

INTRODUCTION

In the Spring of 1989, Bishop Lyle Miller, on behalf of the Synod Council of the Northern California Northern Nevada Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, appointed a 13-member Area Mission Strategy Development Team in the Santa Clara Valley of northern California. The purpose of the team was to develop, in cooperation with the Division for Outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a "strategy for mission" for the ELCA in Santa Clara County for the next 5 to 10 years.

To carry out this task, the team, in consultation with the Rev. Michael Cooper-White and the Rev. Noreen Meginness, Associates to Bishop Miller, followed a 6-step process, as outlined by the Division for Outreach. The six steps were:

1. The gathering of data on existing ELCA congregations
2. The gathering of demographic data on Santa Clara County
3. The interviewing of community leaders
4. The development of a theology for mission
5. The setting of goals for mission in Santa Clara County
6. The drawing up of plans to meet those goals

During the course of the team's 18-month life, four gatherings of representatives from the ELCA congregations in the valley were held. The first, on Sunday afternoon, October 1, 1989, in the sanctuary of Immanuel Lutheran Church of San Jose, was for the purpose of distributing to and discussing with the leaders of the congregations the forms that were going to be needed to be completed by each congregation in order to gather the information required for the study that was being undertaken. The second, on Sunday February 4, 1990, at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in San Jose, was the Third Annual Assembly of the Santa Clara Conference. At this event, Dr. Timothy Lull, Academic Dean at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, addressed the delegation on the theme, "Catch the Vision," and members of the team reported on their findings to date.

The third gathering of congregational representatives was on May 20, 1990, at Immanuel, San Jose. The purpose of this gathering was to provide an opportunity for representatives of congregations to reflect on the team's findings and perceptions and to review the proposed Principles for Future Ministry and Mission Statement. And the fourth, on September 16, 1990, in the same location, was to review all of the team's findings and to discuss the preliminary goals that the team had developed.

The team itself met 17 times during its 18-month life, including one over-night and one one-day retreat. Judith Larson, a member of First, Palo Alto, and a recognized expert on the Silicon Valley, served as a resource person at the over-night retreat. The Rev. Robert Hoyt, Director for Area Ministry of the Division for Outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, served as a resource person at one of the meetings. And the Rev. Michael Cooper-White and the Rev. Noreen Meginness, Associates to Bishop Lyle Miller, have served as staff members of the team.

The report that follows is presented in fulfillment of the charge the team received from Bishop Miller in the Spring of 1989, namely, to develop a strategy for mission for the ELCA in Santa Clara County for the next 5 to 10 years. It is given to the congregations in the county for their use. And it will be the subject for discussion at a special gathering of representatives of all of the ELCA congregations in the Santa Clara Conference with Bishop Miller on Sunday, November 4, 1990, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church of San Jose.

The team wishes to express appreciation to the Bishop for the opportunity it had to serve the church in the development of this strategy. The experience has been a growing one for all of us. And we look forward now to seeing the plans that have been made carried out on behalf of the church in mission in this place.

The members of the Area Mission Strategy Development Team:

- The Rev. David Baker, Immanuel, San Jose - Chair
- Ms. Nancy Bibler, St. Timothy's, San Jose
- The Rev. Jim Friedrich, Grace, San Jose
- The Rev. Renee Geiger, Reformation, Milpitas
- *Mr. Paul Kellenberg, Hope, Santa Clara
- Mr. Warren Koffer, Los Altos, Los Altos
- Mr. Richard Kuhlmann, St. Luke, Sunnyvale
- Ms. Neva Kyle, St. John's, Sunnyvale
- *Mr. Mark Linder, Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
- Mr. Gordon Lund, Immanuel, San Jose
- *Ms. Willi McDowell-Hogg, Immanuel, Saratoga
- Ms. Darlene Paulsen, St. Timothy's, San Jose - Recorder
- The Rev. Cora Scheel, St. John's, Sunnyvale
- **Ms. Ginny Sielaff, Christ the Good Shepherd, San Jose
- The Rev. Mike Cooper-White - Staff
- The Rev. Noreen Meginness - Staff

- *Resigned during the life of the team
- **Appointed by the Bishop in March, 1990

The Feast of St. Michael and all Angels
 September 29, 1990
 San Jose, California