

LIVING INTO A NEW FUTURE FOR NAAC

A task force was convened by former NAAC President Bryon Hansen in April to envision a new future for this ecumenical organization founded in 1995. With tongue in cheek, we spoke of the need to move from adolescence to adulthood as an association of practitioners of the catechumenate. At the 2008 Gathering, the NAAC Board unveiled plans for a feasibility study to be conducted

over the next ten months to help craft a new and exciting future for NAAC. All members and friends of NAAC will be invited to participate in an online survey during the month of October to offer your input as part of this visioning process. (See page 2.)

A new board was selected in July and is already beginning to implement some of the suggestions to come out of the spring

consultation. One important first step is restructuring ourselves into a "working board" with specific responsibilities for carrying out the mission of NAAC. To free up the Board to be or effective in this regard, a Planning Task Force was appointed to prepare for the 2009 annual gathering in Niagara Falls next August. Past board member, Shirley Griffin, is chairing a gifted

Continued on page 2

2008 GATHERING HIGHLIGHTS

Over forty people, coming from diverse parts of the continent and representing several denominations, attended the 2008 gathering of the North American Association for the Catechumenate at the Dumas Bay Retreat Center near Federal Way, Washington. The featured speaker was Sam Torvend, Professor of Religion at Pacific Lutheran University. Dr. Torvend spoke of the challenge

for the church is these post-modern times and spoke of the blessing of the catechumenate as a promising means of forming Christians. The opportunity is ripe to employ ancient wisdom. Daily prayer and eucharist were led by Clay Morris, Liturgical Officer for the Episcopal Church. Workshops offered participants insights into various aspects of catechumenal process and formation.



GATHERING 2009

Announcing the 2009 Gathering

"Ancient Rites for a New Generation of Disciples"

Speaker: Dr. Craig Satterlee

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Mark your calendars.

August 3 through 6, 2009

Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, Niagara Falls, Canada

See website for details as they are available.

NAAC NEWS ON THE WEB

Issues of NAAC News in color are available on the website and ready for downloading. The issues will be available on the Resources page of the site. Items, articles for future issues, and ideas for the newsletter should be forwarded to the editor. Back issues are also available.

North American Association
for the Catechumenate
www.catechumenate.org

SURVEY

Here is your chance to provide NAAC with some feedback on our ministry. You are invited to take an online survey. If you go to the NAAC website, click on the link announcing the online survey.

It's easy and should only take you ten minutes. Please do so before the end of October. Thanks for your participation.

Or you may want to type in the following web address to access: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=LxKiXM10Etak7fla73BiMw_3d_3d

NA FORUM CONVOCATION

NAAC's big sister, the North American Forum, will host its convocation Nov. 6 to 8, 2008 in Cleveland, OH. The theme is "Handing on the Faith We Have Received." The Forum will explore the Church's identity as an apprenticing community that hands on its faith to others. The opening address by Richard Gailardetz emphasizes the theme: "Each Day the Church Gives Birth to the Church: Reflections on the Contemporary Ecclesial Context of Christian Initiation." Further

plenary sessions, breakouts, and round tables will illuminate the work of contemporary Christian initiation. Dan Benedict will be leading a roundtable on ecumenical dimensions of evangelization and the rites of initiation. Though the convocation is Roman Catholic in orientation there will be much here for NAAC members to enrich our understandings and practice. For more details and registration go to www.naforum.org/new_site/files/cal_122_convocation%20brochure%209-08-08.pdf

LIVING INTO ...

Continued from page 1

team that includes board members Dan Benedict and Rick Rouse along with NAAC members Clay Morris and Sheryl Ann Waage (Registrar).

We look forward to serving with you in this important ministry of spiritual formation. And we invite you to join us in a NAAC "come of age." Now more than ever the church and the world need to reclaim the power of the ancient rite called the catechumenate to change and transform lives.

In Christ's service,
Rick Rouse, NAAC President

TRAINING EVENTS

Check the NAAC website under Training Events to get information on locations, presenters, and contact addresses on these and other upcoming events.

Events are being planned at

- Atonement Lutheran Church in Sacramento, October 9 through 11, 2008.
- Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington, in January 2009.
- Milwaukie Lutheran Church in Milwaukie, Oregon, February 20 to 21, 2009.

BOOK REVIEW

Ambrose of Milan's *Method of Mystagogical Preaching* by Craig A. Satterlee, The Liturgical Press.

What is the relationship between word and sacrament, liturgy and mission, worship and discipleship? Craig Satterlee believes that the best way to get at these questions is mystagogically. Taking the fourth century Bishop Ambrose as his guide, Satterlee describes the challenges of today's church, illuminates the catechumenate of Ambrose's time, and suggests a way of formation. He suggests that sustained reflection on the experience of baptism and eucharist as an essential tool in formation. One of the best ways to do that is preaching. This book is both a solid piece of scholarship and a stimulating approach for preachers and teachers seeking to form Christians in a culture at odds with the values of the gospel. Dr. Satterlee teaches homiletics at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and will be the keynote speaker at the 2009 NAAC Gathering.

More Information

For full details on new resources and on the Annual Gathering in Federal Way with registration information, visit the website: www.catechumenate.org.



INTRODUCING THE NAAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A special thank you to those leaving the NAAC Board of Directors after years of faithful, diligent, and dedicated loving service: Shirley Griffin, Dawn Tillema, Steve Harnadek, and Clement Mehlman. Bev Piro and Bryon Hansen remain on the Board. We welcome new members Rick Rouse (elected as president), Dan Benedict, Mary Peterson, Sherman Hesselgrave, Jay Koyle, and Sam Torvend. Each person on the new Board was asked to give a brief introduction.

Dan Benedict

I am a United Methodist elder/presbyter who served as the Director of Worship Resources for my denomination from 1993-2005. I authored *Come to the Waters: Baptism and Our Ministry of Welcoming Seekers* and *Making Disciples*, an invitation to churches to embrace the ancient catechumenate in the 21st century. I have written and taught widely in the area of catechumenal ministry in both the US and Australia. I currently live in Hawaii and spend quite a bit of time with family in Virginia. I have been actively involved with NAAC since 1995.

Bryon Hansen

I have served as pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Auburn, California for one year and am currently serving on the Catechumenate Task for the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod. Prior to this I served a parish in Portland, Oregon and assisted with catechumenate activities with the Oregon Synod and Oregon Episcopal Diocese. I have served on the NAAC Board since 2006 and will

continue until the end of 2009. We are in the process of developing a catechumenate journey for adults at Bethlehem and shaping a catechumenal-like process of confirmation ministry for teens. I have a special interest in mystagogy, linking the sacramental life of the church with catechesis and formation.

Sherman Hesselgrave

I am the Incumbent of Church of the Holy Trinity in Toronto, a downtown parish with a long history of leadership in social justice ministries. Before my appointment in the Anglican Church of Canada, I served Episcopal and Lutheran congregations in the Pacific Northwest as a pastor and musician. My experience in the catechumenate includes planning and staffing regional training events, serving on a formation team, designing catechumenal materials, leading retreats, and sponsoring candidates.

Having grown up on the mission field in East Africa, I am probably the only member who can distinguish between real and fake Swahili at the movies.

Jay Koyle

I have a long and fruitful history of promoting vital and uplifting worship in the life of the church, and of inspiring others in their participation in and appreciation of the liturgy. I bring deep interest, experience, and competence in the dynamic relationship that exists between the way a faith community worships and the manner in which it experiences growth and renewal.

A professor in the Faculty of Theology at Huron University College, University of Western Ontario, I also serve as an associate rector of St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London. My graduate work in liturgical studies was completed at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and my doctoral work in homiletics was completed through the Association of Chicago Theological Schools. My thesis was entitled: "Calling the Church to Its Heart: Preaching, Parish Catechumenate, and the Revitalization of the Twenty-First Century Congregation."

I am president of the Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission, an international organization devoted to liturgical and missionary renewal in the Anglican Communion. A member of the North American Academy of Liturgy, I am director of Table Song: Eighth Day Perspectives, offering seminars and consultations in pastoral liturgy.

In both the local and the wider church, I have advocated and fostered the catechumenal process for over two decades. At present, I am involved in a Catechumenate Network in Southwestern Ontario that provides mutual support between practitioners and offers formation opportunities for catechumenal ministry in interested congregations.

Mary Peterson

I am delighted to be a member of the NAAC Board. I am excited about the present energy of the Board and amazing potential of NAAC's future. I am an ELCA pastor in the Oregon Synod currently

