



## Report of the Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, ELCA Region 6 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marilyn Smith, Associate in Ministry

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### REGION 6

**Southeast Michigan, North/West Lower Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky,  
Northwestern Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, and Southern Ohio Synods**

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Regions are the intersection of mission and ministry shared and supported by the synodical and churchwide expression of the ELCA. This intersection leads to networking and conversations that ultimately equip congregational leaders to more fully engage ministry both within and beyond the context of their locale. To accomplish this, the regional coordinator facilitates a variety of conversations, networks, and consultations that provide advice and information and promote partnerships. Some examples of this are:

**-Candidacy:** Because candidates for ministry are prepared to serve throughout the ELCA, the process involves five interdependent partners: the candidate's congregation, the candidate, the synod, seminaries, and the churchwide expression. Regional Coordinators represent churchwide at Synodical/Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee meetings, train committee members, and provide them with resources, information, and advice to assist them in their journey of discernment with each candidate. Regional Coordinators also bring the experience and knowledge of their work with committees and candidates to conversations and consultations that help shape policies and procedures related to candidacy.

**-Assignment of First Call Candidates:** Working with bishops and synod staffs, the seminaries, and the ELCA Department for Synodical Relations, in 2009 the Region 6 Office facilitated the assignment of approximately 45 candidates for ministry in the synods of the region. Region 6 produces and sends out to other regions of the church more candidates than we receive, but the candidates we receive include both candidates from the synods of our region and from other regions. This process of mobility and assign seeks to enhance opportunities for congregations to receive leaders that will strengthen and support ministry in their midst.

**-Regional Archives:** Archivist Jennifer Long provides her own report, but just a word of appreciation for the fine work she does with records of our closed congregations and to Trinity Lutheran Seminary for providing the space to house the archives.

**-Campus Ministry:** As a result of the 2009 churchwide staff reduction, responsibilities with Campus Ministry were added to Regional Coordinator's portfolios. Regional Coordinators now represent the ELCA at Area Campus Ministry Agency meetings, facilitate quadrennial reviews at campus ministries, and assist synods with call processes at Campus Ministry sites. Coordinators are assisted in Campus Ministry work by Regional Mentors who work most closely with newly called CM staff and also assist with regional staff gatherings and other communication. The Region 6 Regional Mentor is Pr Steve Rye, Campus Pastor at Purdue University.

**-Consultations:** Consultations are opportunities for synod leaders and churchwide staff to connect to share resources, ideas, and help with challenges. Two significant consultations in 2009: a gathering of Deaconesses, Diaconal Ministers, and Associates in Ministry serving in Region 6; and a meeting of those engaged in Global Mission, Companion Church, World Hunger, and the ELCA AIDS and Malaria Initiatives. Attendees at these and other consultations expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to meet and be better equipped for the ministry in which they serve.

The work of the region is overseen by the Regional Steering Committee that is composed of the six bishops and six vice-presidents of the Region, and a representative of churchwide. In 2009 Dr Thomas Taylor (Southern Ohio Synod VP) served as chair, Ms Kathleen Lemmerbrock (NW OH Synod Staff) served as Sec/Treas and Pr Walter May of the ELCA Dept for Synodical Relations was our CW representative. Ms Carol Ann Webb ably serves as the region's part-time bookkeeper and support staff. It is a privilege to serve with all these partners in ministry.

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