

ASIAN-AMERICAN PASTORAL MINISTRY (AAPM)

"preparing the future of the Asian-American churches in the CRCNA"

April 28, 2005

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence/Lilly Project
Attn. Lis Van Harten
Christian Reformed Church of North America
2850 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560

Dear Ms. Lis Van Harten:

Greetings in the gracious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We are delighted to submit the following documents in connection with our peer learning group grant through the SPE/Lilly Project. Please note that the Financial Report is preliminary while we wait for the final invoice of our April 23 conference call. When we obtain this by Monday/Tuesday, we will update the financial report and send all of the following signed by Nam and me.

1. this cover letter
2. AAPM Year-end report 2004-05
3. Financial Report with receipts
4. Peer learning grant application for 2005-06
5. AAPM Vision Statement & Strategic Plan (draft version for discussion)
6. copy of our Letter of Affirmation for Racial Reconciliation addressed to Rev. Peter Borgdorff and Rev. Esteban Lugo

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Nam Kieu, our treasurer (namkieu@sbcglobal.net).

On behalf of the members of the AAPM and the churches we represent, let me express our deep gratitude first of all for your kind and prompt attention as SPE Project Coordinator, and for the valuable opportunity and resources to grow in pastoral excellence that we have received through the SPE/Lilly Project.

Considering our unique ethnic identity, needs, and potential role in the CRCNA, we are submitting our renewal application for a peer learning group grant. We hope and pray that you will provide us grant support and any advice/information that could help us further prepare and implement a long term plan.

To God be the glory!

Respectfully,

Fernando del Rosario Jr.
AAPM Coordinator

Ministry Associate/Pastor
Living Faith Fellowship CRC
17146 Via Del Rey, San Lorenzo, CA 94580
Evening Ph/Fax: 510-481-1914
Daytime Ph: 415-514-3946
livingcrc@sbcglobal.net

**Sustaining Pastoral Excellence in the Christian Reformed Church in North America
A program funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.**

**Peer Learning Grant Application Form
(April 28, 2005) ****

1. Please describe your proposed peer learning group

a. Name of group (your choice of descriptive word or phrase)

Asian-American Pastoral Ministry (AAPM)

b. Information for all pastors in group. Ordinarily, the majority of the group members will be CRC pastors.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>CITY,STATE/PROV</u>
1. Socheth Na	Pastor	Cambodian Fellowship CRC	Holland, MI
2. San Sok	Pastor	Cambodian CRC	St Thomas, Ontario
3. Phohn Sinbondit	Pastor	New Life Laotian V/CRC	Brooklyn Park, MN
4. Nam Kieu	Pastor	Vietnamese Liberty CRC	San Jose, CA
5. Matthew Le	Pastor	Little Saigon CRC	Westminster, CA
6. Kou Vang	Pastor	Hmong CRC	Sheboygan, WI
7. John Kim	Pastor	Khmer Denver CRC	Aurora, CO
8. Gil Suh	Pastor	New Hope Korean CRC	San Jose, CA
9. Fernando del Rosario	Pastor	Living Faith Fellowship CRC	Hayward, CA
10. Albert Sideco	Pastor	Jersey City Filipino CRC	Jersey City, NJ

c. Factor(s) that bring the group together

1. *All members are 1st generation Asians, except Gil Suh who is 1.5th generation Korean-American.*
2. *All of our congregations, except the New Hope Korean CRC, are still emerging and multi-generational churches. However, not all of our emerging churches are currently being supported by CRHM.*
3. *Since 1999 when CRHM organized an Asian planning group thru the leadership of Gary Teja and Tong Park, these pastors have developed friendships and collegial relationships as fellow ministers.*
4. *These peer relationships have progressed from basic trainings in theology, church polity, and pastoral/ministry competencies to visioning the future of Asian churches in the CRCNA and planning strategies for leadership development, outreach, and church growth for the next generation of multi-generational and multi-ethnic Asian congregations.*
5. *Recently, the group verbalized a compelling desire and consensus to recruit into the group pastors from the Chinese, Hmong, Pakistani, and other Asian CRCs to ensure no Asian church in CRCNA is un-represented.*

d. What "pastoral excellence" means to you

To us, "pastoral excellence" means personal commitment to grow and mature in all of the following as individuals and as a peer learning group:

1. *personal devotion and love for the Lord as demonstrated by basic spiritual disciplines*
 2. *personal holiness in thoughts, words, and deeds*
 3. *love, care, and support for our spouse and family*
 4. *obedience and faithfulness to God's calling and purpose in our personal lives*
 5. *pastoral love, care, and support for our congregation*
 6. *Bible knowledge, Reformed theology and world view, and the ability to relate to contemporary situations*
 7. *Biblical preaching, teaching, and counseling to a changing Asian-American mindset*
 8. *average know-how in using ministry tools and technology that enhance pastoral work and personal abilities in today's technology-driven culture*
- e. State in one sentence the focus of your group

We aim to support each other to grow in pastoral excellence so that we can collectively prepare well the future of Asian churches in the CRCNA.

NOTE: *We are submitting as an appendix to this application the attached "AAPM Vision Statement and Strategic Plan". With this document, we want to make known our intention to commit our peer group to assisting in the growth and involvement of Asian multigenerational churches in the CRCNA. We will develop this in the coming months and finalize during our August face-to-face meeting.*

2. Describe the group's proposal for peer learning

- a. How your group went about developing this proposal.
1. *Based on our face-to-face planning meetings in April 2003 (Minneapolis, MN) and July 2004 (Aurora, CO), we reviewed the progress of the then called Asian Planning Group/Ministry Consultation Group and concluded there is so much value in continuing as a peer learning group.*
 2. *We found there were aspects of our respective ministries unique to each while there were also strengths and needs that if we address as a group, we would be in a better position to achieve desired results.*
 3. *Rev. Al Mulder encouraged and assisted us to apply for the SPE grant. We did and are now towards the end of our first year as a SPE peer group.*
 4. *In our March 7-9 group retreat (Lake Tahoe, CA/NV), we realized that after a year of two face-to-face meetings, quarterly conference calls, interpersonal phone calls, and email exchanges, we were able to establish a solid peer learning process that if continued will lead to greater results. We identified this in terms of strategic visioning for the future of the Asian churches in the CRCNA.*
 5. *In other words, we saw ourselves progressing from basic learning to strategic ministry planning. We believe this is God's purpose for our group of Asian-American pastors. We believe God called us to be the core workers for future Asian-American church leaders in the CRCNA.*
- b. When and how your group members will establish individual goals for personal development and ministry effectiveness

1. *In our next scheduled conference call on April 23, we will review and reset our individual goals for pastoral excellence and at the same time identify individual inputs to our visioning/planning process.*
 2. *An option is to continue the topics each of us discussed during our recent retreat and identify personal growth goals from them. We will try to state our personal goals based on the SMART guideline*
 3. *Then we will discuss and agree on a system of friendly checks and peer accountability.*
- c. Meeting schedule and nature of group activities – Please note that groups are required to meet a minimum of four times.
- *August 2005: 1st face-to-face meeting with a guest resource speaker/trainer*
 - *Late Winter/Spring 2006: 2nd face-to-face meeting/retreat*
 - *Do bi-monthly conference calls for peer checks/accountability*
 - *Initiate a “buddy” or “peer-partner” accountability system*
 - *Continue as currently practiced our “every-Tuesday-email” exchanges*
 - *Or: start a Yahoo chat room among ourselves and other leaders/members of our Asian churches*
- d. Will the group be attending a continuing education event together OR will a speaker be brought in? If yes, please provide background information on the event and/or speaker. Please include websites whenever possible.
- *For the August 2005 meeting, we will ask our two Advisors, Tong Park and Mike Vander Pol, to train us in the Refocusing Leadership networking program; see www.refocusing.org*
 - *For our Winter/Spring 2006 retreat, we will adopt, with modifications, the method we used in our Lake Tahoe retreat in which we form pairs of discussants/facilitators among ourselves to cover one in a list of pre-selected topics or a single but multi-faceted theme.*
 - *Tentative plan: our group will apply for a separate “continuing education grant” so we can develop a leadership seminar designed for emerging leaders in our Asian churches. One option is to schedule this just before the June 2006 Multi-ethnic Conference in Grand Rapids. We will save on travel costs and provide a dual purpose and opportunity for our Asian-American attendees.*
- e. Goals and expected outcomes for the group – including spiritual formation goals
- *Develop deeper and more mature spiritual disciplines expressed in prayer, worship, personal holiness, and pastoral/leadership accountability*
 - *Sustain teamwork, zeal, and clarity of vision and purpose in our respective roles/inputs in preparing the future of Asian churches in the CRCNA*
 - *Involve through progressively significant ways in classical, synodical, regional, and denominational ministries and activities, especially involving racial reconciliation*
 - *Demonstrate effective teaching and mentoring skills among our emerging leaders in our churches*
 - *Gain more confidence and achieve better ministry performance through increasing know-how in the use of ministry tools and technology*

- f. How your group members will hold one another accountable for expected outcomes.
- *We will ask each member to write a short list of personal growth goals using SMART criteria.*
 - *We will form “accountability buddies or pairs” and practice inter-personal accountability (Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”). This is going to be a challenge especially for 1st generation Asian pastors who are culturally not used to this practice.*
 - *We will ask God to bless us as we go into a deeper kind of peer relationship, beyond pleasantries during calls, meetings, and emails, one that is intimately grounded on pastors’ real personal struggles, spiritual warfare and victories!*

Identify the group coordinator – The coordinator must be either an ordained CRC pastor or an ordained CRC ministry associate.

- a. Name and position/location
*Fernando del Rosario, Coordinator
Ordained CRC Ministry Associate
Hayward, CA*
- Rev. Socheth Na, Associate Coordinator
Holland, MI*
- b. Institution name, address, phone, fax, email
*Living Faith Fellowship CRC
17146 Via Del Rey, San Lorenzo, CA 94580
Tel/Fax: 510-481-1914
livingcrc@sbcglobal.net*
- Cambodian Fellowship CRC
1 Graves Place, Holland, MI 49423-3617
Tel. 616-392-1014
Fax: 616-396-5524
cfcrc@wmol.com*
- c. Home address, phone, fax, email
Same as above.

Identify the group treasurer (may not be the same person as the group coordinator)

- a. Name and position/location
*Rev. Nam Kieu
Ordained CRC Minister
San Jose, CA*
- b. Institution name, address, phone, fax, email
*Vietnamese Liberty CRC (TDTD)
2716 Whispering Hills Lane
San Jose, CA 95148-3447
Tel. 408-608-9400
Fax: 408-223-2379
namkieu@sbcglobal.net*

- c. Home address, phone, fax, email
Same as above.

Please use additional space or pages as needed.
This form may be accessed in electronic form @ www.crcna.org/pastoralexcellence

When completed send to:
pastoralexcellence@crcna.org or vanhartl@crcna.org

or

*SPE Project Coordinator
2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560 USA*

We prefer to work with electronic forms whenever possible. Thank You.

**** Receipt of proposal will be acknowledged with an email to the coordinator. If you do not receive acknowledgment within 24 hours, please call our office.**

The SPE program will send notice to applicants by June 1 and December 1 concerning grants awarded.