

Meeting Minutes Pacifica Synod AMMPARO 3.27.2021

Attendees:

Pastor Karla Halvorson, Pastor St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Pastor Jim Erlichmann, St. Andrews Lutheran Church
Pastor Jim Friedrich, First Lutheran Church
Pastor Marcus Lohrmann, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Pastor Robert Waworuntu, Imanuel Indonesian
Deacon Roberta Wall, Pacifica Synod
Brad Monroe, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Bruce Potocki, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Chelsey Johnson, LIRS
Donna Johnson, San Marcos Lutheran Church
Doris Payne, San Marcos Lutheran Church
Jeff Jacobson, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Kaye Hambleton, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Martha Radatz
Susan Connors, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Susan Osborn, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Terri Robertson, Pacifica Synod
Therese Monroe, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Winona Garcia, Survivors of Torture International

Opening Prayer

Deacon Roberta shared housekeeping notes for the meeting including an announcement that the meeting is being recorded.

Mission Statement:

Pacifica Synod AMMPARO provides advocacy and support services for asylees, refugees, and migrants seeking asylum regardless of country of origin. We seek to work with ELCA congregations and with local and national agencies to assist migrant families in accessing services they may need during and after the hearing process, to conduct fundraisers to assist families during transition, to provide emotional based support such as writing letters to migrants in detention centers, to provide advocacy work with local and national organizations, and to support migrant shelters facilities in the United States and Mexico.

Jeff reiterated the need to network with our partners such as LIRS, Survivors of Torture, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Jewish Family Services and Madre de Asunta Shelter in Tijuana.

Pastor Marcus provided an update with the ever moving status of the San Diego Convention Center housing the unaccompanied minors that have recently crossed the border. Over 500 girls between the ages of 13 to 17 will be cared for until transportation can be arranged to their

sponsor's home or in some cases a foster home meetings. One of the top priorities that the children asked for is religious services. Episcopal Diocese is lead for ecumenical services including pastoral care. Pastor Marcus was asked by Bishop Andy to represent ELCA on the Task Force. South Bay Community Services will lead social services and if interested, volunteers can visit their website. <https://sbcssandiego.org/>

Jeff provided an update with the San Diego Rapid Response Network Migrant Shelter. Currently there are four hotels that are housing migrants that are released by CBP. They are quarantined until COVID tests are negative. During their quarantine case managers are assigned to each family and arrange for transportation to the migrant family sponsor. Average stay at the shelter is 7 days. If you are interested in volunteering visit the following website:

<https://ifssd.galaxydigital.com/user/register/>

Deacon Roberta discussed the AMMPARO Grant that was received. The funds will be used to support migrant families attending Lutheran camps, cover the cost for immersion trips to Tijuana shelters and to provide support to the Bridge Team for the Haitian Bridge Alliance family that recently located in San Diego.

Deacon Roberta also provided a update with the Haitian family status and that St. Andrew's will be providing a team to assist in the family's needs.

Jeff relayed a message from Mary Campbell, AMMPARO ELCA, if anyone is interested in attending Sponsorship Training on April 15 and 22, please send her an email.

Martha Radatz shared information about two volunteer opportunities. Information on both is either attached or at the end of the minutes. One is The Young Center Two-Day Child Advocate Training- May 22nd & 23rd and the second is Become a Nestor and volunteer in Tijuana to teach migrant children.

Mark your calendars:

Planning Meeting April 20 10:30 am

Pacifica Synod AMMPARO Meeting April 24 at 10:00 am

Zoom links to both meetings will be sent later.

A message to all, it is very easy for our congregations to become an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation. Talk within your community to make it happen.

A recording of the entire meeting is available on the Pacifica Synod website.

Closing Prayer

Helpful Links:

ELCA AMMPARO:

<https://www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO#ForSynodsAndCongregations>

Pacifica Synod AMMPARO:

<https://www.pacificasynod.org/about/ministry-teams/pacifica-synod-ammparo-network/>

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

<https://www.lirs.org/>

Survivors of Torture, International

<https://notorture.org/>

NESTERS NEEDED

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

BECOME A NESTER!

We're ready when you are!

Have you been waiting to volunteer in Mexico? We're ready for you.

We've implemented the following protocols:

1. All volunteers must be vaccinated
2. Reduced number of children daily
3. Continuous room sanitation
4. Lots of outdoor play and learning
5. All children and adults wear masks

If you're interested in volunteering at Canyon Nest, or at our newest project, Nest Norte, applications are open for summer Nesters. For more information and to sign up please click below.

[**NESTER INFORMATION**](#)

