

**Proposed Workshop Titles for Ethnic Ministries Symposium
May 20-21, 2011**

Session One – Friday, May 20, 2011 – 1:45 pm

“Models of Partnership in Ministry” (Ministry-red)

Most new ethnic ministries require a partnership with an established congregation. What are the requirements for this relationship to work? What are the commitments needed on both sides?

“Biblical View of Immigration” (Worship/Theology-black)

The topic of immigration has been controversial throughout our American history. We are a country of immigrants. The Bible also is a history of immigrants. How does the Biblical story inform our story? What principles from Scripture might we derive for application to our contemporary situation?

“History of Lutheran Ministry among Immigrants” (Culture Issues-blue)

Receiving and aiding immigrants has a long history among American Lutherans, beginning with the Germans and Scandinavians. This is a ministry we are experienced and good at. It is a role in society that we should focus on.

Session Two – Friday, May 20, 2011 – 3:15 pm

“Issues in Cross-Cultural Ministry” (Ministry-red)

Often people feel awkward and uncertain when dealing with people of a different culture. If we are to be in ministry cross-culturally, how should we approach it? How do we avoid misjudging people and offending them?

“Lutheran Distinctives” (Worship/Theology-black)

Many immigrants have never been exposed to the Lutheran church and wonder what is special and significant about the Lutheran tradition. What are features of the Lutheran tradition that should be highlighted as we introduce our church to them?

“Second Generation Issues-Rebirthing to 2nd/Next Generation” (Culture Issues-blue)

A major issue among immigrants is the acculturation of young people. They have grown up in the USA and have absorbed many of the lifestyles. These manners can raise tensions with the older generation. The young people want to embrace their heritage, but they also want to adapt and prosper.

Session Three – Saturday, May 21, 2011 – 9:45 am

“LCEF Resources for Ethnic Ministries” (Ministry-red)

LCEF can provide congregations with an analytic picture of the population surrounding their church. Their demographic studies help to understand what the lifestyles and needs of the neighbors are. With that information, a congregation can plan a relevant ministry.

“How Worship and Evangelism are Done in Different Cultures” (panel/Worship/Theology-black)

We need to learn from each other. We need to learn how different people respond to different ministries. What common American practices do immigrants find confusing and uncomfortable?

“What Parts of Home Culture Does One Leave and What Keep?” (Culture Issues-blue)

The above question is one all immigrants struggle with. What guidelines are there for thinking through this complicated topic? What can congregations do to help immigrants in this matter? What understanding and patience should we show?

Session Four – Saturday, May 21, 2011 – 11:15 am

“Role of LAP in Training Ethnic Ministries” (Ministry-red)

We have a well-developed and successful program of training congregation leaders in our Leadership Advancement Program. This program provides Lutheran training for leaders and future workers at a very economical cost. What are its special advantages for training ethnic leaders?

“Future of Lutheran Worship in a Multi-Ethnic Society” (Worship/Theology-black)

Lutheran liturgical worship has a long, rich tradition. However, it is rooted in Western history and personality. What are the proper norms and characteristics of authentically Lutheran worship when expressed through other cultures?

“School Ministry to Ethnic Populations” (Culture Issues-blue)

We have children of many different ethnicities in our district pre-schools and schools. What are the special opportunities and difficulties that this aspect of our ministry brings? How can we integrate these people into our congregations’ ministry?