

## **Program Descriptions EOCM Grants**

### **PROGRAM 300: Renewed Evangelizing Congregations**

**Staff: Neil Harrison**

Congregational renewal is a Biblical journey by which congregations deepen their understanding of the word of God, expand their practice of the word into the world, and share with others the beauty of the word and its relevance for the Christian walk into the world. The journey will result in a more active engagement in God's mission and an increase in their capacity for multiplying ministry in the world.

**300-110: Ministry Adjustment** Congregations receiving support in this program need resources to transition to the next chapter in ministry. Some missional clarity may be needed to help the congregation gain momentum. Ministries may be plateaued with an adjustment needed to grow again or already growing with an adjustment needed to transition to the next step in ministry development.

**300-120: Transformational Ministry** Congregations receiving support in this program need a new missional identity in order to focus on ministry in a new way. These congregations have been declining and may (but not necessarily) have had some ministry crisis or significant losses. These congregations form a covenant and receive transformational training as a mandatory component of being in this program.

**300-130: Mergers, Consolidations and Relocations** Congregations in this program area are going through a merger or consolidation with another congregation(s) to form some new ministry identity or are in the process of relocating to be a better missional presence in a new place in the same or nearby ministry field. These ministries need short term support to make the transition but generally bring some financial resources from previous properties with them. Often these ministries benefit from transformational ministry training to adjust or define a new identity.

**300-140: Synod Administration** This program is for congregations which have lost the ability to define their ministry and make ministry decisions without outside assistance. The synod has assumed a role in this through the act of synod administration. These congregations are often the most obviously in need of a new identity. A covenant is in place in this program and transformational ministry training for the congregation and synod are a part of this work.

#### **410-110 African/American/Black**

**Staff: Everett Flanigan**

The purpose of the AA/BO program effort is provide leadership and support to synods, and congregations as they reach out in witness to the Gospel with and among African descent peoples. The execution or work plan for the outreach, as detailed in the African Descent Outreach Strategy plan, can be interpreted as follows: the establishment of new congregations, growing and strengthening existing congregations; providing courageous, visionary and strong leadership; assisting and leading the development of synod African Descent outreach strategies, providing where needed, resources for worship that is both contextual and reflective of the needs of the respective community; and growing and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ.

Key activities include financial support for congregations (410-110 activity), which involves some 32 existing congregations and \$506,000 in grants.

Other activities include strengthening congregations through ministry reviews and alignment around best practices; assisting synods with the development of local outreach strategies and work plans; and active involvement with outreach at the synod and regional levels especially with new starts and supporting these new starts.

#### **410-120 Hispanic/Latino**

**Staff: Vacant**

**(Associate Program Directors – H.O.P.E. Team Regional/Synodical Coverage)**

Grants are awarded to support existing congregations and ministries in their Hispanic/Latino Outreach efforts, as follows:

- \*Facilitate the process for intentional missional effectiveness
- \*Encourage change from maintenance to missional focus
- \*Address specific objectives of a clearly defined outreach ministry plan
- \*Accompany Congregations facing challenging new contextual ministry opportunities
- \*Provide salary and program support for La Frontera Ministries
- \*Partner in new exploratory ministries within a targeted area
- \*Enhance the potential capacity for achieving ministry goals
- \*Assist advocacy for Word/Sacrament/Service/Justice challenges

**410-130 Asian Ministries****Staff: Ruben Duran**

Purpose: to strengthen, equip and resource existing Asian congregations in the ELCA, as well as Asian ministries being developed as part of English-speaking congregations.

The following teams participate in this process:

The Chinese Ministry Network  
The Korean Strategy Team  
The Hmong Ministry Team  
The Indonesia Ministry Network  
The Second Generation Asian Ministry Network, in formation.

**410-140: American Indian/Alaska Native Ministry****Staff: Ruben Duran**

This program provides support for ministries with American Indian/Alaska Native peoples. This program is administered with intentional consultation and partnership with the related director from the Multicultural Ministries unit. Because of the ongoing economic realities often present in this context, many of the financial support agreements in this category are often renewed on a longer term basis.

**410-150: Arab/Middle Eastern Ministry****Staff: Ruben Duran**

This program provides support for ministries with Arab/Middle Eastern peoples. This program is administered with intentional consultation and partnership with the related director from the Multicultural Ministries unit. Because of the ongoing economic realities often present in this context, many of the financial support agreements in this category are often renewed on a longer term basis.

**Program 600: Ministry with the Poor**

**Staff: Ruben Duran**

Purpose: this program engages leaders throughout the church in exploring ministry insights, identifying contextual principles and models; and developing tools and networks for the development of ministries among people living in poverty and/or marginalized communities. Its primary aim and methodology is leadership development.

This program includes the following categories:

- 600-110 Word and Sacrament ministries
- 600-120 Word and Service Ministries
- 600-130 Community Service and Organizing

**The following teams participate in this process:**

The Ministry Among Marginalized Communities Team. This team is exploring the development of contextual ministries through creative ministry teams which include indigenous leadership as their primary focus.

Collaboration and Coordination with the Hunger Grants Allocation Team, convened by the Church in Society unit of the ELCA.

**Renewal Team**

This team is a combination of EOCM staff and other members of the ELCA (both lay and clergy) who work together to be both a think tank regarding issues for congregational transformation for the sake of mission and to provide training for synods and congregations to facilitate missional congregations.