

leadership; 3) Teaching and training Hispanic leaders, 4) Building community and relationships among Hispanic churches and leaders, and 5) Strengthening Hispanic leadership and offering Spanish language translations during the annual conference sessions.

Rev. Dottie Escobendo-Frank reports vital ministries throughout the region that are making a positive difference. For example, in Phoenix there are four major projects: The work of Rev. Ruben Carrico at Primera Iglesia which continues to impact the Spanish speaking community after more than 20 years; the revitalization of the historic Douglas congregation lead by Juan Munoz, a layperson and 10-10 missionary; and the initiation of an Hispanic-faith community in a non-Hispanic church by Epworth's pastor, Javier Olivares. A new congregation is

being established and an historic church revived in Tuscon lead by Rev. Julio Alvarado. Sonia Alvarfado, a 10-10 missionary is also doing important outreach in Tuscon. She has creatively put together an after-school program and is developing an Hispanic faith community within that of a non-Hispanic congregation that welcomes the chance to assist. In Somerton, Pastor Efran Celiz and Maribel Celiz, both National Plan missionaries, are beginning a new Hispanic congregation, doing community development and undertaking a counseling "sidewalk ministry."

Meanwhile, local pastor, Rev. Ricardo Reyes, is starting another new church in San Luis. Ministry is also going strong in Las Vegas, Nevada. Rev. Ernesto Trevino, a National Plan missionary, has started a new Hispanic ministry and worshipping congregation, and is organizing faith communities in other parts of this world-renowned city.

Sonia Alvarfado...is developing an Hispanic faith community within that of a non-Hispanic congregation that welcomes the chance to assist.

The work of Rev. Ruben Carrico at Primera Iglesia...continues to impact the Spanish speaking community after more than 20 years.

Progress in Hispanic Ministries:

TROY CONFERENCE

The Troy (New York) Conference reports substantial progress in its first Hispanic mission church, Emmanuel. A goal to begin seven other Hispanic faith communities in the cities of Amsterdam, Schenectady, Albany, and Troy has been established, and two of them are underway.

Emmanuel, had its origins in a non-Hispanic congregation, Trinity

UMC in Albany. Spanish language services were held by then assistant pastor Mariana Rodriguez. Two years ago this "fellowship" moved to its own location. Now, according to Pastor Rodriguez, the church averages 25 in Sunday worship. In addition, its multi-faceted program encompasses an ESL class, youth activities, a bread ministry, translation services and a crisis assistance program.

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Permission is granted to reprint this newsletter for the development and strengthening of ethnic ministries. The newsletter is also available on the GCOM web site, www.gcom-umc.org, and may be downloaded.

Partnerships Strengthen African-American Churches

By Linda Green

Partner congregations are hallmarks of the Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21) initiative. The United Methodist initiative offers an opportunity for vibrant, growing congregations to provide mentoring to other churches seeking to become more effective in ministry.

Approved by the 1996 General Conference and continued in 2000 for four more years, SBC21 is working to revitalize the more than 2,500 African-American congregations in the denomination. Its governing committee develops programs and strategies to help predominantly black United Methodist congregations become more effective in their ministries.

Partner congregations have covenanted with other churches, designated as congregation resource centers, to plan for future ministers, increase church membership, become more effective in worship and outreach ministries, and get lay leadership involved in the total life of the congregation. By the end of 2004, each of the 20 congregation resource centers is to have held training events for teams of lay and clergy from local churches. The partner congregation use the centers' expertise to help strengthen weak areas of ministry. The centers are spread throughout the nation in urban, suburban, and rural areas, with church memberships ranging from 150 to 14,000.

Since the initiative's inception, 400 partner congregations have been assisted and congregations willing to

look at every facet of their ministry have been strengthened.

SBC21 is working to revitalize the more than 2,500 African-American congregations in the denomination.

Through the initiative, partner congregations work together "to clearly understand why they are doing what they are doing in

ministry," says Rev. Helen Fleming, pastor at Eastwick United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A congregation wanting to become a partner church under the initiative must demonstrate openness to change; express a desire to develop clergy and lay leadership; show willingness to give prayer, time, talent, resources, and energy to the process; position itself strategically for mission; and covenant to share learning experiences with other congregations, the larger United Methodist Church, and the initiative itself.

National Committee Considers Critical Issues

From Committee on Hispanic Ministries Newsletter

The Committee on Hispanic Ministry, meeting in Phoenix, February 16-18, received reports and also considered critical issues related to the development of Hispanic ministries.

With the number of Hispanic ministries continuing to increase in The United Methodist Church, thanks to the National Plan, the Committee has been concerned about the recruitment and training of clergy for these ministries. One of the newest elements of the National Plan provides initiative grants to UM seminaries to develop

specific programs to address this concern. Proposals from four of our seminaries were received, and two of them were approved to receive grants of \$85,000 over the next three years.

Bishop Graciela Alvarez from Mexico City, attending the meeting representing CIEMAL (the Council of Latin American Methodist Churches), expressed concern about the widely and increasing "importation" of clergy from the Methodist Church in Mexico for

Continued on page 6

Samoans Knocked and the Door Opened at the Other End of the Ocean

By Dennis Holway

The Pacific Ocean and United Methodism have drawn together diverse persons in far away places that might otherwise seem unconnected. Sailitai Maga moved from American Samoa to Waianae, Hawaii in 1972. Who would have guessed that 20 years later, this certified lay speaker and member of the California-Pacific Annual Conference would be establishing a ministry in Alaska?

Who would have guessed that 20 years later, this certified lay speaker and member of the California-Pacific Annual Conference would be establishing a ministry in Alaska?

When Maga visited friends in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska in 1993 he was asked how to start a ministry amongst the growing population of Samoans in America's most northern state. The same question was repeated when he visited the following year, so conversations began between him and Pastors Billy Still and Dennis Holway. Soon Maga was organizing Samoans to become members of the Turnagain UMC. Since then the original congregation and the new one have shown that shared ministry can happen. Each fellowship maintains its own identity, conducts services in its own language, coordinates use of the church building, shares in church

work projects, worships together on special days, holds joint fellowship events, and makes sure the children are a part of the whole church.

In 1999, the Turnagain Samoan

Along the way we have discovered how important music is to both worshipping communities.

Fellowship hosted the Western Jurisdiction Samoan Caucus. Two years ago Maga was instrumental in establishing the Anchorage area V.I.P. (Voices of Island People). It is an ecumenical group who periodically worship and gather together to further communication and understanding amongst the growing number of Samoans in the Anchorage basin.

Holway, now District Superintendent, writes, "Along the way we have discovered how important music is to both worshipping communities. One of the highlights of a recent World Communication Sunday was combining that special day with a healing service, which was a powerful experience. One day we hope our property may include a multi-purpose Polynesian Cultural Center. The Turnagain UMC members and ministry have truly been blessed by the presence and interaction of the two strong worshipping communities."

First Pastoral Gathering

From La Voz Latina

The Latino Ministries office of the California-Pacific Conference held its first Pastoral Gathering in February at Aldersgate Retreat Center in Pacific Palisades. Pastors from the different Hispanic congregations together with their lay leaders attended the two-day training.

Facilitators including Rev. José Palos, Coordinator for the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries, the Rev. Fernando Santillana, Director of

Latino Ministries in the California-Pacific Conference, and Rev. Teresa Santillana, Associate Pastor at the Orangethorpe UMC in California. The sessions brought challenge as the topics of "Leadership - How to Walk with the People?," "The Spiritual Life and Our Relationship with God," and "Church and Growth" were discussed. Joy was evident as the participants seemed to really appreciate spending time together.

Native Church Established in Albuquerque

By Linda Green

The United Methodist Native American Comprehensive Plan (NACP) is helping to turn a dream into reality. This 19-member, national task force joined with residents of Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 1st to celebrate the creation of the All Nations United Methodist Church.

"We have been after a church here for nearly 10 years and, praise the Lord, it is finally going to be here," said Fern Lemry of Albuquerque. "I saw the need for a new United Methodist Church here where we could pray and sing in our own tongues and feel closer to the Lord. Our prayers have answered after so long." Lemry, a pianist, will volunteer to be the church musician.

Noting that many tribes are represented amongst the 35,000 Natives in Albuquerque, local resident, Casey Church anticipates the new congregation will foster "relational evangelism." It will help to build greater trust in this diverse ethnic group especially between the

"traditional" and the "church-related" Natives. A native United Methodist presence in Albuquerque will have strong community support, he said, because of the large number

[T]he new congregation will foster "relational evangelism." It will help to build greater trust in this diverse ethnic group especially between the "traditional" and the "church-related" Natives.

of members who have relocated to the city.

Created by the 1992 General Conference NACP emphasizes Native American spirituality, congregational and leadership development, and involvement in the life of the United Methodist Church. The denomination has 19,000 Native American members amongst its 8.4

million US members. The census reports 1.9 million American Indians live within the boundaries of the 65 United Methodist annual conferences with 63 percent of them in urban areas. The denomination already has 200 Native American churches, ministries and fellowships in the county, including 28 in urban settings.

The Rev. David Wilson, chairman of the task force, sees the new church as a sign of the group's effort to establish or assist in creating 10 native ministries, fellowships or churches between 2001 and 2004. A new native ministry has been established in Raleigh, North Carolina. Plans for ministries in Phoenix, Dallas and Denver are underway. Feasibility studies are currently being conducted for Portland, Oregon, Detroit, Michigan, Kansas City, Missouri and Minneapolis and Green Bay Wisconsin.

Bishop Max Whitfield of the denominations' New Mexico Area, welcomed the new church. "I am excited about the opportunity to establish a congregation that will not minister to one tribe but to all nations represented in Albuquerque." The bishop intends to appoint the Rev. Raquel Mull, a Navajo clergywoman born to the Bitter Water Clan.

Wesley Promotes Race Relations

The Wesley United Methodist Church, Tupelo, Mississippi, serves as an exemplary congregation in the Mississippi Conference. Its food pantry is open to all persons and has served as many as eleven families in one day. Local African Americans have joined with this primarily White congregation for Vacation Bible

School, community soup dinners, and Cub Scouts. Wesley Church has lent its facilities to a variety of community folk, serves as an evacuation site for the neighborhood elementary school and has hosted its after-school association. It operates rental properties that are available

to persons regardless of their race or creed. Most important, Wesley, a 100 percent white church, has held joint worship services with Big Hill UMC, a primarily Black congregation, to promote cross-cultural experiences in a Christian setting.

It's a Family Affair— Tongan Style

From CN Story Jan/Feb 2002

The sound is unmistakable...a brass fanfare—and not from a lone trumpeter—but as many as 60 horns, their sound reverberating throughout Sacramento First United Methodist Church. Just as the last chord trails into an echo, a new song begins. This one, from a 30 member chorus. It is a traditional Tongan hymn; their strong alto, bass, and soprano voices sounding more like a legion of 300 than 30.

Music is the love of the Tongan people...and not just brass, but the voice.

This is a special day in the Tongan community, says Pastor Kalatini Ahio, from First Tongan United Methodist Church in San Bruno. "It's an extended family. No matter how far apart Tongans may live from each other, there is a sense they are all related. And coming together at the start of the New Year is to help strengthen and empower that family relationship."

California is the home to the largest population of Tongans outside the South Pacific kingdom. Nearly 10,000 live here. It has become their tradition to gather from throughout Northern California on the first Sunday of the New Year for a reunion. It is a day of musical and edible feasts.

"Music is the love of the Tongan people...and not just brass, but the voice," band leader Viliami Taufu says with a proud smile. He is the recently retired bandleader to the King of Tonga. Taufu and his family moved to California barely a year ago. "For the people of Tonga this is the main thing, to sing; a main delicacy." And this delicacy has become the main course for worship. Traditional Tongan songs, Wesley hymns, classical and spiritual alike.

The message Bishop Beverly J. Shamana offers during the New Year's service is in keeping with the Tongan love of music. She weaves musical lyrics from her own African American history into a clarion call for the congregation to join United Methodists throughout the conference in "the service of the Lord." "It's a time for

California is the home to the largest population of Tongans outside the South Pacific kingdom.

us to know your gifts, to have you share them with the whole of the Conference community." Anyone who hears the music would agree. The Tongans have some very special gifts to share and in this case the "blessed" are both the givers and the receivers for their music is heavenly.

National Committee Considers Critical Issues continued from page 3

ministry in the UMC. She suggested that a covenant be established that would provide for bishops from the UMC to send them a profile of the pastors that are needed, and the Mexican bishops would work together to respond to their requests. She also pointed out that when one of their students comes to study in the U.S., they expect that student to return and serve in Mexico, and not to stay in this country.

The Committee approved a recommendation to refer to this matter to the Council of Bishops to work out such a covenant and procedures between Methodist autonomous churches and the UMC.

The Committee also approved a program proposal from the Board of Discipleship to develop a Liturgy and Music Module III. In order to respond to emerging ministries, the Committee also agreed to include a resource person related to Brazilian ministries in the UMC in its future meetings.

District Superintendent Runs to Support New Hispanic Church

Rev. Steven Jones, a district superintendent of the Arlington (Virginia) District, ran 26.2 miles in the Baltimore Marathan last October. His efforts culminated in raising \$18,000 to help La Iglesia Metodista Gracia, established in July 2001, purchase a van. The vehicle is now used to provide transportation for congregants and to distribute food and basic necessities to the families which they serve.

ELCC Resources and Contacts

ETHNIC INITIATIVES

- **Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century** (Advance #194815-4). Contact Ms. Cheryl Stevenson, Staff Coordinator, General Council on Ministries, 601 West Riverview Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45406-5543. Telephone (937) 227-9400. Fax (937) 227-9407. E-mail cstevenson@saintmarkumc.com.
- **National Plan for Hispanic Ministries** (Challenge Fund Advance #982620-1). Contact Rev. José, Palos, Director, General Board of Global

Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 350, New York, New York 10115. Telephone (212) 870-3693. Fax (212) 870-3748. E-mail jpalos@gbgm-umc.org.

- **Native American Comprehensive Plan** (Advance #982615-4). Contact Ms. Ann Saunkeah, Executive Director, P.O. Box 4609, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74159-0609. Telephone (918) 747-3660. Fax (918) 747-3664. E-mail asaunke@gbgm-umc.org.
- **Asian American Language Ministry Study**. Contact Rev. Jong Sung Kim, Asian American Ministries Office, General Board

of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10115. Telephone (212) 870-3829. Fax (212) 870-3876. E-mail jkim@gbgm-umc.org.

- **Advancing United Methodist Ministry Among Korean Americans**. Contact Rev. Brandon Cho, Executive Director, P.O. Box 6006, Pasadena, California 91102-7297. Telephone (626) 568-7309. Fax (626) 796-7297. E-mail bcho55@hotmail.com.

ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH GRANTS

- **General Board of Church and Society**. Contact Dr. Neal Christie, Associate General Secretary, Resourcing Congregational Life, 100 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 2002-5664. Telephone (202) 488-5611. Fax (202) 544-0390. Funding and personnel resources are available for GBCS programs/projects related to ELCC, in the areas of leadership development, training, education, and advocacy.
- **General Board of Discipleship**. Contact Rev. Sang E. Chun, Director of Racial & Ethnic Ministries, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003. Telephone (615) 340-7050. Fax (615) 340-7006. E-mail schun@gbod.org. Grants available for programs/projects related to Christian education, congregational leader development, covenant discipleship and Christian formation, curriculum resources, evangelism, family

Upcoming Events in the Southeastern Jurisdiction

- **14th Annual SEJ Native American Conference**, June 21-23, 2002. Lake Junaluska Assembly, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. We Are Here! Visible! Proud! And Followers of Jesus. Contact Ken Locklear, (888) 825-6316, sejanam@sejac.umc.org.
- **Korean Pastors and Lay Mission Training**, July 22-25, 2002. Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons, Georgia. Contact Rev. Young Boon Yoon, (770) 753-9478, ybyoon@bellsouth.net.
- **Korean Youth Camp**, July 22-25, 2002. Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons, Georgia. Contact Rev. Young Boon Yoon, (770) 753-9478, ybyoon@bellsouth.net.
- **Confronting & Combating the Seeds of Hatred, Intolerance &**

Violence, August 23-24, 2002. Sheraton Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama. Sponsored by SEJ Church and Society Networking Group, the General Board of Church and Society, and North Alabama Prophetic Ministries Team. Contact Cheryl Walker, (888) 525-3586, walker@sejac-umc.org.

- **SEJ Religion and Race Networking Group**, August 16-17, 2002. Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact Cheryl Walker, (888) 525-3586, walker@sejac-umc.org.
- **SEJ Ethnic Local Church Concerns Chairs**, October 11-12, 2002. Miami, Florida. Contact Cheryl Walker, (888) 525-3586, walker@sejac-umc.org.

ELCC Resources and Contacts continued from page 7

and life-span ministries, lay ministries, prison ministries, Quest, spiritual formation, stewardship, and worship. Application deadlines: July 1 and November 1.

- **General Board of Global Ministries.** Contact Elí Rivera, Executive Secretary for Church Development, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1521, New York, New York 10115. Telephone (212) 870-3820. Fax (212) 870-3895. E-mail erivera@gbgm-umc.org. GBGM responds to annual conference comprehensive plans related to racial-ethnic minority local churches in the following

funding categories: salary supplement, outreach ministries, and church extension. Contact GBGM for the guidelines and assistance in developing proposals. Requests will be considered in April and October.

- **General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.** Contact Rev. Kil Sang Yoon, Director, P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0007. Telephone (615) 340-7389. Fax (615) 340-7397. Grants and staff available for strengthening ethnic minority leadership in higher education and ordained ministry (including chaplaincy, deacons/diaconal ministries, and elders/local pastors).
- **Minority Group Self-Determination Fund.** Contact

Rev. Kenneth Deere, Associate General Secretary, General Commission on Religion and Race, 100 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20002. Telephone (202) 547-4828. Fax (202) 547-0358. Staff available to provide training for annual conference Commissions on Religion and Race, to consult with bishops and cabinets on cross-racial appointments, to conduct anti-racism training workshops, and to conduct proposal writing workshops. The Minority Group Self-Determination Fund makes grants to projects submitted by United Methodist local churches, ethnic language conferences, racial/ethnic caucuses, and community groups.