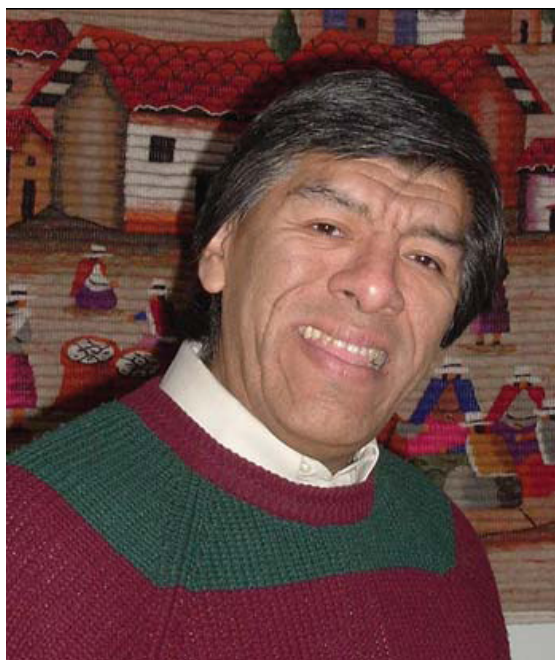

Two Keynotes Focus on “Building Healthy Missional Congregations”

Growing Healthy Missional Churches - that's the theme of the 2007 synodwide leadership event, Partners in Faith, Partners in Vision.

Who better to serve as keynote speaker than the Rev. Ruben Duran, director for new congregational development in the ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit? In that position, he is responsible for promoting the development of area strategies, local initiatives and emerging models for the multiplication of new communities of faith in the U.S. and the Caribbean.



Over the course of the event, Pr. Duran will present a two-part keynote address. The first part, set for 9 - 10:10 a.m., focuses on "Thinking Missionally." What is God up to in the world today? What is our role in it? This presentation will engage leaders to consider the activity of God in the world today and how God's church may respond to its baptismal call to participate in God's mission. Anchored in the solid and constant purposes of God, the church dares to

adjust its vision and priorities in order to embrace a changing world.

The second keynote, set for 1 - 2:15 p.m., deals with "Healthy and Missional Congregations." What does a healthy church look like? Recent studies reveal key ingredients present in healthy and missional congregations in the ELCA. This presentation will unpack these ingredients and qualities, and point at ways to identify and implement them in your congregational setting.

Pr. Duran also is scheduled to lead two workshops, which are expected to fill quickly. (Register early!) In the morning workshop session, "Enhancing Congregational Health and Vitality" (A01) will introduce participants to the world of Natural Church Development, a practical tool to assess the health of a congregation and a set of principles to enhance it.

In the final workshop session, you'll be introduced to a simple yet effective tool for creating a leadership climate of enrichment and multiplication in "Multiplying Leaders Through Coaching" (C01).

A native of Lima, Peru (South America), Pr. Duran is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.; Trinity Lutheran College (formerly the Lutheran Bible Institute), Seattle, Wash.; and the Escuela Nacional de Turismo, Lima, Peru.

He served parishes in the Seattle, Wash., and Los Angeles areas prior to becoming associate to the bishop and mission director for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. He has also served as associate director for Latino outreach in the former ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries and as executive for congregational outreach services in the former ELCA Division for Outreach prior to assuming his current position.