

May 22, 2009

The Daily Assembly

Special points of interest:

- > What to expect during our group discussions with our keynote speaker Rev. Eric Law.
- > Bishop Dave Announce Two Foci for the Upcoming Year
- > Update on "Can You Dig It?"



Mutual Invitation

Issue 1

Leading Us in Discussion

Rev. Eric Law's presence during the assembly will provide this year's assembly participants with an opportunity to examine the many dimensions of culture and how self-awareness and understanding of others are inextricably linked.

Rev. Eric Law, a Chinese American who grew up in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States at age 14, offers many insights from his extensive experience in dealing with cultural differences. His first confrontation with the influ-

ences of culture began during his high school years in the United States on Manhattan's Lower East Side, where his classmates included African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Italians, Irish, and other ethnic groups.

Law's focus has always been: as a Christian, how can he follow Christ's call to seek and serve Christ in every person and respect the dignity of every human being? What started out as a need to help himself address race and diversity issues in faithful and constructive ways has evolved into

something much bigger and deeper. After traveling all over the world giving workshops and trainings for churches in all the major denominations, the Rev. Eric H. F. Law founded the Kaleidoscope Institute to continue the ministry that he started back in the late 1980s when he began a theological and practical journey through the landscape of diversity. He has written six books.

Today at 1:00 pm Law will assist assembly participants in determining their own communication style and identify the prob-

Today's Brief Agenda

Pre-Event Meetings	10:00 AM
Presentation by Eric Law	1:00 PM
Plenary 1 with Bishop's Report	2:45 PM
Cluster Dinners	6:30 PM
25 Year Anniversaries - Dessert Buffet	8:15 PM
Holden Evening Prayer	9:00 PM

Bishop Announces Two Foci for the Upcoming Year

Developing the muscles of relational community is a primary strategic focus for the bishop's work in the coming year.

One way Bishop Dave hopes to achieve this is through investing in the relational proc-

esses taught by Faith-Based Organizing.

We have already begun this work around the synod. This past January we welcomed individuals to our first-ever Vital Congregations, Just Communities event. In April a

group of eight people from the synod, all lay members, attended a Community Organizing Training Summit in Chicago. In March we experienced our first-ever Congregational Presidents' Convocation and this past fall and winter

Update on "Can You Dig It? ... Wells for Africa

This year as part of the Oregon Synod Global Mission Event, congregations were asked to aid in building wells for communities in Africa that lack safe water sources.

This campaign, "Can You Dig It?" has already raised almost \$9,700. Many organizations and groups are still focusing on the need for clean water throughout the world.

Several members from Augustana in Portland have been busy raising money for the Wells for Africa project. Their initial

goal of \$4000 has been surpassed, but they plan to continue until the end of May. Not wanting to overburden the congregation with fundraising, the intent has been to move outside that circle and include family, friends and coworkers. Based on the "house party" concept used during the past election cycle, people are encouraged to host a party at their home and invite others.

Augustana members attend and provide food and clean-up for the event, host provides beverages

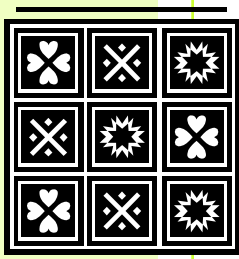
and all have a great time!

A short presentation is made about the project and attendees are encouraged to donate if they choose and to also, book their own party. This has proved to be a very successful and fun way to raise money for an important cause and as a side benefit, works as a great evangelism tool for the Lutheran Church.

Feel free to email Barbara Cooke at bjcooke3@yahoo.com if you have questions or want help in using this idea. .



Silently Sowing Seeds to Feed the Hungry



Over the last several years the synod's silent quilt auction has 'sewed' over \$34,000 alleviating world hunger. Last year a premier quilt received a \$1,000 bid, proving our generous hearts and hands. Besides raising funds to alleviate hunger this quilt project has create com-

munities of quilters reaching out to others in their in own neighborhoods and around the world.

These quilts are works of art. Not only do you benefit by purchasing these masterpieces but you supporting others communities world wide.

Make sure to make your bid today. Checks are made payable to the Oregon Synod, ELCA. Please note in your memo line: Hunger.

Wellness Moments will be sponsored by [Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries](#)

Your journey to wellness begins with you! During the assembly you will have an opportunity to experience "wellness moments" with Bruce Strade, Director of the Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries. He will lead us in activities that may include; laughing

yoga, stretching prayer, or a 'walk to wellness.' These opportunities will be announced on the assembly floor.

As part of the ELCA's *Walk to Wellness* campaign on EmbodyHealth the synod staff has committed to walking every week during their lunch

hour in June. Why not join them in spirit and schedule your own walk with your neighbor, colleague, or pet? They will love you for it.





book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Two Foci For Upcoming Year

a dedicated crew of Synod Council members and other volunteers personally visited with church council members from 30 congregations in our synod. This has been a good beginning as we strengthen our call to be relational communities in Oregon. It is a privilege to

have Eric Law as our keynote speaker this year. His work and that of the Kaleidoscope Institute (<http://www.ladiocese.org/ki>) are foundational in becoming an effective relational community in a diverse culture.

It is not a coincidence that we have Rev. Susan Engh with us as our ELCA churchwide

representative this year. Part of her work is with Faith-Based Organizing.

While the bishop's first strategic priority targets *relational community* opportunities, his second strategic priority focuses on the Bible.

At our February 2009 Synod Council meeting the council designated the Oregon Synod as an official *Book of Faith*

Leading Us in Discussion

lems and benefits of it.

In our group discussions, Law's technique of Mutual Invitation will be utilized as a way to help the 'powerful communicator' understand the value of a passive, listening approach. This technique is used to bring all group members, especially those who are reluctant to voice their thoughts, into the discussion. It is important to use the language of invitation in this process. Doing so emphasizes the sharing of power.

Building an inclusive community is not always straight forward, nor does it come as second nature. But it is some-

thing that both the Rev. Eric Law and the synod is committed to. Our goal is not to learn how to agree or accept everyone, but to become educated in another's experience and gain skills in making space for others to be heard.

Law's method of using Respectful Communication Guidelines offers us a time simply to listen and learn all you can - from as many voices as possible. Committing to the guidelines means that participants will "take responsibility for what they say and feel without blaming others, use empathetic listening, be sensitive to differences in

communication styles, ponder what they hear and feel before they speak, examine their own assumptions and perceptions, keep confidentiality and trust ambiguity".

We encourage participants to uphold these guidelines throughout the weekend. Adhering to these ground rules results in communication that is inclusive and respects the culture of each participant.

See page 5 of the assemblies "Agenda and References" to read more about these guidelines and Mutual Invitation.

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Thank You to our Assembly Helpers!

Oregon Synod Office Staff

Office Volunteers

- Christine Core
- Jean Fuller
- Debbie Johnson
- Jerry and Linda Schmuck
- Larry and Phyllis Vachal

Registration

- Linde Eidenberg
- Monika Deitchman
- Dean and Carroll Klett
- Fred and Penny Greb

Nominations

- Pastor Jeffrey Bethke

Elections Committee

- Pastor Rodney Mruk
- Monika Deitchman
- Pastor Terry Graunke
- Todd Matthias
- Sharon Siekierka
- Harriet Stevens

Committee on Reference and Counsel

- Pastor David Nagler
- Pastor Mary Anthony
- Pastor JJ Dygert
- Annetta Forrer
- Tonia Lindquist
- Barbara Renken
- Lou Wilcox

Assembly Worship Planning

- Pastor Tom Dodd and crew

Our Pages from the Mission Interpreters Team and Commission for Congregational Ministries

- Doug and Lynda McDowell
- Bill Olread
- Trina Hedgpeth
- Alice Mills
- Nancy Kingston
- Rachel Peterson
- Hal Dick
- Lois Brown

Committee on Credentials

- Diane Palmer
- Grieg Anderson
- Linde Eidenberg

Parliamentarian

- Neil Bryant

Quilt Aid

- Mary Schultz

OLYO Convocation Advisors

- Lisa Gray
- Paul Gover

We are on the web at
www.oregonsynod.org

Bishop Announces Two Foci for the Upcoming Year



Oregon Synod
 Book of Faith Advocate
 Tonia Lindquist
 of Gethsemane in Portland

synod. Through this designation we have joined over 40 of the ELCA's 65 synods in committing ourselves to intentional and focused Scriptural engagement.

Tonia Lindquist of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Portland has accepted the invitation to be our Oregon Synod *Book of Faith* advocate. She will help us pursue our passion for increased Biblical literacy.

In addition, Augsburg Fortress has begun publication of *Book of Faith* resources, and a new Lutheran Study Bible has just been released. This resource can be found on The *Book of Faith* social network at <http://bookoffaith.ning.com/>. This networking resource is designed to open and broaden our conversations. You are invited to join in conversation with others beyond

our borders and around the synod.

You can find Tonia Lindquist at <http://bookoffaith.ning.com/profile/ToniaJLindquist> and Bishop Dave at <http://bookoffaith.ning.com/profile/DaveBrauerRieke>.

At this site you can also find many Book of Faith resources, such as, bible studies, Augsburg's Book of Faith materials, and more.