

Dear Sierra Pacific Synod Friends,

Blessed Epiphany Season to you!

As you probably already know, the Sierra Pacific Synod is in a time of transition! During the past few months, the Office of the Bishop, the Synod Council, and several consultants have been working together to lay foundations which are needed to keep us connected and informed.

We have established an e-newsletter (yet to be named) that we are sending out from the synod office on a regular basis. If you are not receiving that newsletter, please call Barbara Nelson at the Synod Office or email her at bnelson@spselca.org

We have rolled out a newly designed website that you can see at www.spselca.org . We hope you will find it user –friendly, accurate and helpful. If you find corrections or have suggestions or additions, please send them to info@spselca.org . We expect that both the e-newsletter and the website are works in progress that will need tweaking along the way. Accuracy and timeliness are our goals for getting information to you.

The next stages of the transition of our Synod's ministry will be a bit more complex and require help from volunteers with particular skill sets and qualities. This is where you come into the picture!

By the middle of February, three groups of five people each will be appointed to serve on the Transition Team. The initial meeting will be on February 28th, 2009. These groups will research, recommend and then help implement changes in the configuration and location of our synod offices and staff. Each group will have specific tasks that will require specific knowledge and abilities; we are looking for the “best and brightest” of our synod to serve.

Attached to this letter are two documents. One lays out the purpose of the transition team, the tasks of each of the groups, the qualities needed for the members of each group and a tentative time-line for the work that will occur. A second document is an application/recommendation form.

We invite you to read the documents carefully. Give special attention to the needs of each group. Who do you know that “fits the bill” for serving on one of the teams? Is it you? Is it a member of your congregation? Is it someone you met at a synod event? Is it your pastor?

Think about it. Pray about it. And then, if someone comes to mind, with his/her permission, recommend that person to serve. The deadline for nominations is January 31st. February 28th is the first gathering of the whole team. It will be a day-long event, held at Saint Matthew in Walnut Creek. It is extremely important that the members of the team be available to attend that event.

Recommendations may be made in hard copy or on-line. Only recommendations received via these formats will be considered. If you have already offered a name, either verbally or on-line, please offer those names again, using the form.

Thank you for your ideas, your willingness to serve, your encouragement, your prayers and your patience. Check the website for updates.

In the name of the one who is the Light of the World,

Pr. Nancy Feniuk Nelson

Bishop's Associate