



EXTRAORDINARY
LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES

the mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Extraordinary Candidacy

The ELCA's decision to open its candidacy process to people in same-sex relationships has led to big changes in ELM's candidacy work. ELM spent time this past year discerning the needs of LGBTQ candidates and how ELM could best meet those needs. The result was the launch of a new candidacy accompaniment program. ELM donors are helping ELM create this grassroots program to accompany LGBTQ people in Lutheran candidacy. As we begin this new program, we look back and honor ELM's candidacy work in the past.

History

Extraordinary candidacy was a movement that developed in response to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's policy requiring celibacy for gay and lesbian clergy. Or, as Mari Irvin described it, it was a "little group in a living room" committed to developing an alternative candidacy process for LGBT seminarians. This process was for people who were called to ordained Lutheran ministry, but who also viewed their sexuality and relationships as gifts from God. Early volunteers based the process on the ELCA candidacy process, with the expectation that the ELCA would one day change its policies and welcome these clergy as ELCA pastors.

The work began in 1993 as the Extraordinary Candidacy Project. Margaret Moreland served as the president from its inception until January 2002. Rev. Jeff Johnson, Grady Kase, Mari Irvin and Fred Wolfe have all served in leadership roles with ELM candidacy over the years. Rev. Jeff Johnson looks back on his work with the candidacy project and sums it up as "people of faith getting together to take the steps necessary to move things forward."

Mari Irvin reflected with these words, "The courage of those who sought ECP candidacy continues to impress me. The memories I hold most dear are those of the approval interviews. Those who went through the approval process each had a unique story of faithfulness to



ECP Founders: (L-R), the Rev. Dr. John H. Elliott, Dr. Mari Irvin, Sherry Mattson, the Rev. Jeff Johnson, Dr. Margaret Moreland, Bishop Stan Olson, Greg Egertson, Elizabeth Thompson



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MISSION

*expanding ministry opportunities
for publicly-identified LGBTQ
Lutheran rostered leaders who are
changing the church and society
through their ministry*

share.” Mari knows well the gifts these leaders have to offer the church. She writes, “The ministries of many ECP pastors and their congregations now serve as models to the church at large.”

Over the years, there have been dozens of candidacy team members. Panel members included pastors, lay leaders, seminarians, therapists, former bishops, and many others. Key leaders include Mari Irvin, Lois Voss, Mary Stein-Webber, Gary Pence, Randy Nelson, Merle Longwood, Rod Seeger, Cindy Crane, Wally Stuhr, Megan Rohrer and the late Arnold Tiemeyer.

Lois Voss stated that she “felt honored to get to know the candidates. They were truly extraordinary! Despite the negative messages they received, they remained true to their calling and they remained true to their Lutheran faith.”

It is thanks to these volunteers and the ELM donors who supported this work that many LGBTQ people were able to follow a call to ordained ministry through extraordinary candidacy. 🍂

Have Something to Proclaim? We do!



PROCLAIM



Photos by Emily Ann Garcia

In early April ELM launched another new program, Proclaim. Proclaim is a new professional community for publicly-identified LGBTQ Lutheran rostered leaders and seminarians. Proclaim members are LGBTQ rostered leaders who seek to renew and transform Lutheran congregations and ministries and serve God’s people by bringing the Good News.

Proclaim offers its members:

- Professional development and support
- Participation in the annual leaders’ retreat.
- Eligibility to apply for ELM grants
- Eligibility to apply for Joel Workin seminarian scholarship
- Access to online community resources – job opportunities, resource sharing & community support

Proclaim launched during the annual ELM rostered leaders’ retreat, held this year at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The retreat offers a time for community and professional development. 60 people attended, including fifteen seminarians. Thanks to ELM supporters, we were able to provide 18 scholarships, which allowed people from across the country to attend the retreat.

Proclaim is open to any Lutheran clergy or rostered lay leader who publicly identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer. Proclaim also welcomes entranced seminarians to the community. You can learn more and download a membership form by visiting www.elm.org/proclaim. 🍂

Spotlight on ELM Volunteers

ELM welcomes four new Board of Director members. These volunteer leadership roles are paramount to ELM's success. These four members bring a wide range of skills and experiences to the Board of Directors. We also thank and say goodbye to two board members. Rev. Jay Wilson finished his term on the ELM Board of Directors on March 1. Jay served as the chair of Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Jay served on the transitional ELM board and was instrumental in writing ELM's policies on food, communications and accessibility issues.

We give thanks to Fred Wolfe who has concluded his service on the ELM Board of Directors. Fred came onto the ELM board in January of 2009. Fred followed Grady Kase in the Candidacy & Credentialing program for ELM. Fred was instrumental in keeping the candidacy work running smoothly for ELM during a time of great transition.

We welcome our new board members-



Carolyne Schultz

Carolyne Schultz lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan with her partner Brittanie and her dog Sparrow. She is currently working towards a Masters in Social Work with the University of Michigan. Carolyne is interested in ELM because she is "passionate about making the ELCA an increasingly inclusive faith-filled place for all people and is "empowered in knowing that ELM is committed to supporting LGBTQ individuals as they continue to do God's work through a message of inclusion and love."

Julie Boleyn currently lives in Chicago, a native of Oregon. In May 2010, Julie completed her masters at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Julie and her partner, Jeanine Reardon, were married in a church ceremony at St. Paul Lutheran in Evanston, Illinois in October of 2004. They live in Chicago with their daughter. Julie was the chair for the 2011 ELM retreat.



Julie Boleyn (on right)



Jim Kowalski (on right)

Jim Kowalski grew up in suburban Pittsburgh, attending and being confirmed in a Lutheran congregation. Jim moved to San Francisco in 1992 with his spouse Bruce Jervis, after both served four years in the US Navy. They joined St. Francis Lutheran Church shortly thereafter, and Jim has served in many leadership roles there, including on the congregational Council and as co-chair of a capital fund-raising campaign. He served on the board of Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries from 2003 to 2006 and is serving as co-chair of the Prophets and Workers Campaign for Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries.

Rose Beeson rejoins the ELM Board of Directors; she served as Congregations & Ministries chair in 2009. Rose will serve in the secretary role this time. Rose currently lives in northern California and is working on a master of divinity program at Pacific Lutheran Theological seminary.



Rose Beeson

Give online at www.elm.org



Are you going to Churchwide?

ELM Executive Director Amalia Vagts will be there, as well as ELM co-chair and Proclaim member, Erik Christensen. We'd love to meet up with ELM supporters who are attending the assembly. Email or call Amalia to make plans! Director@elm.org or 563-382-6277



ELM eNewsletter: Be in the Know

Don't miss anything! We send interested supporters an email newsletter each month. This helps us keep supporters regularly updated about where their gifts are going. We'd love to add your name to this list. Please sign up online on our website, or by emailing Rachael at operations@elm.org.



Hi Amalia,

Thanks to your continued support, we have been busy welcoming new members to Proclaim, supporting folks in candidacy and funding ELM grant partners. Read on to find out the latest.

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Proclaim Membership Form

ELM's new program, Proclaim, has officially launched. Proclaim is the new professional community for publicly-identified LGBTQ Lutheran rostered leaders and seminarians.

[You can read more here and download a membership form.](#)

[Follow Proclaim on Facebook here.](#)



Joel R. Workin Memorial Scholarship

Each year ELM names a Joel R. Workin Memorial Scholar to honor the life and ministry of Joel Workin. Joel was one of the three gay seminarians who were refused ordination in 1989 after "coming out" to their candidacy committees.

Photo to the right: Joel Workin (left) and Paul Jenkins.



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