

# Hispanic Ministry Lay Leadership Training

Through the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute of El Paso, TX - LCMS

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## ***A Brand New Opportunity***

For congregations seeking to raise up lay leaders for Hispanic mission and ministry in their communities, the Kansas District is partnering with the Nebraska and Iowa West Districts to employ the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (based in El Paso, Texas) to provide Lay Leadership Training for Hispanic individuals.

The Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI) has developed 15 courses of study in Spanish that equip individuals to serve the church in reaching Hispanic immigrants in the United States with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For congregations currently offering ESL courses for their Hispanic communities, this could well serve as the next step in providing the stepping stones for planting a Hispanic ministry or congregation in their community.

## ***Multiple Approaches for Training***

There are several ways that this can be accomplished. Probably the easiest and most economical way is by gathering a small group of Hispanic individuals that have given evidence of leadership potential and providing them with a place to meet together, equipped with a good computer, a good connection to high-speed internet and a good web-camera. This group could then enroll and participate in a series of classes and subsequent courses taught by the LHMI Instructors – participating in one class per week, likely conducted in the evening hours, for two hours at a time. At this rate/speed, each course would take 15 to 16 weeks. This would be a special offering for our three Districts.

Normally, the LHMI conducts their classes on-site in El Paso. Each class meets three times a week and finishes their course work in 8 weeks. Some students choose to live on-campus. Those students are able to complete all 15 courses in about 14 months. Students who are unable to live on-campus can also participate in these 8 week courses and finish in the same 14 month period. All of the courses are available on-line, as described in the previous paragraph. Actually, to complete all 15 courses in 14 months, a couple of the courses are taught in “one-week intensives” - taught for five mornings in a row, in four hour blocks of time. *If you have people that could be ready to take on such an aggressive course, this is a viable option.*

## ***This Approach May Work Best***

It is the feeling of the Hispanic leaders in Nebraska and Iowa West that their people are not able to handle the aggressive course work. They are opting for the longer course because almost all of their Hispanic people work 6-day work weeks in construction or packing plants. It is reasonable to assume that this would be true for many of our Hispanics in Kansas.

Should Kansas be able to raise up one, two, three or more course groups, we would urge these groups to come together periodically for retreat, encouragement and fellowship. These would be devotional times and opportunities for practical skill building. Through these retreats, the church would gather around these future leaders to help them know that they are members of the body of Christ, fellow servants in the larger body of Christ.

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Because the Nebraska and Iowa West Districts' leaders have been talking about this venture a little bit sooner than we have in Kansas, they are talking about launching the first option discussed in this bulletin as early as the beginning of July 2009. At the Kansas District Convention 2009, a resolution was passed to work with the Nebraska District in shared ventures. The same resolution was passed by the Nebraska District in Convention. As a result, we are invited to begin participating with them immediately. Hence this opportunity is put before you now. If you're ready to go, well then, let's jump in. Give Rev. Mark Frith a call right away at the Kansas District Office. The first course slated to begin in July is PRA 101: EVANGELISM in a Hispanic Culture. The first class will meet on Monday evenings beginning July 6, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., for 15-16 weeks.

In the event that this opportunity comes too quickly, the next course offering will likely begin sometime in October.

## ***The Logistics***

### **The Cost**

- \$50 per course per student
- Any cost needed to supply the individual group with a space, a good computer, a good high-speed internet connection and a web camera
- Period retreat space costs and travel costs

### **Your First Actions**

1. CONTACT – Rev. Mark Frith at the Kansas District Office *for clarification of information – if needed*
2. DISCUSS – this opportunity with individuals that you feel are good candidates for Ministry Leadership
3. ENROLL – by July 6, 2009
  - a. Begin by contacting Mrs. Lori Hennessey, Admin Assistant for Mission and Stewardship, the Kansas District Office, and requesting admission paperwork.
  - b. Assembling a room with a computer, a high-speed internet connection and a web-camera
  - c. Paying the admission fee for the first course
  - d. Verifying that the student has legal paperwork in hand for working and/or living in the United States – *or is currently working on completing the legal paperwork*. Students will not receive a diploma for the Lay Training Institute without legal paperwork. The reason for this: workers in the church may not legally receive compensation for work in the church or United States without legal citizenship or a legal work visa.
4. RECEIVE – confirmation of admission and beginning of class.
5. *If interested in the program, but need more time to plan and prepare – Follow step #3 above as soon as possible for potential enrollment in the Fall of 2009 or early Spring of 2010.*

### **Contact Information**

**Kansas District LCMS**  
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**Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute**  
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*Rev. Mark T. Frith, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, Kansas District – LCMS*  
*Mrs. Lori Hennessey, Administrative Assistant*