

Report of the Discipling Consultant

July 12, 2017

Over the past year, many wonderful and exciting things have been happening. Lutheran Men in Mission has worked for quite some time now trying to streamline and get to a more productive cycle. With Vibrant Faith walking alongside us, this year took shape and gives us many elements to be proud of as an organization.

Last summer ended with a literal mountain top experience in Colorado. LMM was given the opportunity to host a men's hike with Rainbow Trails. This was an adventure that offered many faith experiences to us hikers, but also tons of images and stories that we are blessed to pass along. In camp one day, Kyle and I brainstormed about doing more regional events like this. It now seems like that LMM may be focusing on more local events to offer around the country.

In October Kyle and I returned to Colorado with Doug and the Advancement Team to work deeper into Project Twelve. Video recordings were made, training pieces were recorded in English and Spanish and other new created elements were brought to life here. This weekend was one of the first times I have had the opportunity to truly lead and facilitate such an awesome group of men. They started an Advent devotion with short notice. We later created a Lent devotion that got rave reviews. Please check out the website and Facebook page, share and like.

Throughout this past year I have also represented LMM at several events. They started with the ELCA's Youth Core Leadership Conference, then the SC LMM State Conference, NY Metro Annual Board meeting, Denominational Men's Leaders Conference, NC LMM State Conference and at the United Methodist Men's National Gathering. While in New York I also toured a hopefully future site for a One Year to Live(OYTL) retreat, and attended a Facilitator's Training workshop.

One of my responsibilities is working with the OYTL retreats. From February to May 2017, we have had 10 retreats and 123 participants. More are scheduled for the fall, and we will strive to reach more and more men. St. Thomas had its first retreat as well as Washington state. We still have a monthly national call for the leaders, and I helped staff three of the retreats.

I also have a key role in discipleship with LMM. There have been no names or individuals who have felt they could commit to the Men's Ministry Specialist Program as it is now. I've been working with Tim Crout in trying to formulate different ways to reach men and possible ways to restructure the instructional piece. I'm discussing with my advisor on a several different options. Discipleship is key to our mission and helping grow spiritual men.

This coming year has the challenge of new hurdles, but ones that are achievable and will result in great rewards. LMM is striving to have a better reach to the regional areas and groups through events and training opportunities. I look forward to a year of prosperity and growth. I ask that we all contribute your time, finances, energy, skills and prayers to the work that LMM is doing. If we all do this to grow ourselves and invest in the men around us, LMM will see a magnificent year. Peace be with you brothers!

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Burke

Discipling Consultant