

Application for Participation
ELCA World Hunger Ethics of Eating Region 9 Leadership Training

World Hunger Program, ELCA
Christian Retreat Center of Ft. Myers Beach
Ft. Myers Beach, FL
Thursday, January 27, 2011 - Sunday, January 30, 2011

Please Respond by December 1

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Region 9 leadership training event on the ethics of eating that will take place in Fort Myers, FL. We will lodge at the Christian Retreat Center of Ft. Myers Beach (<http://www.christianretreatcenter.org/>) and engage these issues at a variety of locations, including ECHO Farms (<http://www.echonet.org/>). ELCA World Hunger is inviting a diverse group of about twenty participants to this event. Participants will be drawn from Region 9, which includes the following synods: Virginia (9A), North Carolina (9B), South Carolina (9C), Southeastern--Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee (9D), Florida-Bahamas (9E), Caribbean—Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands (9F). **At this event, we will think about ways to respond to the justice and lifestyle issues that arise from the interconnections between what we eat and the food production and distribution system in this country. ELCA World Hunger is underwriting the cost of participation.**

These issues will be explored from a theological perspective: how should we eat such that it is just and healthy for human beings and the environment? We will ask this question with respect to organic, local and conventional farming, and their relation to hunger, worker rights, and the environment. Afterwards, each participant is expected to host an event of their choice in their local area.

We will have discussions and presentations on these issues and engage local farmers and activists. We will brainstorm about how what we learn should inform the work of the church, particularly with respect to organizing, fundraising, education and the lifestyle of members of the church.

We begin to admit participants on December 1. Participants will be notified of acceptance shortly thereafter. After **December 1**, applications will be approved on a rolling basis until all openings are filled. Please send your application in before that time. If you have any questions, please contact the coordinator of the event, Mary Delasin (mzdelasin@yahoo.com, 727-479-2914).

Here are the goals for our participants in this event. We hope each participant will:

1. Have increased capacity to advocate for a just and sustainable food system, in response to hunger and on behalf of the environment. Reflect upon the ways in which these issues should impact the way we should eat.
2. Implement a project, action or activity as a follow up to this event.
3. Subsequently participate in the Hunger Leaders Network and potentially, our online community.

Here are questions that are guiding our plans for this event:

1. What are a few theological frames for thinking about eating in a way that is just and healthy for human beings and the environment?
2. How is food produced and distributed in this country? What is the role of organic, local and conventional farming in this system?
3. What are some local & regional issues for farmers and farm workers?

4. How do these different ways of producing and distributing food locally, nationally and globally impact: a) hunger in urban and rural areas, b) the environment and climate change; and c) worker justice?
5. How should we eat such that it is just, healthy, and sustainable for humanity and the environment?
6. What are facets of individual, synod, and congregational advocacy for policies that would enable everyone to eat this way?

We in ELCA World Hunger are excited about this event that will be held in Fort Myers, FL. Local farmers, farm workers, food production workers, consumers, and actors in food, hunger and environmental justice networks will be involved in the event, which will include visits to farms and urban agriculture programs.

To apply, please fill out the online application at www.elca.org/hunger/ethicsofeating. If you have any questions, please contact the coordinator of this event, Mary Delasin (mzdelasin@yahoo.com, 727-479-2914).