

# Grant Reporting for Pacific Mission Action Council

Date: Friday, March 28, 2008

Grant Recipient: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mountain View

List goals for 2008 [your plans]:

On October 15, 2007, St. Paul met with the Director and Associate Director of the Center for Hispanic Studies from St. Louis. We were surprised, but pleased, to hear that our deacon, José Cervantes, was ready to begin his vicarage. We are pleased to announce that he will receive his call at Concordia Seminary on April 22, 2008 and be installed as vicar on April 27, 2008. Due to this development, we have slightly changed our plans in terms of the Hispanic Ministry at St. Paul. Our goals reflect this.

1. Leadership Development
2. Planned Outreach Events in conjunction with Ministry Plans
3. Determine Future of Youth Education and Events
4. Provide Spanish Worship Services

Briefly share progress for reaching goals [progress]:

1. Leadership development has already begun with Hispanic laity involved in congregational boards, ushering, and altar guild. Yet another person was recently trained on altar guild. José's vicarage duties will concentrate on developing leaders, including a lay-led Bible study in Mountain View. During his vicarage, José will be planning, organizing, and leading events that were previously led by Anglo members of St. Paul. For example, he will be responsible for the Posada in December.
2. During Holy Week and Easter, we offered one Spanish service on Holy Saturday and one bilingual service on Easter Sunday. Prior to these events, we handed out our service schedule in Spanish so that we could invite friends to these services. This practice will continue, but not be limited to worship services. Fellowship dinners, special gatherings, and home Bible studies will also provide opportunities. The vicarage plan helps us coordinate outreach with activities.
3. Youth education and events have been a big challenge for St. Paul. Most of our high school youth work to support their families and we have not had the opportunity to develop a youth group. One St. Paul member graciously hosted a session to ask the youth for the input regarding a Bible study and youth events, but most of the youth called to say they could not make it. We must find something that works. An elder has been teaching the Sunday morning adult Bible class, so that Pastor Smith can observe the Sunday school. Attendance is very sporadic; it varies Sunday to Sunday. Some of the children have no trouble reading, while others of the same age have great difficulty reading. These present tough situations for the teachers. Yet, we will offer

a first communion class this May as we did last year. We hope to celebrate the first communion in June.

4. For Christmas Eve 2007, we offered a Spanish-only service and had an attendance of about 45. For Holy Saturday, we offered a Spanish-only service and had an attendance of about 30. We were very pleased with these numbers! In conjunction with the vicarage, we are planning to have periodic Spanish-only services. These services will be preceded by publicity and in-person invitations to the community. It is our hope to determine a set schedule for Spanish services.

List obstacles that need to be overcome [problems]:

In addition to the struggles with youth education and events, we have two challenges in regards to our Spanish-only services. One, the Hispanic youth are not at all excited about the services. They are bilingual and feel very comfortable in our normal Sunday bilingual worship service. Second, we do not currently have a Spanish-speaking musician. Any music would have to be an English song that is translated into Spanish. This has worked well so far, but will not serve us in the long term.

How can the Pac MAC assist you?

Anything the Pac MAC can do to foster exchange of ideas between the ministries would be great. I am sure that many congregations that are involved in outreach and facing many of the same challenges as we are. Knowing more about their current activities would give us some idea about different things to try. An opportunity to see their reports or read about their activities would be helpful. What about trying a blog?

We also need the Pac MAC's continued support and encouragement. St. Paul is spending much of its time and effort on our Hispanic Ministry, while trying to strengthen our English Ministry at the same time. We desire to be "both/and" rather than "either/or." While we have seen and responded to the need to bring the Gospel to our large Hispanic population, we are also bringing the Gospel to the large Anglo population in our area. This dual outreach emphasis strains our time and our resources. Continue to pray for us. We could not do this without you! Thank you so much!