

**MEET BETHANY ULRICH,
NEW COORDINATOR OF THE MEXICO CITY "SEEDS
FOR TRANSFORMATION" IMMERSION PROGRAM**

Beginning August 1, Bethany Ulrich will serve as Coordinator of the "Seeds for Transformation" immersion program under AMEXTRA, the Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation.

Last year, due to budget limitations, ELCA Global Mission (GM) closed its Immersion Program at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City after over 25 years of operations. However, over that same period, ELCA GM has worked very closely with AMEXTRA, one of its companions in Mexico. The "Seeds of Transformation" program, for which ELCA GM provided an initial grant, will be organizing the same type of educational programs that the ELCA offered in Mexico City in the past, and is looking to serve congregations, Synods, and other groups from the ELCA. These programs are aimed at offering a transformative experience that incorporates spiritual, social and cultural dimensions. So think about coming down!

Bethany, who is fluent in Spanish, was born in Kenya, grew up in Chicago, and graduated from Azusa Pacific University near Los Angeles in 2008. She has a long history of involvement in volunteer work and service in multiethnic communities. Over the past three years she has been involved in numerous advocacy activities and established two environmental health coalitions in Los Angeles as part of a national initiative to eliminate health disparities. During this time, she has also worked closely with clergy and faith communities.

Bethany says she is thrilled to make Mexico City her home and to be able to apply her partnership-making and bridge-building skills to her passion for engaging individuals and faith communities in personal and social transformation.



Dr. Moisés Pérez, Coordinator of Augsburg Lutheran Seminary and I met Bethany during her recent visit to Mexico.

**OPENING OF ONLINE
SEMINARY COURSES**

As I shared in our last newsletter, Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico City just began offering a program of online courses, of which I serve as the coordinator. We began on June 20, and things have been hectic, fast and furious! We have had almost 100 registration requests, with well over 60 students already participating in the courses, not only from all of Mexico, but from Argentina, Peru, Nicaragua and even France! We have also begun to receive inquiries from church leaders in several places in Latin America regarding using our courses for their own leadership training programs. We thus expect to be growing by leaps and bounds over the coming months!

I authored and am teaching the first course, "Introduction to the Bible," and will do the same for the second course, "Martin Luther and the Reformation of the Church." Both of these are free courses aimed at attracting students and offering them the basic knowledge they need to participate in our online Diploma program, which begins in September.

For all of us at the Seminary, including both professors and students, it has been a real team effort with long hours night and day dedicated to getting everything running properly. In particular, three of our students, Karina García, Abel Gutiérrez, and Benjamin Quezada, have been working closely with me in registering students, promoting the program, preparing videos for the classes, and teaching the course. So keep us all in your prayers!



Karina, Abel and Benjamin

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Oklahoma Synod website, and click on "Links")**

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