

# Connecting National and Local Secretariats

# CONEXIONES



Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, UdC

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Winter Edition

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## Welcome to Saginaw!

**L**utheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan (LVCCM) is gearing up for a big welcome to delegates and visitors to the 1999 annual meeting of the National Lutheran Secretariat. The meeting will be held in July in Saginaw, Michigan. The theme of the meeting will be "Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring your friend to Christ," a familiar saying among cursillistas and one that captures the evangelical spirit that is an essential part of the Via de Cristo movement.

All meetings and most of the worship services will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Good Shepherd was recently remodeled and expanded, and since it hosts a day school during the school year, there will be plenty of rooms for committee and breakout sessions. The host committee also hopes to have on-line service to the Internet so that meeting proceedings and newsletters can be quickly uploaded to the NLS web site and made available to interested cursillistas all over the world.

Meals will also be served at Good Shepherd. Expect great food and plenty of it served by the community in the best Via de Cristo tradition. Since LVCCM is a highly ecumenical community, daily worship promises to be varied and creative. We also plan to recruit friends from other nearby fourth-day communities, such as Mid-Michigan Emmaus and the Episcopal and Catholic Cursillo movements.

Delegates and visitors will be housed at a motel just a few blocks from the church. All normal amenities will be available, including air conditioning. A hospitality room will also be located at the motel for the convenience of those who wish to gather for informal conversation and sharing when business or committee work is not scheduled. Light refreshments and snacks will be available in the hospitality room.

Although you can walk between the motel and the church, a shuttle service will be provided. Shuttle vans and busses will run continuously during peak travel periods and at regular intervals throughout the day. There is plenty of off-street parking at the church for those who have vehicles and prefer to drive themselves.

The registration fee is expected to be in line with those of recent annual meetings. The host committee was able to keep the cost low by negotiating a heavily discounted motel room rate and mounting a fund-raising drive among the LVCCM community to offset some of the costs.

While in mid-Michigan, plan to take some time enjoying nearby sights, shopping and water sports. Be sure to include the city of Frankenmuth on your list. Located just a few miles from Saginaw, Frankenmuth features shopping and restaurant areas with Bavarian charm, cuisine and architecture, and where Christmas is celebrated throughout the year.

LVCCM 1999 NLS Host Committee

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CONEXIONES is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 50,000 who have participated in 29 movements across the U.S. Via de Cristo is a Lutheran expression of Cursillo®, a renewal movement developed within the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1940s. The Lutheran movement had its beginning in Florida and Iowa in 1972. The purpose of this publication is to inform all members of each NLS affiliated secretariat, ELCA bishops and the Directors of the Division for Ministry and the Division for Ministry in Daily Life about the activities of the National Lutheran Secretariat and its affiliated secretariats. Subscriptions to the above are free. If you know one of the above is not receiving CONEXIONES, call 800-214-1155.

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### Material for CONEXIONES

If you have information for CONEXIONES, items, requests and/or information, address corrections, changes or additions - even inspirational bits - send them to the CONEXIONES Editor at the above address. DEADLINES: January 1 for February edition; April 1 for May edition; August 15 for September edition and December 1 for December edition.

## New Movement

It has been some time since I sat at this key board to write of New Movements outreach. Not because I have nothing to write but because the year is just flying by and so much is going on. Let me begin with the areas of activity and then the areas of hope.

To bring you up to date as best possible about Finland let me say that the movement has begun. The first weekend was held in November and was a success. Saku advises me that they will be performing a review of what happened and how they can improve in the month of Feb. 1999. I was sent a outline of their weekend and the rollos for my review. The European approach they have taken is different but has the fundamentals. I was able to follow it through and to give my comments. I am now awaiting the results of the mid Feb. meeting and hope to know more of the future after that gathering. A second weekend will be held in Hameenlinna about 100 kilometers from Helsinki. This will be late summer or early fall in 1999. Please keep these people in your prayers. You can contact Finland through Saku Toiviainen at saku.toiviainen@kirkkopalvelut.fi which is the E-Mail address for Saku.

We are now successful in the great state of New York also. While a weekend has yet to be held the secretariat is in place and doing the work to get off the ground. This new effort is known as Damascus Road Via de Cristo. Our contact there is the Lay Director Linda Hill. She can be reached at fritz101@aol.com. Her home address is:

Fred and Linda Hill  
7464 W. Keeney Rd.  
Fabius, NY 13063

Linda and her team are being supported in their work by Vineyard Via de Cristo with Pastor Dave Schrader lending a hand. We are confident they will be with us in Saginaw for the annual meeting.

Ark-Ok is still in the molding stages but they are meeting as ultreya at my last contact and are sending the Pilgrims to North Texas until we get it off the ground for their own start. Please keep this effort in your prayers.

Western Montana is another area that will be coming to the for this spring. We have a small be solid group working to begin a new effort in the N W area of Montana. Gerry Hudson of Yellowstone Via de Cristo is our contact person and he can be reached at ghudson@wtp.net. Gerry also has a fax number of 406-667-2232. Please send all interested parties his way and also pray for this effort.

We are also working on getting representation of all our secretariats to the 99 meeting in Mich. Please do all you can do to aid in this effort. We will be contacting all of the members over the next few months and asking for this representation. It is important that we have inter action to support and to encourage.

God's blessing to all of you and ULTREYA. Yours in Christ's Service

*Douglas W. Burrows*  
Douglas W. Burrows

## Finland Participants

Dear Rachel,

Thank you for your lovely letter! It is so good to hear about you and to know that you keep us in mind! We talk about you often and are happy to know that you are willing to pray for us. I am, we all are, glad for your support and send you the names here. We also send them to Ms. Leona Fox to National palanca center. Also our British friends are praying for us. We are deeply grateful for your help! I send my regards to you all.

God's blessing to all of you!  
Yours Marjaana

### Participants

Ms. Ulla-Maija Halme  
Mr. Pertti Vahervaara  
Ms. Auli Lievonen  
Ms. Anneli Jøøskeløinen  
Mr. Mikko Moisio  
Mr. Seppo Jauro  
Ms. Irma Jauro  
Mr. Pentti Takala  
Ms. Terttu Hellman

Ms. Raili Korhonen  
Mr. Reijo Helenius  
Ms. Eija Salmivainio  
Ms. Helena Pajari  
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Ms. Sinikka Honkanen  
Ms. Sari Lehtelø  
Ms. Eeva-Liisa Møkeløinen  
Mr. Heikki Møkeløinen  
Mr. Heikki Toivola  
Mr. Saku Toiviainen  
Mr. Antti Heinola  
Mr. Heikki Pøivørinta  
Ms. Anu Virkkunen

## Coalhouse Good News



Randy Mullin, NLS President

As I enter my final few months in service to the NLS, I find myself being surprised where I find messages for our movement. In the last scene of the Tony Award-winning musical, "Rag-time," Coalhouse Walker, Jr. sings "Make Them Hear You." Now Coalhouse was speaking to justice in America earlier in this century, but I am struck by a similarity to Christ's Great Commission. Perhaps Coalhouse was also singing to the Via de Cristo to "Make Them Hear You."

Of course, we all understand that we can't make someone hear us if they do not want to listen. Nevertheless, it's a lead pipe cinch that no one hears me if I don't speak. When, in this past week, was I presented with an opportunity to share Jesus Christ?

- Did someone inquire about my cross, or the P.K. (Promise Keeper) logo on my shirt? Did I seize the opportunity? *Make them hear you.*

- Did someone want to know where I went this past weekend and I shrugged off the question? *Make them hear you.*

- Did I enjoy spending time with a friend at my church and never think about recommending a Via de Cristo experience? *Make them hear you.*

- Did I blister the paint on the walls with my utterances - taking out work frustrations on a coworker? Did my actions belie my desire to show Christ? *Make them hear you!*

Wouldn't Coalhouse love the theme for our 1999 NLS Annual Meeting: "Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring that friend to Christ"?

*Make them hear you.*

*Randy*

Randy Mullin, President

## Being A Leader

From the Vice President for Administration

*"And God said, 'So you want to be a leader...'"*

**W**e talk about leadership during the weekend experience all the time. It's one of the pivotal talks, and without exception God has always raised up and equipped amazingly gifted leaders on every weekend I've ever served to give this crucial *lay talk*.

And of course my expectation was that my own leadership was to encourage this. Yes, right. But it doesn't stop there.

This fall I moved to Louisiana. The license plates say either "The Bayou State" or "Sportsman's Paradise." I've yet to see a Via de Cristo sign of any kind anywhere. Which brings us back to leadership. My own expectations is that I would have a role in establishing an active Via de Cristo community in northern Louisiana. I have spoken to God about this, and so far God's intentions seem very plain. I will not be a spectator.



Every once in a while I'll be having lunch with someone, or in conversation in church or somewhere, and I will think of saying, "You'd really appreciate a Via de Cristo weekend." Sometimes I relay this to the person I'm conversing with. Sometimes I wait.

Now, I am no fool (and don't let them tell you otherwise). I have kept my ear to the ground. I have watched carefully, and know that it takes a long time to activate a VdC community in a new place. Years. With lots of prayers, talent, and divine intervention. And leadership. I am in a position to offer that leadership. For my initial feelings on that, see Exodus, where the people of God say to Moses, "Why did you lead us out of Egypt? At least there we had enough to eat!" I remember the days when I was the glad recipient of all that a well-run VdC community had to offer (in Dallas, Texas in this case). I had *plenty* of nourishment there. I never asked to be led out into the desert, as it were. But here I am. See the Old Testament, the story of Samuel for more on "Here I am."

So now I continue to review the essentials: *Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.*

*Richard W. Dow*

# Putting Pen to Paper

Debbie Speights

**A**s I put pen to paper this post-holiday Sunday afternoon, my thoughts race to the New Year that lies ahead. I find myself experiencing the usual mix of emotions — something between winter blahs and eager anticipation. My annual resolves to care more and work less (not to mention lose weight) are stronger than ever. With each passing year I strive to reflect more on living — truly living as Christ would have us live. The challenges we face in our day to day lives are constantly increasing and at times can be overwhelming. What a comfort it is to have God's loving arms enwrap us, to have our brother Jesus to share our joys and our pains, and to have a community of believers to uplift us and support us. That miracle of miracles — God's gift to us of a tiny babe — his only son that would wash away the sins of the world — is a gift that gives us life, a gift that gives us hope, and a gift that gives us peace. My prayer for us all in this coming year would be that we discover ways to more confidently and openly share this gift which has been so freely given.

Via de Cristo continues to be a tool that provides us with countless opportunities for sharing God's gift — sponsoring a candidate, serving on a team, offering prayer palanca or being an active participant in our 4<sup>th</sup> Day communities to name but a few. The National Lutheran Secretariat affords us yet another opportunity to learn and grow in our faith toward God and our love for one another. As we gather annually as a community of believers we share the fellowship that is ours through Christ Jesus. We pool our resources, exchange ideas, discover our diversities and are warmed by our commonalities.

As we look ahead to this year's annual meeting to be hosted by the Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan in Saginaw, Michigan (July 22-July 25) we find the chosen theme "Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring your friend to Christ" to be appropriate as we look forward to the continued surge of "growing pains" which we have experienced over the past several years. With our growth come challenges for our hosts. In Saginaw all annual meeting events and meals will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church while lodging will be at a nearby hotel. Our host community will provide transportation shuttle service to and from the church. In order to assure all attendees with lodging and accommodations, it is imperative that registrations be submitted prior to July 1. Unfortunately, no rooms can be reserved after this date so please make your plans accordingly.

As we grow in numbers, both in affiliate secretariats and individual attendees, it becomes incumbent upon the Executive Board to provide the type of programming which would prove useful to a wider constituent while preserving time for free exchange and fellowship.

Thus, this year's offerings will include a keynote address, forum, banquet, teaching seminars, committee work, business sessions as well as daily worship with Eucharist. Each attendee may elect to serve on a committee of their choice or choose not to be involved in committee work as committee times will run concurrently with seminar times on Friday p.m. and Saturday a.m. On Thursday and Friday evenings, following dinner and preceding vespers, our time will be divided into two segments — small discussion groups and unstructured/free time. Each evening will conclude with fellowship and offerings from our host committee.

Detailed information on attendance and registration will be forthcoming. However, it's not too soon to begin making plans to attend this year's annual meeting. It promises to be a spirit-filled weekend with opportunities abounding.

Wishing You God's Peace,

*Debbie Speights*

Debbie Speights, V.P. of Administration

## Summary of 1998

### Comments on 1998 Annual Meeting

### Suggestions for Upcoming Meetings

**A**t last year's NLS Annual Meeting held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin July 23-26, there were in attendance a combination of delegates, clergy and visitors totaling 122 representing over 28 secretariat affiliates. While last year's meeting retained many of our "constants" (business sessions, forums, committees, etc.), there were additional offerings available for variety such as structured sharing and simultaneous informational seminars.

Approximately 30% of those attending last year's meeting completed and submitted evaluation forms. A sampling of comments and suggestions are set out below:

- ❖ When asked if the schedule could be improved and if there was enough time for committee work, the consensus was that the schedule was too "tight" and there is "never" enough time to complete committee work. Suggestions were made to allow for more free time and to have committees maintain year-long, on going projects.
- ❖ When asked to rate the keynote address and the outreach forum the responses were unanimously positive for both. The keynote was found to be entertaining and inspirational and the outreach forum was informative and challenging.
- ❖ When asked what could be added to the annual meeting schedule there were many suggestions such as walk breaks, adding another day to the meeting, more choices of committees, palanca exchanges, VdC bookstore, merchandising and many more.
- ❖ When asked what could be deleted from the annual meeting schedule the majority felt nothing should be deleted. There were concerns however over the length of the business sessions.
- ❖ When asked what the NLS realistically can do to help local secretariats overwhelmingly the response was communicate, communicate, communicate! There were suggestions for increased use of the website for disseminating information to affiliate members.
- ❖ When asked what specific issues would you like to see the Executive Board address, some thoughts were: being Lutheran and ecumenical, getting secretariats to stick to basics, bylaws/constitution revision, and improving communications on all levels.
- ❖ Several suggested topics for forums, seminars, etc. were 4th day involvement, how to get sponsors to do their jobs, remaining both Lutheran and ecumenical, resolving conflicts within the local secretariats and getting back to basics.

Thanks to all those who took time to let us hear your comments regarding last year's meeting. The Executive Board solicits your input, constructive criticism and suggestions for future meetings. Preparations for our 1999 Annual Meeting to be held in Saginaw, Michigan have already begun.

Planning and preparation by the Executive Board began in earnest at our mid-year meeting in November. The Board encourages your comments and suggestions for upcoming seminars, forums, etc. We want to hear from you! You may contact us at our website or write, phone, fax or e-mail any of the Board members with your thoughts and suggestions.

Wishing You God's Richest Blessings,  
Debbie Speights  
V.P. Administration



### A Meditation on Ice

**C**oming to Sunday breakfast on this silent retreat we are met with a glorious surprise. A thick layer of ice glistening on the bare tree branches and bushes creates a sparkling, magical feeling to the morning. Sunlight slanting through the early morning sky produces a glittering fairyland. This is an awesome, wondrous sight, but I ponder whether the trees experience it differently. The cold, frozen ice holds them rigid, making them vulnerable to any movement of the wind. The encasing burden is heavy, causing its now inflexible, brittle branches to break. The same sun that reveals the beauty in the ice is the salvation for the trees. With the sun's warmth, the ice melts. It is the only way to be free of the burden.

How often am I, like the trees, encrusted and weighted down by the ice storms of my life? How often have I felt vulnerable, cold, and ready to break? Sins of resentment, envy, bitterness, and self-doubt as well as hurt and loss hold me rigid. Like the tree which cannot will the ice to melt, there is little I can do to remove the encasing burdens by my own efforts. They weigh me down and cause me to be inflexible and tense, feeling wounded and broken. If I can be open to the Son, the Lord of Love, I too can experience the ice melting around my heart, the releasing of my burdens, hurts and worries. I bask in this LOVE until it reaches the core of my being. With this unconditional, healing love comes total acceptance of myself as a person, a gradual sense of being worthy of this freely-offered gift of grace. My circumstances are not necessarily different, but I am now flexible and able to bend with the wind of change.

— Karen Schneider

## Report of 11/14/98 meeting

Those present: Doug Burrows, National Lutheran Secretariat Outreach Vice-President  
 Kathie Burrows, grandmother to Doug's grandchildren  
 Randy Mullin, National Lutheran Secretariat President  
 Bill Clark, former president of ECCOI  
 Dr. John Brackett, former president of ECCOI  
 Ray Gaebler, president of ECCOI

We met at Baker's Square, ate breakfast and Ray picked up the check. That, in itself, made this a successful meeting. At a somewhat deeper level, I was delighted to find that these brothers in Christ were passionately dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel in word and sacrament.

We heard of some of the history of this movement. The history goes back into the late 70's or early 80's with involvement of Catholic, Episcopal and Lutheran participants. Over the years, other denominations have been welcomed, and a new position for those other Protestant denominations has been established on their secretariat. At this moment, the Lutheran spiritual director position is vacant.

This secretariat continues to refer to itself as "Cursillo." They have no ongoing relationship with either the Catholic nor Episcopal national organizations. They have some of the usual difficulties - i.e. Encouraging sponsorship and maintaining local Fourth Day activities. They do take pride in their team training processes.

Ray is 6 feet, 5 inches tall and Lutheran by birthright, and very involved in his Episcopal church. A hug from Ray almost necessitates a stepstool. John is a dentist, with his computer in his backpack and casually dressed in his November sandals. Bill is Catholic, soft-spoken and honestly remembers a conversation we held five years ago.

The original planners of ECCOI (including Pastor Ed Simonsen) anticipated many of the problems to be found in providing a weekend experience that is respectful of differing liturgical and sacramental traditions. As a result, they spend a considerable portion of their weekend in the "Sacraments" rollo and the Saturday celebration of Eucharist. Our hosts estimated that this lasts from 9:00 to 3:00 on Saturday.

They are willing to have themselves cited on our website, and John gave us permission to use his email address (below) as their website contact means. I believe that there is much we might gain by having them be with us in Saginaw, and perhaps some things they might gain, as well. We gave them the dates July 22-25th. They mentioned some people currently out of the area who might speak to us, although I wonder if we wouldn't also desire to have someone presently involved in their operations in meeting with us in Saginaw.

Bill and Dorothy Clark  
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 847-746-7216

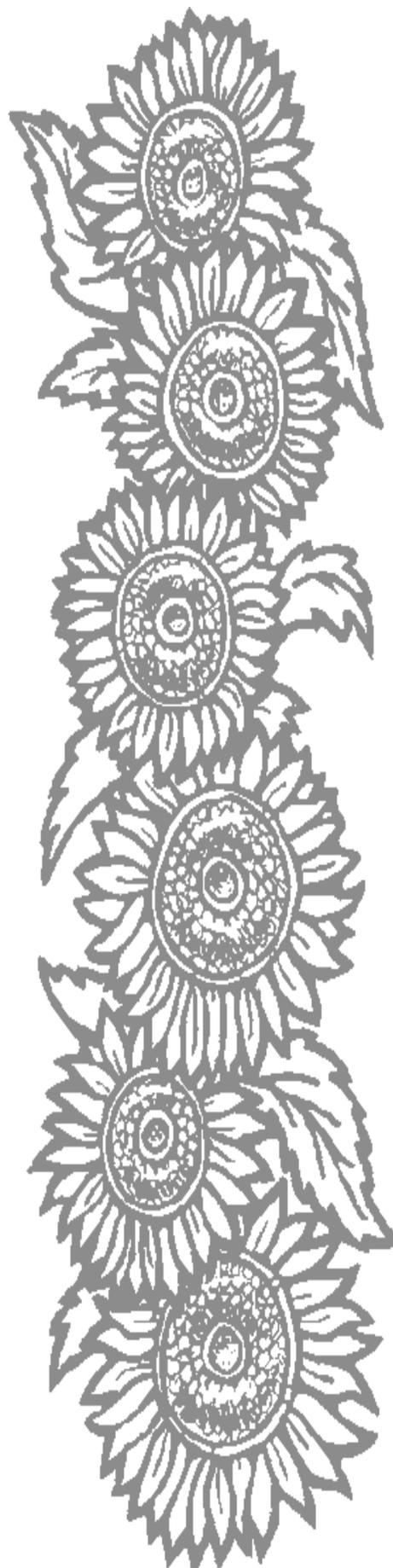
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In His service, Randy Mullin

Dear Randy,  
 The ECCO-I website is [www.mcs.net/~4thday/](http://www.mcs.net/~4thday/)

Rejoice & celebrate in the name of the Lord, John Brackett



# NLS Minutes

## Mid-Year Meeting

Saginaw, Michigan  
Saturday Afternoon, 1:00 P.M.

Present: Randy Mullin, Doug Burrows, Debbie Speights, Richard Dow, Phil Lustig, Myra Hogan, Carroll Lang.

President Randy Mullin opened the meeting with prayer.

Randy announced that we will meet with the Host Committee Sunday during dinner. He went over his agenda and gave each board member a notebook with prepared material.

Doug handed out sweatshirts as a gift to each board member. They have "Via de Cristo" printed on the front. We will discuss "merchandising" at a later time.

We each received a picture of the United States and some "sticker" dots which we used to designate the health of each member secretariat and the status of some that are expected to be members soon. Doug guided us through the map with a report on each secretariat. Green was the designation for healthy secretariats: The seven secretariats of Florida, Atlanta, South Carolina, the two in North Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, the two in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the two in Texas, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, and Utah. Blue represented some secretariats in need of help, which includes several "just beginning" movements: Alabama, Houston, Louisiana, New York, Tennessee, Central Illinois, Oklahoma/Arkansas, Washington. There are two secretariats in California that we would like to join us. Red represented secretariats who need attention: Montana, two in Arizona, Nebraska, two in Pennsylvania and one in northern Iowa. It is expected that we will have at least three new secretariats at the annual meeting. Doug expects "A-OK" (Arkansas/Oklahoma), the VDC of Southern California, perhaps New York and Tennessee to be members soon. Randy asked Myra to send the proper papers to be signed. (We will discuss who might be coming to Saginaw next summer later in our meeting.)

We also pin-pointed locations of seminaries and discussed whether we shouldn't be attempting to find an interest among seminarian students to make weekends. Phil pointed out, too, that we have more Lutherans in the northeastern states than anywhere, yet we don't have any movements north of New York. We need to make contacts with those people.

Our next order of business was plans for our upcoming annual meeting here in Saginaw in July. Debbie gave us a run-down on the work of the Host Committee. She met with them a day early and feels they have things well in hand. Registrations will be sent out by the Host Committee to those attending last year. Also, there will be one in the newsletter. The deadline will have to be July 1st. Those registering after that date can not be guaranteed a hotel room. We will be staying at the Best Western of Saginaw and the hotel will not hold rooms after July 1st. Those registering late will be on their own for lodging, food and transportation (although the Host Committee will still do their best to help with the food and transportation.) The food will be prepared by the Host Committee. We will register at the hotel on Thursday. A Hospitality room will be there as well as at the church. A school bus will bring guests to and from the hotel to the meeting site which is Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where all business meetings, forums, committee meetings, seminars, and worship services will be held. Transportation will be available all through the day.

Randy wanted us to discuss the following: 1. In the business sessions, how should we distribute the time over the three days? 2. In the Worship services, do we adhere to time allocations and who is responsible for timeliness? 3. In the fellowship opportunities, should we have structured or free time? 4. We should allow time to get to know the local community. 5. Learning experiences... should we have teaching sessions with and without question and answer session? Small group informational sessions? 6. What does the Board pay for and what does the Host Committee pay for in the way of speakers, committee chairs, board expenses? 7. Is the time allocated sufficient or should the meeting be expanded? 8. Is the New Member Orientation still a valid experience, or should we consider better written materials with instructions for new members? We will answer these questions in the next three days.

We spent some time going over evaluation reports from last year's meeting. In regard to worship opportunities, Pastor Dow felt that he will need to try to control the time allotments better. He also feels that although the Spiritual Director Committee has been very helpful in discussing various subjects, don't we need more? We need to educate the clergy. They need to discuss where the movement is going and they need something more definitive. Perhaps it's time to produce a book for Spiritual Directors with "do's and don'ts"? Some topics might be:

How to Interface with the Weekend", "How to Nudge the Secretariat to have a Meaningful Role", "How to Interface with Those Outside the Weekend", (like other pastors, Bishops, etc.) "What kind of Authority do we have on the Secretariat?" and "How to use the Tools of Evangelism after Making a Weekend."

Responding to some of the other comments made concerning where to put the emphasis in our annual meetings: Myra said that she felt the small group meetings were a good idea, but we need to make the group smaller with a leader appointed and some way to feed back conclusions of the group. She wondered how the business meetings could be any shorter than they are. She suggested we do away with the New Member Orientation in favor of handing out printed material to new members. Phil wanted to know how we will determine the numbers for the budget ahead of time? (Randy says we will have a budget before the business meeting, as promised.) Pastor Carroll expressed concern that we have kept things simple with our constitution and bylaws for these many years and he hopes there won't be too many changes.

Randy directed our attention to letters in our folders from committees. The Nominating Committee (Chair, Vi Christiansen from Minnesota), Lee Zimmerman, Gold Coast of Florida and Karen Schneider from Ohio report that they have candidates already for two of the three positions open. The Constitution Committee (Chair, Fred Schneider) and Curt Heitschmidt expect to have their work done by the annual meeting. Other committee reports will be discussed in our scheduling session.

Randy said that we should be aware that two of our standing committee chairs have indicated they do not wish to continue after this year. (Oran Gough, Website and Jerry Vehrs, Distribution Center.) We need to be thinking of possible replacements.

Randy asked Phil how the work on our trademark is coming. Phil said that his "leads" on attorneys have failed so far and that he is looking for someone who has a specialty in patents and trademarks. We still need to specify what we want trademarked.

Randy wanted to discuss where the data base will be best kept. He feels the proper place is in the hands of the secretary. Randy had contacted all the secretariats and had com-

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piled a data base as current as possible. He asked if it is reasonable to make this a part of the secretary's job description? In discussion, it was felt that we must have a current database. The secretary would secure the names of the current local secretariat leaders as well as those who have most recently attended annual NLS meetings. He/she would have mailing addresses, positions held, phone numbers, fax numbers, E-Mail addresses and notations as to when that secretariat's data was last updated. He/she would be responsible for notifying the website manager of changes, as well as the newsletter editor. Myra said that the annual survey forms ask when secretariats hold their elections and how long their term of offices are. It was determined that the secretary will keep the data base and keep it current.

At six o'clock we broke for a delicious dinner prepared by the Host Committee.

#### Saturday Night Meeting

7:00 P.M., November 21, 1998

Tonight we will discuss the schedule for our annual meeting. We felt that the Keynote Address should be at the beginning and we will have this in the church sanctuary. It will set the theme of the weekend, which is "Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ." This will immediately follow the seating of the delegates and welcoming.

#### Proposed Thursday Schedule:

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. - Seating of the delegates, introduction of those welcoming us,

reports from

Executive Board.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Keynote Address  
5:30 P.M.- 6:30 P.M. - Dinner  
6:30P.M. - 8:00 P.M. - Small Groups - Committee Meetings  
8:00 P.M.-8:45 P.M.- Vespers  
9:00 P.M. - Host Time

Meeting adjourned until tomorrow morning following church. We will attend this church with our host families.

Sunday, 10:00 A.M., November 22, 1998

We continued with the scheduling for the Annual meeting. Some suggested topics for Seminars : 1.What to do with a fired up returning pilgrim.(possibly Pastor Ron Walter) 2. How pastors might use the Via de Cristo as a tool for Evangelism. (possibly Pastor Peter Setzer) 3. How to put on Co-ed Weekends. (possibly Larry Witham) 4. The Best Utreya ever (possibly Mark Carnes) 5. Palanca (Leona Fox) 6. Group Reunion (Myra Hogan) 7. Hosting the Annual Meet-

ing (Ellie Henning). One of these will be eliminated as we only have room for six seminars.

Randy will ask Pastor Nate Lundgren to be our Keynote speaker and Ed Kutay to lead the Forum."The subject of the Forum will be "Essentials of the flow of Dynamics on the Weekend".

The following schedule was proposed for Friday:

7:30 A.M.-8:30 - Breakfast  
8:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. - Eucharist Worship Service  
9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. Restroom Break  
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. - Forum  
11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon - Business Meeting (Nominating Report)  
12:00 Noon - 1:00 P.M. - Lunch  
1:00 P.M.-1:45 P.M. - Business Meeting  
2:00P.M. - 5:30 P.M. - Three Seminars/ Committee Work  
5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. - Dinner  
6:30 P.M.- 8:00 P.M. - Small Group Sharing  
8:00 P.M.- 8:30 P.M.-Vespers  
8:30 P.M.-Host Time

#### Saturday:

7:30 A.M.- 8:30 A.M.-Breakfast  
8:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.-Eucharist Worship Service  
9:30 A.M.-12:00 Noon-Three Seminars/ Committee Work  
12:00 Noon-1:00 P.M.-Lunch  
1:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.- Business Meeting (Election of officers, committee reports)  
5:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M.-Banquet, Serenade  
8:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M.-Vespers  
8:30 P.M. - Host Time

#### Sunday

7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.-Breakfast  
8:30 A.M.-Eucharist Worship Service and Installation of Officers

Committees: The following is a list of committees and their chairmen: 1. Spiritual Director's Dialogue, Pastor Richard Dow 2. Committee of Representatives of Regions, Mike Swecker (Replaces New Movement Formation and Identifying New Movement Opportunities) 3. Finance Committee, Phil Lustig (No longer called the Budget/Audit Committee) 4. Lay Talk Outline Revision, Karen Schneider 5. The Authentic 3-Day Weekend, Paul Schmidlin 6. NLS Video Productions, Tim Johnson 7. Developing Leader Training Materials, Wayne Ford. It was decided to eliminate "Palanca Projects" and Nancy Shane felt her committee (Keeping the Secretariat Healthy") had completed it's work.

Debbie led us through the arrangements for facilities at the church. There is one large

room which will accommodate 150 and will be used for business meetings and dining. There is a multi-purpose room which accommodates 70 and nine other smaller rooms which will accommodate up to 15 or 20 people. The multi-purpose room and one other room are air-conditioned. (The hotel rooms are also air-conditioned) The sanctuary accommodates 300. Debbie will let the Host Committee know of our agenda for meal times and needs for transportation.

Debbie said that the Host Committee needs to know specifically what their financial responsibilities concerning speakers is. She would also like to know if they may expect the help from funds left over from Wisconsin? Phil said he had not received those as yet.

We are using several board members for seminars so that there will be a minimum amount of expense .We will pay in advance (Phil will take care of this today) for the registration fees of all Executive Board members. Discussion followed as to where money left over after all expenses are covered by the Host Committee should go? Wisconsin had indicated they would keep half of their approximate \$2,000.00 and send the rest to Michigan. Western North Carolina returned all of theirs to the NLS. It was felt that all money should be returned to the NLS and that those funds can then be used by the next Host Committee to help them get started. Randy pointed out that the NLS would never want a hosting secretariat to lose money and that we should make sure that doesn't happen.

Doug moved that the Host Committee will pay the expenses for the Keynote Speaker and Forum leader. Registration costs for committee chairs not members of the Executive Board will also be born by the Host Committee. When travel expenses are requested, the NLS will cover those expenses. This will be made a line-item budget item annually. Myra seconded. Following discussion, the Motion passed.

Following a brief break, Randy led the board through the list of secretariats who might come to our meeting, some of whom have not attended before. Doug felt that Washington doesn't have enough people involved yet. Randy will meet with both secretariats in Southern California in January. Doug expects to see both secretariats in Arizona soon. Doug said that he would like to pay for pastors to go to weekends in Western Montana out of the Outreach budget. They have a nucleus. Yellowstone would like to send someone, but may need financial help.A secretariat in Rockford is just beginning and Randy will urge them to send someone. Randy will encourage the group in Illinois..ECCOI, which is an Ecumenical group operating independently (Catholic,

Episcopal and Lutheran) to come. Randy and Doug met with this group recently. Doug says Outreach will fund the expenses for someone from New York and A-OK. Phil will excuse the first year's dues when they become members. Houston is a "work in progress", as is Alabama. Pastor Dow wants to get something started in Louisiana and plans to send people to the Texas weekends. Randy will give him a name of a contact with the Emaus. We will see that someone comes from Tennessee and will help financially, if needed. New York will have a secretariat in January (They will be there.) New Jersey is a "work in progress", too and perhaps would be ready to send someone.

Randy asked that we take up the subject of "Communications". Aside from having the secretary assume responsibility for the data base, we discussed how we would like to use the website. We hope to have a map with each secretariat listed according to region. We need an E-Mail connection. We need to be current with website information. We would like for the web user to be able to point at a region and click to display our NLS constituents in that area.

Randy said that the newsletter needs to be regular (quarterly) and timely. We discussed how we can improve upon this. One problem has been keeping a current mailing list. Pastor Carroll said that he needs a different format with the palanca list from Leona. He will discuss this with her. He would like to have the Host Committee be responsible for sending him the attendees at the annual meeting on disc. Pastor feels he will still need to keep up the data base as he is the NLS 800 number. The secretary will see that he gets it.

Our next topic on the agenda was the redefining of our Executive Board responsibilities. Randy asked that we read the list he has prepared and add to it if needed.

**President:**  
Monitor participation of secretariats in annual meeting, maintain familiarity with activities of secretariats, with intent of knowing when constituent secretariats might be struggling, appoint parliamentarian for annual meeting, appoint nominating committee for upcoming year, serve as delegate to meeting of the Fourth Day movements, preside at meetings and teleconferences and appoint standing committee chairs.

**Vice-President of Outreach:**  
Develop a regional network of assistants, maintain communication (directly or through network) with all secretariats, advise budding secretariats as to beginning activities, develop a plan for introducing VDC to new regions, maintain communication with ELCA., and identify new opportunities.

**Vice-President of Administration:**  
Beliaison for annual meetings between Host Committee and NLS executive board, be coordinator of annual meetings (committee assignments, etc.)

**Treasurer:**  
Maintain documents for not-for-profit maintenance, keep financial records of organization, arrange for overseer function on regular basis, schedule teleconferences for Executive Board, maintain trademark registration of the movement, file proper tax forms annually.

**Secretary:**  
Maintain files and official records, keep minutes of Executive Board and business meetings and mail copies of same to all Executive Board members and Standing Committee Chairmen promptly, Mail (through E-Mail) the copy of all minutes to the editor of the Conexiones for printing, maintain database for the movement, provide mailing list to the newsletter editor, send out annual survey forms to the secretariats, determine proper number of delegates allowed for the annual meeting, seat the delegates, send materials to secretariats not attending the annual meeting, mail the proper papers to new secretariats for signing, and take care of all other correspondence to and from other officers and/or special requests for data.

**Spiritual Director:**  
Maintain authenticity/theology of movement in keeping with Lutheran Confessions, Moderate annual meeting activities of clergy delegates, develop a Spiritual Director dialogue to promote appreciation among the multiple denominations, invite Spiritual Directors to register for the next annual meeting, relate with host committee Spiritual Director, promote a "Vision to church leadership".

Our next topic for discussion is "Merchandising". If we decide to provide merchandise with Via de Cristo, logos, etc., what would it be and where would we see ourselves going with it? The IRS understanding is that we can sell all we want as long as we keep track and pay the taxes. The purpose would be to advertise Via de Cristo..... Questions: If we decide to do it, do we have someone else produce it?, Stock pile it? Sell the rights? How soon? What do we produce?

Phil moved that we produce some select number of items with the logo and/or "Via de Cristo" and that we bring them to the 1999 annual meeting to sell in Saginaw. Seconded by Myra. Following discussion, motion passed.

Pastor Dow suggested that we should allow someone else to produce and that we not

make a profit. Doug suggested we could check with Augsburg, although he thought they might not be interested. Phil suggested that we have a gross "golf" and a gross "tee" shirts and that we sell them through the Distribution Center. Doug felt that we will be just "testing the waters" this summer to see if there is an interest by producing them ourselves and if it goes well we can then see what we need to do in the larger picture. In the final analysis, it was decided that we will provide 6 dozen polo shirts, 4 dozen tee shirts, 2 dozen sweatshirts, 4 dozen baseball caps and 4 dozen coffee mugs. Phil, Pastor Carroll and Doug said they will check on having this done. Our estimated cost is between \$2500. and \$3500.

Debbie moved that Phil, Doug and Pastor Carroll investigate the costs and possibilities of printing the above items with the seal and rainbow and report back at our next teleconference. Seconded by Pastor Dow. Motion passed.

The following is a list of suggested merchandise we might have available in the future: pens, golf shirts, sweat shirts, "tee" shirts, aprons, duffel bags, 3 ring binders, stationery, caps, notebooks, bumper stickers, round stickers, coffee cups, place mats, pencils, keychains, glasses, tumblers, mugs, portfolios, license plate frames, can cozies/coolers, and name badges.

Randy asked how much into the future should we be planning sites for our annual meetings? In 1991 we were in New Braunfels, Texas, 1992 Stone Mountain, Georgia, 1993 Carmel, Indiana, 1994 Leesburg, Florida, 1995 Augustina, Illinois, 1996 Dallas, Texas, 1997 Hickory, North Carolina, 1998 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1999 Saginaw, Michigan, 2000 St. Petersburg, Florida, 2001 Minnesota.

Pastor Dow moved that we not bid for a site this year and that we be prepared to bid for 2002 in 2000. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

Doug suggested that we need Michigan to put their registration form on the Website.

Other miscellaneous business:

Myra moved the minutes of the September 13th teleconference call be accepted. Seconded by Phil. Motion passed.

We discussed whether seminarians be "targeted" for the Via de Cristo so that they might go into their communities already interested. Should we identify people we would like to send (Like Pastor Ron Dingle). Seminary Schools are: Berkely, Austin, Gettysburg, Philadelphia, Chicago, Colum-

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bus, Augustina, St. Paul and Trinity. No motion was made, but Doug and Randy said that they would work on this next month and we will discuss it further in teleconferences. We will need permission to come and talk and would use referrals (of graduates, etc.) where we can and then send a team.

Tomorrow we will discuss Long-Range Planning, 4th Day Meeting, Budget, Definition for Committees and any questions the Host Committee might have.

Our Host Committee has planned a special treat for us tonight. They are taking us to Frankenmuth, a delightful community with the German flavor. We will dine there and meet with the Host Committee. There will be no further meeting for today.

Meeting adjourned.

Monday, November 23, 8:00 A.M.

Doug opened with prayer.

First topic this morning is the 4th Day Meeting. In the past we have sent the President and the immediate past President. We should perhaps be sending the Vice President of Outreach. We will continue to send representatives and will take no action at this time. We will discuss this later. We will need to budget, perhaps for three representatives, next year?

Long Range Planning: Do we think we are getting too big and that we might need a paid staff? Doug asked if we should revisit a Long-Time Planning Committee? Randy will send the last committee's report. Should we restructure our annual meeting in any way? Should we review dues structure? merchandising? kind of net-working to stay in touch, structure of the board, look at our library, liaison with other 4th day movements, etc., etc. No action is required at this time but we will discuss this further in later meetings.

Doug moved that Randy have time allotted Saturday evening to give his report on where the National Lutheran Secretariat of the Via De Cristo has been, where we are now, and where we are going. Myra seconded. Motion passed.

Committees and what their charges will be:

Authentic 3 Day Experience, Pastor Paul Schmidlin. This committee will familiarize what materials are available, hazards of additions, the least common denominator and will most likely finish in the year 2000. They have a budget of \$500.00. They will achieve continuity by asking the same committee members back this year.

Video, Tim Johnson. The charge is to evaluate past efforts, define the purpose and limitations of previous efforts and to target "works in progress". They will address the place of a video chronicle of our annual meeting and analyze the cost/benefit. They will decide where to budget. We need to make clear to Tim exactly what we want taped: Promotion/Archive and we need to look at the promotional he is working on. We need to give him a year for the video (2001) 20th Anniversary in Minnesota as an expected finished product. This video will depict what one would expect as a 4th Day experience.

Doug moved that we instruct Tim Johnson to produce a video by 2001 that will depict the 4th Day experience and that we also instruct him to video tape for the Archives the Keynote address, the Forum and the Banquet speech in their entirety and that he be requested to furnish us with a cost. Debbie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Such things as small group, worship (unobtrusive), seminars, meals, business meetings can be taped economically as vignettes. These are samples that can be used later.

Doug moved that we advance Tim \$500.00 from our cash reserves to make a tape of short events at our annual meetings such as seminars, meals, small groups, spots from our business meetings and singing, and worship as long as it is not obtrusive. Pastor Dow seconded. Motion passed.

Developing Leader Training Material. Wayne Ford. This committee has been directed to develop a training module. We will give them a target date of 2001. Their budget is \$300.00.

New Movement and Identifying New Movement Opportunities. Mike Swecker. Our charge will be that we need a manual.

LayTalk Outline Revision. Karen Schneider. We will charge this committee with a year 2001 deadline to complete.

The date for our next teleconference is Sunday, January 17th, 9:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. Pastor Dow's office # should be changed to 318-221-9795. His address is 2115 Line Ave., Shreveport, La 71104. Our second teleconference date will be Sunday, April 25th, 9:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time.

The newsletter deadline for articles is December 1st.

Budget for 1999: The budget of the Executive Board for next year is based on expenditures in the past: President-\$800., Conference Calls-\$900., Vice President of Admin-

istration-\$700., Vice President of Outreach-\$4000., Treasurer-\$800., Secretary-\$800., Spiritual Director-\$800., Newsletter-\$2400., Website-\$1200., Annual Meeting Expenses-\$1200., Authentic Three Day Committee-\$500., Spiritual Director Manual-\$200., Leader Training Manual-\$300. Phil estimated that the Finance Committee can project approximately \$7500 in dues, \$10,000 in palanca and \$500 in subscription for a total of \$18,500 standard income.

We want to give committee chair people an idea of what they can be budgeted and need to know before the annual meeting. We project \$1000 for video, \$750 for training, \$1,000 for Lay Talk and \$1000 for Authentic 3 Day Experience. Randy will pass along this information with his request that present chairs remain.

Pastor Dow moved that if the money is left over from the Executive board budget, we buy a digital camera. Seconded by Doug. Motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Myra S. Hogan*

Myra Hogan, Secretary, NLS

## Teleconference Call

January 17, 1999

Present: Pastor Richard Dow, Randy Mullin, Doug Burrows, Debbie Speights, Phil Lustig, Myra Hogan and Pastor Carroll Lang.

The meeting was called to order with opening prayer by President, Randy Mullin.

### Spiritual Director Report

Pastor Dow said that he and his family are now settled in Shreveport, Louisiana. (His home phone number is (318)-861-2944). Pastor said that he had spoken with Pastor Birnbaum in Michigan this week and he is asking that we be available to welcome the President of the LCMS if he should happen to show up at the annual meeting. Pastor Birnbaum felt he would not commit, but since the church where we are meeting is Missouri Synod, there is always that possibility. The board said that the convention would certainly be happy to hear from him should he come. Pastor Dow said that they also discussed keeping the services under the time constraints and he feels we have that understanding. Pastor said that he still has work to do on the Spiritual Director's Manual,

but he plans to have it ready soon.

#### **Vice President of Administration**

Debbie reported that we have a little "glitch" in the plan to house attendees at the Best Western in Saginaw. The hotel has been sold and plans are being made for major renovating which will be in process at the time of the annual meeting. Areas that we intended to use for hospitality, for instance, as well as the area for breakfast will be involved and the owner won't guarantee as many rooms. We are told that we will have the outside pool area. At this point in time, Les Miller is working on this and hoping to get the plans that were made with the previous owner reinstated. We have another hotel that can be used for the overflow. It is a little bit of a "set back" for them, of course. As discussed later, Debbie said that perhaps in the future we need some sort of written agreement form that Host Committees should have signed even before bidding concerning facilities.

Debbie also reported that the Host Committee has been working on the Registration Forms and will be sending them to Pastor Carroll soon. Debbie asked Pastor if he is ready to send out the Conexiones? Pastor responded that he won't be doing it in the next day or two, but he hopes to have it in the next couple of weeks. Debbie said she is mailing her letter to him tonight. Debbie also reported that she has not yet received Pam Wilhelm's report for Wisconsin. Pam says she will get it to her in the next couple of weeks.

Randy said that he would like for Debbie to call Oran to tell him what she would like to do for the Website. Debbie said that Oran has corrected the announcement of the next annual meeting and that it now says "Saginaw, Michigan. Since Oran's computer "crash", he has been working at recovering information and soon will have everything back on line. Oran alone will be the person to contact for the Website.

#### **Secretary Report**

Myra moved that the minutes of the Mid-Year Meeting in Saginaw in November be approved. Phil seconded. Randy asked for corrections, additions etc. Debbie pointed out that an error had been made on the schedule for the Seminars/Committee Meeting time for Friday. Pastor Carroll will correct the minutes before they are printed. No other corrections were made and the minutes were approved with the corrections. Randy said that he has asked the Committee chair people to let their committee know that they are free to attend a Seminar if they finish with their business early or if there is time before they meet.

Myra reported that she has received about 50% of the Annual Survey Forms. She received the required papers from Tennessee that now make them official members of the NLS. Other survey forms will be coming in

until the meeting in July. Myra reported that she has the original document for the Articles of Confederation in her files and she wanted to know if everyone knew that and whether she should be sending a copy to Fred, who is working on the constitution and to Diane who is filing for the Articles for the present with the state of Minnesota? (This subject was discussed in detail later) Myra will do that. Myra told Randy that she had not received the copy of the data base as yet. Randy said that he will be sending the hard copy and that we are just down to a few people who will be sending more information. It is nearly current. We still need to hear from Rainbow, the two in Arizona, California, Sonshine North of Florida and Wilson Mausteller of Pittsburg VDC. Randy said that all changes in data base will now be sent to Myra. When people have new information, they should notify her. She will make the change and hopefully, we will have the one location that is as current as possible.

#### **Treasurer Report**

Phil reported that our balance as of today is \$18,534.05. He has a check to deposit and an invoice to pay. Dues are coming in rapidly. Phil said that he has an appointment this week with an attorney to discuss the trademark. This requires an attorney who's specialty is in trademarks, etc. Phil also reported that he had checked on the cost of doing mugs and that a mug with a same color, after the initial art work, can cost around \$.99. Advent Lutheran Church gives these out to first-time visitors. This is just for information if we are looking at costs of bringing merchandise to the meeting in Michigan. Phil also told the board that in reading the Articles of Incorporation that the secretary has on file, there is only one change that needs to be made and that is in Article 2, #6 which says: "...expanding the Lutheran Cursillo Movement throughout the world." There followed much discussion about the filing each year, etc.

#### **Vice President of Outreach**

Doug said that he first would like to address the decision we made at Mid-year concerning providing articles with Via de Cristo printed on them for sale. He has found that we will need to invest several hundred dollars into the program of "stitching" our name into shirts, etc. This will be an initial expense. As time goes on and we sell more, the cost will go down. The reason for this is that if we want a logo like the one we presently use, they have to create it. Silk screening is less expensive than the stitching. Doug has contacted a client who does this sort of thing. He has the ability to do just about anything we want; pens, shirts, luggage, hats, mugs, etc. and he also has the ability to warehouse it if we need that. Orders would be placed through him. He is doing a "cost" study presently and will get back with Doug on this. We will discuss this further in our April

teleconference. Doug said that as soon as he gets the estimate, he will send it E-Mail and poll the board and move forward with approval. Phil moved that Doug be authorized to do this, motion seconded by Myra, motion passed.

Doug reported that he had talked to Bill Thompson from Arizona. He said that Southern Arizona has been having financial problems and are thinking of moving their weekends back to Phoenix. Doug will talk to both movements in Arizona. Doug said that we now have a new secretariat in New York. They elected a secretariat. He suggested that we pay their first dues, as they are small. They will be sending the proper papers, which they have, to Myra and also their names and addresses to her, to the Conexiones and to Randy. They will be sending delegates to our summer meeting. Doug has had a report from Finland. (Pastor Lang asked Doug to find his list and give him the name of one of the participants that he can't decipher.) Doug has sent material with instructions to Finland and although we have had input in the past, most likely should not count them as one of our outreaches. Western Montana hasn't moved any further along, New Jersey is working on getting a committee together, Randy is going to California, AO-K (Arkansas) is still working on getting organized. Randy has heard from both Yellowstone and Sonshine North that although they were not at our meeting last year, they plan to be this year. Randy asked Pastor Lang to see if we could check with Jim and Joyce McCrea from Iowa, Tennessee plans to send someone, and Randy said that he would encourage ECCI and Doug could contact Wilson Mausteller...just to cover all who didn't attend last year's annual meeting.

Doug talked to Mike Swecker about how to contact possible new movements and go in and help them...rather than furnish the help after they are formed. This will be something Mike's committee on Outreach will discuss this summer.

#### **President's Report**

Randy asked Pastor Carroll about the Conexiones. Pastor listed what materials he has and still needs to hear from Doug, Debbie and Pastor Dow. He wants to get the Conexiones out this month because of registration forms.

Randy brought the subject of the recommendations by the two who are working on the Constitution Committee. (Fred Schneider and Curt Heitschmidt) The committee felt that we might do away with the elected position of Administrative Vice President. Myra asked what the reason is for this? Pastor Carroll felt that perhaps it is because appointed positions don't have a limit and you could hold on to them longer....Debbie thought that perhaps it because it would be

*Continued from previous page*

easier to find appointed people. She also thought that perhaps it was to minimize the ones on the board who have voting privileges. Phil felt that perhaps there is the feeling that we are moving toward a paid position on the board as they have in Minnesota. (This board doesn't feel that we are quite ready for that, financially). There was discussion about splitting up the duties of the Administrative VP, if appointed; one to handle the business of the annual meeting and the other to handle all other business. Most couldn't see a need for that. Myra felt that we shouldn't eliminate an elected position because we should allow people to run for office. Doug voiced the positive that in that position it would be good to have the continuity for a long time which we don't

have with an elected position. He also felt that it is important to have representatives from all regions on the executive board, appointed by the President and approved by the Executive board. If we do this, however, it will be impossible to include all, for example, in a teleconference. We would need to address such things. Randy said that he will report back to the Constitution Committee our views which seem to be that most didn't feel that at this time they would wish to have the position of Administrative Vice-President become a non-elective position. Doug commented that perhaps the position should have more administrative duties, such as Website, Communications, Distribution Center. Perhaps this could be looked at, too? The Constitution Committee wanted to know what our Executive Board could contribute to their efforts and Randy will go back to them with our ideas. Randy will talk to Fred

and if there is anything additional we need to know, he will be in contact with us.

Our next teleconference will be April 25, 1999. Myra asked if we could move our time back an hour? Everyone agreed that they could do this. Our next meeting, therefore, will begin 7:00 P.M. Central Standard Time.

There being no further business, Randy called on Pastor Carroll to close our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Myra S. Hogan*

Myra Hogan, Secretary, NLS

# Cuba Postponed

De Colores Dear Brothers and Sisters, I deeply regret having to tell you at this late hour that Episcopal Cursillo #1 in Cuba, which was scheduled for Nov. 12-15 has been postponed until April. Just days ago, the National Secretariat for Cursillos de Cristiandad de Cuba, met in Havana and decided that because of many obstacles which could not be resolved at this time, the Cursillo cannot take place as scheduled. The hope is that the existing problems can be resolved by April. It is often very difficult to schedule events with much certainty in Cuba.

Please continue in your prayers and sacrifices. Your faithfulness in prayer, encouragement and support have been so important to us all, (here stateside and in Cuba). Bless you all for the palanca you have already sent. We will keep it and take it to Cuba in April, God willing. Again, thank you and bless you all for your forbearance. Blessings in His Love and mine, Antoinette Capaz Liaison for Cursillo in Cuba Diocese of Florida

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## NLS Has 800 Phone Service

A decision was made at the 1997 NLS Annual Meeting: to establish a National Lutheran Secretariat "home base." It was decided to try this by placing a business phone with an 800 number in the home of Rev. Carroll Lang, Conexiones Editor. There was also to be a fax machine installed. This project was to wait until Carroll moved into a new house. The new phone was installed in October but the fax machine arrived in December.

The new NLS phone number is 800-214-1155. If you prefer to pay for the call yourself, the business phone is 515-955-1877. The fax machine has several features: an answering machine can receive messages. If you wish to send a fax, the machine will recognize the incoming call as a fax transmission. If you wish to leave a message AND a fax, simply call, leave the message and then press your "start" button.

Carroll Lang was chosen to start this new service because he knows much about the movement and can get in touch with the right person when a job needs to be done.

**1-800-214-1155(toll free) or 1-515-955-1877 (toll call)**

# Mitch's Wake

From: John H. Park <johnpark@episcopalian.org>  
To: Everyone;;  
Cc: The Living Church <tlc@livingchurch.org>; hondo1@peak.org;  
ncobbey@dfms.org; Jim.Rosenthal@ecunet.org; transfig@thinline.com  
Subject: More Mitch  
Date: Friday, November 06, 1998 12:24 PM

November 6

Psalm 69, the Psalm appointed for Morning Prayer this morning in the lectionary of the Episcopal Church, expresses very well what Honduras is going through, both literally and figuratively:

Save me, oh God, for the waters have risen up to my neck.  
I am sinking in deep mire, and there is no firm ground for my feet.  
I have come into deep waters, and the torrent washes over me.  
For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; they shall live there and have it in possession.  
The children of his servants will inherit it, and those who love his Name will dwell therein.

We know that with God's help we will rebuild this nation. And not just with God's help, but with the help of all those in other countries who are bringing and sending aid.

But the tragedy continues. Today an Arctic cold front arrived. You see, there is virtually nothing but open water and open land between us and the North Pole. Arctic cold fronts come straight down the Pre-Cambrian shield, the Mississippi Valley, and across the Gulf of Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula and reach the North Coast of Honduras. The temperature has dropped, and we have rain showers. It may not be cold by North American standards, but we are used to much warmer temperatures, so what might feel quite comfortable to a North American or a European, to us is very uncomfortably cold. Our houses and other buildings have no heating systems. The people who have lost everything have no warm clothing to put on. And the rain soaks them, makes them even colder, and hampers rescue and reconstruction efforts. While in most of the country the rainy season is ending, here on the North Coast our wettest months are just beginning.

We still have hundreds of thousands who have not been able to return to their homes or who have no homes to which to return. Some are in schools, churches and community and government buildings. Others are living in semis, buses, containers, and railroad freight cars. Some even are living in improvised tents on high ground close to their flooded homes. In many cases they have set up these tents on the berms of the highways, or even on the roads themselves.

Fuel is finally reaching Tegucigalpa, thanks to a temporary 1700-ft pipeline up a mountainside that is bypassing a trench cutting the highway in the mountainous area 30 miles north of the capital. They are thus able to pump the fuel from tanker trucks on the lower end and fill others on the upper end, which are now transporting the fuel to Tegus. The trench is 100 feet wide and 100 feet deep. They expect to have it filled in this weekend, thus enabling food and other supplies to reach Tegus.

We still have many churches that we have not heard from because of problems of travel and communication.

Please see the Diocese of Honduras' disaster web site at [www.episcopalian.org/honduras](http://www.episcopalian.org/honduras).

The Episcopal Diocese of Honduras is accepting monetary donations via the South American Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church (SAMS, PO Box 399, Ambridge PA 15003). Checks should be marked "Honduras Relief".

Donations can also be made to the Diocese of Honduras via SAMS using MasterCard or Visa at the following web site: <https://mall.pacific-coast.com/cornerstone/honduras.tpl>

Canadians may send cheques to SAMS-Canada, P.O. Box 21082, Barrie, Ontario L4M 6J1. Checks should be made out to: SAMS-Canada and marked: "Hurricane Relief — Bishop Frade" or "Hurricane Relief — Roger Hurtubise".

Donations of material may be shipped to  
CODER 2 — IGLESIA EPISCOPAL  
SAN PEDRO SULA, HONDURAS  
TEL. 556-6155 556-6268

Please fax a detailed list of the donation so that we can obtain authorization to release the shipment from customs to 011-504-556-6467. The following items are considered to be relief priority and will enter duty free:

canned goods  
folding cots  
tents  
milk  
tools for construction  
insecticides  
spray pumps for insecticides  
clothing  
grains such as beans and rice  
medicines  
saline solutions  
antipyretics  
antitoxins for snake bites  
antibiotics  
analgesics  
diarrhea medicine  
antitussives (cough medicine)  
antibacterial and antifungal skin creams  
syringes  
cotton  
insulin  
anti-hypertensive medication  
first-aid kits  
bandages  
adhesive tape  
plaster casting materials  
suturing kits  
vaccines for tetanus

Faithfully, John+

El Venerable John H. Park  
Arcediano de Honduras  
Iglesia Episcopal Hondureña  
Apartado Postal 586  
San Pedro Sula, Cortés  
Honduras, C.A. 21105  
Tel. (504) 556-6155  
Fax: (504) 556-6467  
E-mail: [JohnPark@episcopalian.org](mailto:JohnPark@episcopalian.org)

# Palanca!

## FOR FUTURE WEEKENDS

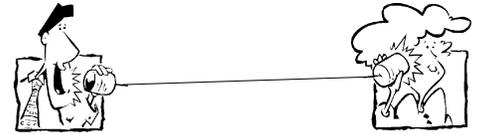
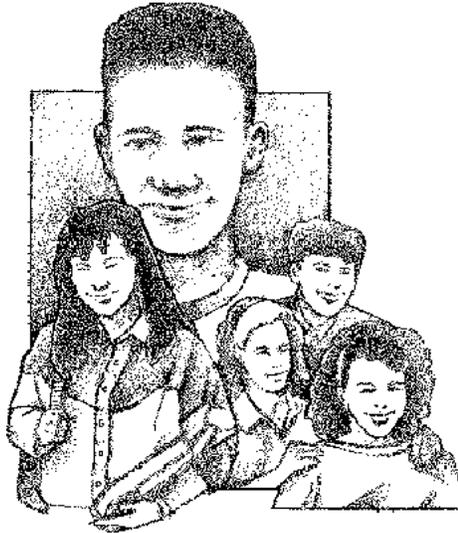
All pending weekends for six months from publication will be printed in each Conexiones.

- April 1999 - Florida: **Sonbeam Via de Cristo**, Men's #33: April 8-11; Women's #33: April 15-18, 1999. Send palanca to: Gary & Rosie Karkheck, 8696 94th Street, Seminole, FL 34647-2512.
- April 1999 - Michigan: **Good News! Via de Cristo**, Men's #24: April 8-11 Women's #24: April 15-18 1999. Send palanca to: Jean Mann, 30355 Tennessee, Roseville, MI 48066.
- April 1999 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-South**, St. Paul's, Redwing, Men's #325: April 8-11; Women's #326: April 15-18, 1999. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- April 1999 - Indiana: **Indiana Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Men's #31: April 8-11; Women's #32: April 15-18, 1999. Send palanca to: Perry Powers, 621 North Main Street, Monticello, IN 47960.
- April 1999 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois Vis de Cristo**, East Bay Camp, Bloomington, Men's #3: April 8-11; Women's #3: April 15-18, 1999. Send palanca to: Ron Millard, 1415 Flossmor, Washington, IL 61571.
- April 1999 - Maryland: **Vineyard Via de Cristo**, Camp West-Mar, Women's #3: April 8-11; Men's #3: April 22-25, 1999. Mail palanca to: Frances Ecton, PO Box 452, Funkstown, MD 21734-0452.
- April 1999 - Texas: **Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Lutherhill Camp, LaGrange, Men's: April 8-11; Women's: April 22-25, 1999. Send palanca to: Cary Warner, 205 Erskine, San Antonio, TX 78201.
- April 1999 - Virginia: **Rainbow Via de Cristo Walk of Faith**, Northern Virginia Baptist Center, Gainesville, VA, Men's #35: April 8-11; Women's #37: April 22-25, 1999. Mail palanca to: Cis Smail, PO Box 2724, La Plata, MD 20646.
- April 1999 - Texas: **Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Texas Elk's Camp, Ottine, Coed: April 15-18, 1999. Send palanca to: Cary Warner, 205 Erskine, San Antonio, TX 78201.
- April 1999 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Men's: April 15-18; Women's: April 23-26, 1999. Send palanca to: Deborah Young, 3480 Patterson Road, China Grove, NC 28023.
- April 1999 - North Carolina: **Eastern North Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Mixed #35: April 15-18, 1999. Send palanca to: Ann Thompson, 10008 Whitestone Road, Raleigh, NC 27615.
- April 1999 - Georgia: **Atlanta Via de Cristo**, Coed: April 22-25, 1999. Send palanca to: Jim and Kathy Boucher, 5200 Downs Way, Norcross, GA 30093-2450.
- April/May 1999 - Florida: **Sonshine North Via de Cristo**, Men's #37: April 22-25; Women's #37: April 29 - May 2, 1999. Send palanca to: Marsha Woleshin, 1931 Highland Drive, Fernandia, FL 32034.
- April/May 1999 - Florida: **Indian River Via de Cristo**, Men's #34: April 22-25, Women's #34: May 20-23, 1999. Send Palanca to: Indian River Via de Cristo, c/o Beth Timmons, 111 Coquina Drive, Cocoa, FL 32922.
- April/May 1999 - Ohio: **Via de Cristo of Ohio (Central)**, Holy Cross Catholic Cursillo Center, Columbus, Men's #39: April 29 - May 2; Women's #37: May 13-16, 1999. Send palanca to: Jeff Albrektson, 2793 Galewood Street, Kettering, OH 45420.
- May 1999 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo #43 (Coed)**, Bishop Mason Retreat and Conference Center, Grapevine, Texas, May 13-16, 1999. Send palanca to: Fran and Sonny Auld, 1806 Erwin Place, McKinney, TX 75069.
- May 1999 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-Metro**, Trinity, Stillwater, Single Men's #327: May 20-23; Single Women's #328: May 27-30, 1999. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- June 1999 - Illinois/Iowa: **Living Water Via de Cristo**, Pilgrim Park, Mixed #1: June 10-13, 1999. Send palanca to: Paul and Carla Roome, 1021 14th Avenue A, Orion, IL 61273.
- June 1999 - California: **Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California**, St. Joseph's Retreat Center, Rosemead, Men's #62: June 17-20; Women's #63: June 24-27, 1999. Send palanca to: Wayne Beilman, 6708 San Haroldo Way, Buena Park, CA 90620.
- June/July 1999 - Michigan: **Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan**, Men's #50: June 17-20; Women's #50: July 8-11, 1999. Send Palanca to: LVCCM Palanca, Jeri Lowe, PO Box 408, Midland, MI 48640.
- July 1999 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-North**, Atonement, St. Cloud, Men's #329: July 15-18; Women's #330: July 22-25, 1999. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- July 1999 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo #44 (Coed)**, Bishop Mason Retreat and Conference Center, Grapevine, Texas, July 29 - August 1, 1999. Send palanca to: Fran and Sonny Auld, 1806 Erwin Place, McKinney, TX 75069.
- August 1999 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-Metro**, Our Saviour's, Hastings, Men's #331: MAugust 12-15; Women's #332: August 19-22, 1999. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- September/October 1999 - Maryland: **Vineyard Via de Cristo**, Camp West-Mar, Women's #4: September 23-26; Men's #4: October 7-10, 1999. Mail palanca to: Frances Ecton, PO Box 452, Funkstown, MD 21734-0452.
- September/October 1999 - South Carolina: **South Carolina Via de Cristo**, Men's: September 23-26; Women's: October 7-10, 1999. Send palanca to: Ginny Eiwen, 203 Whitestone Road, Bluffton, SC 29910-5724.
- September/October 1999 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Men's: September 30 - October 3; Women's: October 7-10, 1999. Send palanca to: Deborah Young, 3480 Patterson Road, China Grove, NC 28023.
- September/October 1999 - South Dakota: **South Dakota Via de Cristo**, Men's: September 30 - October 3; Women's: October 7-10, 1999. Send palanca to: Ardana Bruns, 621 NW 8th Street, Madison, SD 57042.
- October 1999 - California: **Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California**, St. Joseph's Retreat Center, Rosemead, Men's #64: October 14-17; Women's #65: October 21-24, 1999. Send palanca to: Wayne Beilman, 6708 San Haroldo Way, Buena Park, CA 90620.
- October 1999 - Michigan: **Good News! Via de Cristo**, Men's #25: October 7-10; Women's #25: October 14-17, 1999. Send palanca to: Jean Mann, 30355 Tennessee, Roseville, MI 48066.
- October 1999 - Georgia: **Atlanta Via de Cristo**, Men's: October 7-10; Women's: October 14-17, 1999. Send palanca to: Jim and Kathy Boucher, 5200 Downs Way, Norcross, GA 30093-2450.
- October 1999 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-Metro**, Vision of Glory, Plymouth, Men's #335; October 7-10; Women's #???: October 14-17, 1999. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.
- October 1999 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois Vis de Cristo**, East Bay Camp, Bloomington, Men's #4: October 7-10; Women's #4: October 14-17, 1999. Send palanca to: Ron Millard, 1415 Flossmor, Washington, IL 61571.
- October 1999 - Ohio: **Via de Cristo of Ohio (Central)**, Holy Cross Catholic Cursillo Center, Columbus, Men's #40: October 7-10, 1999. Send palanca to: Jeff Albrektson, 2793 Galewood Street, Kettering, OH 45420.
- October 1999 - Illinois/Iowa: **Living Water Via de Cristo**, Men's #17: October 15-18; Women's #17: October 22-25, 1999. Send palanca to: Paul and Carla Roome, 1021 14th Avenue A, Orion, IL 61273.
- October 1999 - Indiana: **Indiana Lutheran Via de Cristo**, Men's #32: October 7-10; Women's #33: October 14-17, 1999. Send palanca to: Perry Powers, 621 North Main Street, Monticello, IN 47960.
- October 1999 - Minnesota: **Minnesota Via de Cristo-North**, Our Saviour's, Duluth, Men's #333: October 14-17; Women's #334: October 21-24, 1999. Send palanca to: Carol Olsen, 440 57th Place NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432-5568.

## TEC = Teen Ministry

April 1999 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina Hand-in-Hand TEC #20**: April 24-26, 1999. Send palanca to: Linda Parton, 2150 Colonial Lane, Hickory, NC 28601.

September 1999 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina Hand-in-Hand TEC #21**: September 4-6, 1999. Send palanca to: Linda Parton, 2150 Colonial Lane, Hickory, NC 28601.



## Improving Communication - Flow of Info

At the 1996 NLS Annual Meeting, it was suggested that more articles and information be shared both from local secretariat newsletters in Conexiones, and also articles from Conexiones reprinted in local secretariat newsletters.

It has always been the policy to grant permission to any secretariat wishing to reproduce an article from Conexiones in its newsletter, in fact, it is encouraged. The NLS Executive Board only asks that you print the article as is and list the author and source (Conexiones, or credit at end or beginning of article).

I am willing to save you re-typing by sending the articles to you at your request via e-mail. If you, as editor of your newsletter are not online, find out who, in your movement, is online, or ask a computer friend for help.

This communication can be done two ways, too, and you editors could provide the articles via e-mail to the editor of Conexiones, Carroll Lang, at [cdlng@aol.com](mailto:cdlng@aol.com) and he would be very grateful.

- Carroll Lang, Editor

## Prison Ministry



July 1999 - Iowa: **Iowa Brothers in Blue Via de Cristo**, Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, Fort Dodge, July 8-11, 1999. Send palanca to: Via de Cristo Palanca, c/o The Church of the Damascus Road, PO Box 834, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834.

September 1999 - Iowa: **Iowa Brothers in Blue Via de Cristo**, Medium Security Unit, Mount Pleasant, September 16-19, 1999. Send palanca to: Via de Cristo Palanca, c/o Medium Security Unit, Highway 218 South, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641.

October 1999 - Iowa: **Iowa Brothers in Blue Via de Cristo**, North Central Correctional Facility, Rockwell City, October 28-31, 1999. Send palanca to: Via de Cristo Palanca, c/o The Church of the Damascus Road, PO Box 834, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834.



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- NLS Executive Board

## Where We'll Meet

The NLS has accepted invitations from Central Michigan, Florida and Minnesota, taking us through July 2001. There will be no bidding at the 1999 meeting in Saginaw. We will be accepting bids at the meeting in Florida for the year 2002.

# Jerry Vehrs

NLS Distribution Center  
FAX 612-578-8990

## High Returns Cost

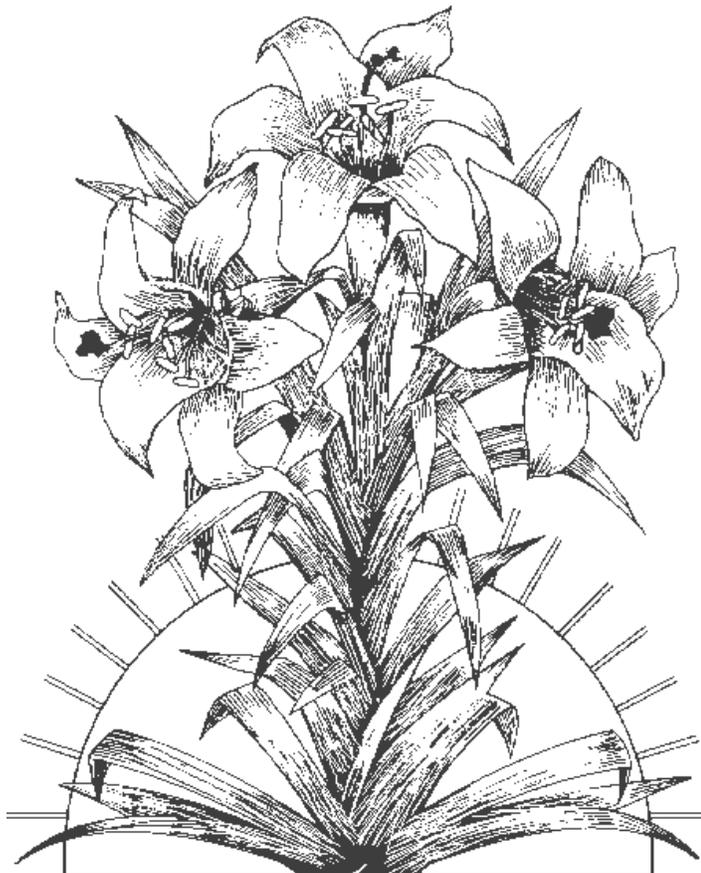
Returned Conexiones newsletters cost up to \$1.01 each. Please notify us of any changes in address on a post card or in a letter. Include complete information, including complete address with Zip+4, Secretariat and position, if applicable, and both home and work phone numbers. If you no longer want the newsletter, please let us know. If your newsletter is returned and marked "Temporarily Away" you will be removed from the list. It is up to you to notify us to reinstate your subscription.

# Public Relations



*Please send your public relations suggestions to Bob Frank, 3330 - 30th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201 (309-786-3209) for editing for future issues of Conexiones.*

# Suggestion Corner



Connecting National and Local Secretariats  
**CONEXIONES**

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

Rev. Carroll Lang  
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