



# ONE VOICE Campaign Raises Nearly \$1,600,000.00!

**Jeannine Janson, LC/NA Co-Chair and ONE VOICE Campaign Director**

Over 300 donors, including seven Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregations, have given or pledged \$1,582,893.00 to ONE VOICE, the joint fundraising campaign that benefits Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA), Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries (LLGM) and Wingspan Ministry of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church (Wingspan). LC/NA, LLGM and Wingspan have a common vision of the Lutheran Communion that embraces and actualizes the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Of the \$1,582,893.00 raised, \$1,409,361.00 is from gifts and pledges ranging from \$5,000.00 to \$100,000.00. In addition, \$173,532.00 is from gifts ranging from \$5.00 to \$4,999.00.

Most of the gifts and pledges were secured by volunteers who served on ONE VOICE Gifts Committees in San Francisco, the Twin Cities, Seattle, New York, Pennsylvania, and Atlanta. Organization staff, particularly LC/NA's Emily Eastwood, LLGM's Amalia Vagts, and Wingspan's Anita Hill and Richard Andersen, raised a significant percentage as well. Many thanks to all of these volunteers and staff who dedicated their time to meeting with donors and who made ONE VOICE an important priority.

As significant as the amount raised is the fact that the ONE VOICE Campaign has changed forever the way LC/NA, LLGM and Wingspan view and do fundraising. We've learned that our base of support is much broader and deeper than we imagined. And, now that LC/NA, LLGM and Wingspan have ongoing confidence that there will be financial support for their aspirations, future campaigns will be planned as needs arise.

The ONE VOICE Table of Gifts and Campaign Leadership, including the Co-Chairs, Honorary Cabinet and Committee Members, are set forth at pages 22 and 24, respectively.

## Comments from ONE VOICE Campaign Leadership

The Rev. James DeLange, ONE VOICE Co-Chair and Member of the San Francisco Gifts Committee (also former LLGM board member and retired Senior Pastor of St. Francis Lutheran Church of San Francisco): "While our organizations over the years had accomplished amazing things for LGBT Lutherans on shoestring budgets, I welcomed the opportunity to be part of an ambitious capital campaign to take our cause to the next level. ONE VOICE has enabled us to do just that. It gives me great satisfaction to write my ONE VOICE check every month and to lay claim to a leadership role in the campaign's success. Our movement owes a great deal of thanks to all who planned, made calls, and gave. You have made a huge difference!"

The Rev. Arnold B. Tiemeyer, Chair, Pennsylvania Steering and Planning Committees: Reason for contributing: "It is simple, we

believe in the cause." Reason for accepting appointment to Chair the Pennsylvania effort: "It presented an opportunity to raise money for a cause that we believe in, and it kept the conversation going in this part of the church."

**The Rev. Richard A. Miller, Chair, Metro New York Gifts Committee:** "During the time I was a convener for the Metro NY Chapter of Lutherans Concerned, I had often felt satisfied that we had come a long way and maybe now could relax a bit. But any time I began to feel that way there came another story of someone being harassed, beaten, defrocked, or even killed because of sexual identity. When I thought about my church, the ELCA, I couldn't help thinking that by our policy we may well be contributing to bad attitudes and bad behavior. When ONE VOICE came our way, presenting with great enthusiasm the theme that we are at a "tipping point" in the church, I couldn't help but think I might be able to help provide enough weight to make things tip in the right direction. I became part of the Metro New York Gifts Committee for ONE VOICE readily, and chair a bit more hesitantly. Carolyn and I made a pledge early in the campaign, and after hearing Emily Eastwood's presentation a fourth time at a house party, I felt compelled to double the pledge. I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve in this way, and thank the others on the committee for their dedication as well."

## RIC Congregations and ONE VOICE

Among the donors to ONE VOICE are seven RIC congregations that have given or pledged nearly \$65,000.00 from their regular congregational budgets or special funds. These congregations and their lead pastors are:

- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota  
The Rev. M. Susan Peterson
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New York, New York  
The Rev. Robert Rimbo
- Lutheran Church of the Master, Los Angeles, California  
The Rev. John Rollefson
- Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C.  
The Rev. Conrad A. Braaten
- St. Francis Lutheran Church of San Francisco, California  
The Rev. Dr. Robert Goldstein
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania  
The Rev. Eric Shafer
- University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
The Rev. Craig Shirley

Asked why the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Master voted to contribute \$25,000.00 to the ONE VOICE Campaign, long-time member and former congregation president Tom Jacobson said, "As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, Lutheran Church of the Master welcomed the opportunity to have a

significant impact on the *ONE VOICE* Campaign with a matching gift. Our \$25,000.00 matched \$17,000.00 in pledges from members of our congregation. We think of ourselves as a big church in a small sanctuary, so extending our benevolence beyond our own walls is important to us. We hope other Reconciling in Christ congregations will join us in supporting the *ONE VOICE* partners--the campaign is over, but we can all still make a difference with our gifts."

**ONE VOICE and the Siefkes Endowment Fund**

Another RIC Congregation, Edina Community Lutheran Church (ECLC), Edina, MN, raised over \$100,000.00 among its members and a few others for the Siefkes Endowment Fund as part of the *ONE VOICE* Campaign. ECLC established the Siefkes Endowment Fund, which benefits LC/NA, to honor long-time ECLC members Jim and Sally Siefkes. The establishment of the Siefkes Endowment Fund by ECLC to permanently benefit LC/NA is particularly meaningful. Jim Siefkes facilitated the founding of Lutherans Concerned in 1974; ECLC has been an RIC congregation since 1985, when Bishop Mark Hanson was the pastor; and Jim, Sally and ECLC are committed to the full inclusion and participation of LGBT people in the Lutheran Church. This *ONE VOICE* effort at ECLC was led by Pastor Erik Strand and member Cheryl Persigehl.

Asked why she and her husband, Jonathan Flak, gave their time, talent and treasure to *ONE VOICE*, Cheryl said, "We were honored and excited to be asked to contribute our time and dollars to the *ONE VOICE* Campaign. We believe we're all called to 'do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.' The mission and vision of the *ONE VOICE* partners calls each of us and the entire church more deeply into justice, kindness and humility. It is a blessing to serve."

**Seminary Students Support ONE VOICE**

Donors to the *ONE VOICE* Campaign include a group of Union Theological Seminary students and members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan (organized by Jeremy Posadas) who contributed \$330 in honor of the 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad.

**ONE VOICE Partners Are Already Reaping the Benefits of this Historic Joint Effort**

Of the \$1,582,893.00 pledged, over \$1,000,000.00 has been paid! Thus, LC/NA, LLGM and Wingspan are already reaping the benefits of the generosity and commitment to their missions and ministries.

LC/NA continues to implement its overall strategic plan to foster systemic change within the Lutheran communion toward the full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Thanks to the *ONE VOICE* Campaign, LC/NA has been able to create and fill three new staff positions: Grassroots Organizing Coordinator (Jerry Vagts); Operations Manager (Brett Bowman); and Administrative Assistant (Tim Fisher). These new positions and the gifted people LC/NA has hired to fill them have made more robust LC/NA's grassroots work throughout the United States and Canada, including more RIC Core Team Trainings, participation in the 2007 ELCA synod



assemblies and preparation for and participation in the 2007 ELCA Convention and ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

LC/NA's next hire will be a full time Development Director who will travel extensively, meeting with major donors, foundations and congregations. As the *ONE VOICE* pledge redemption period concludes over the next two years, the LC/NA Development Director will develop short and long range funding strategies to ensure that LC/NA is able to work continuously to create the change it seeks.



LLGM has realized its goal of hiring a Development Director. Last fall, the LLGM Board of Directors announced the hire of Amalia J. Vagts as LLGM's first full-time staff member. Then LLGM Co-Chair, Greg Egertson, said, "Hiring a Development Director was one of LLGM's motivations for becoming a partner in the *ONE VOICE* Campaign. Amalia Vagts has the skills, enthusiasm and passion we need to expand LLGM's mission and create new ministries in the future. We would not have been able to hire Amalia without the gifts and pledges to *ONE VOICE*. We are delighted to thank all of the *ONE VOICE* donors for helping us achieve this landmark."

Increased fund development allows LLGM to devote more resources to empowering ministry for sexual minority people called to God's ministry of mission and witness. As a result, LLGM's mission development programs are blossoming. Since October of 2006, three Extraordinary Candidacy Project (ECP) pastors have been called to ministry of Word and Sacrament: the Rev. Erik Christensen (Chicago); the Rev. Megan Rohrer (San Francisco); and the Rev. Dawn Roginski (San Francisco).

For *Wingspan*, the *ONE VOICE* Campaign has created energy and movement. *ONE VOICE* funds are supporting the salary of *Wingspan*'s interim pastor, the Rev. Richard Andersen (ECP). Most members of the *Wingspan* Steering Committee have participated in an LC/NA RIC Core Team Training and are engaged in RIC development in the Twin Cities area. Thanks to *ONE VOICE*, *Wingspan* was readily able to prepare *This Obedience* for American Public Television. Participation in the *ONE VOICE* Campaign has raised the bar for *Wingspan*'s fundraising effort and has provided a base from which future goals will be met.



**Table of Gifts**

August 2007

Gift Category	Gifts Needed	Category Total	Gifts to Date	Pledged to Date
\$150,000+	1	\$150,000		
\$100,000+	3	\$300,000	3	\$300,000
\$75,000+	4	\$300,000	1	75,000
\$50,000+	6	\$300,000	2	\$100,000
\$25,000+	12	\$300,000	7	\$190,000
\$15,000+	16	\$240,000	13	\$236,000
\$10,000+	20	\$200,000	17	\$178,197
\$5,000+	42	\$210,000	62	\$330,164
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>\$1,409,361</b>
less than \$5,000			219	\$173,532
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$1,582,893</b>