

## Registration for 2008

### *Healing the Wounds of Racism*

Name:  
Street:  
City/State/Zip:  
Phone:  
Email:  
Congregation:

**Introductory Weekends**

June 20-22, 2008, at the Espousal Retreat Center, Waltham, MA

**Stage 2 Weekend**

July 11-13, 2008, at the Espousal Retreat Center, Waltham, MA

The fee charged for room and board for participants for each weekend is based on a sliding scale. We encourage congregations to assist financially as a way to support the participant and share in the process. Scholarship assistance is available from the Office of the Bishop.

Enclosed is my fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

<u>Annual Family Income</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Up to \$12,000	\$ 50
\$12,001 - \$25,000	\$100
\$25,001 - \$50,000	\$175
\$50,001+	\$250

Please consider giving a larger gift so others may participate in this process.

Make check payable to: New England Synod  
Send check and registration form to:  
New England Synod  
PO Box 13  
Worcester, MA 01614-0013

Questions? Call the Synod House (508) 791-1530

## HUPERETAI

**Huperetai** is a transliteration of one of the seven Greek words for “servant” in the New Testament.

These servants were referred to as “underowners.” When the great Greek sailing ships were in danger of hitting the rocky coast, the Huperetai would get into a small boat tethered to the sailing ship. They would – with every fiber in their bodies – row to prevent the ship from crashing on the rocky coast.

In Luke 4, after Jesus read the prophecy from Isaiah about the coming revolution, he handed the scroll to the Huperetes.

Huperetai is a cross-cultural teaching alliance, based in Philadelphia, with experience in teaching, writing, community organizing and community building. They believe that the rocky coast against which we are asked to row is racism – in our land, in our institutions, in the church. The leaders from Huperetai are guiding us in our journey to discover and heal the wounds of racism in the New England Synod.

Huperetai believes that the text Jesus handed to the servant that day is the text that he hands to all those who would follow him. Every participant in the event has opportunity to receive that text and to work to affirm and sustain its fulfillment even among us.

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2, NRSV)*



## Healing the Wounds of Racism

*A Learning Process  
in the New England Synod*

**An Application to Participate  
in Our Program to Heal Racism**

You are invited ...

to partner with us as we struggle to address racism in our selves, our congregations, and our Synod. Our struggle is rooted in the Vision Statement of the New England Synod that calls us to insist on justice.

*(2008 schedule inside)*

### *In the beginning ...*

there was a synod vision, part of which calls upon people to do justice. In 2002, the New England Synod Council chose ***Healing the Wounds of Racism*** as the vehicle by which the Synod would confront racism. ***Healing the Wounds*** is not another “program,” but rather a “process” which involves participants in an ongoing attitude of prayer and openness to new feelings, understandings and actions about racism and its affects on all of us. The Synod Council identified ***Huperetai*** (Hoo-per-et-tie), a cross-cultural teaching alliance, to lead this process.

The two-stage learning process engages participants spiritually, as well as cognitively.

The **Introductory Weekend** is centered in prayer, history, analysis and learning about racism, white advantage and the effect of this on both white people and people of color. Participants commit to attending the next stage of development (**Stage 2**) and community building

**The Stage 2 Weekend** furthers the development of analytical skills to look at institutional systems and continues to encourage learning and nurture in a community of accountability.

**The Healing the Wounds Community** is open to all who have participated in the learning process. Community work involves Bible study and the support of one another in personal and institutional transformation. Gatherings in for 2008 are set fir February 23 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Attleboro, MA, and May 31, at Holy Trinity, Newington, NH.

► **A special session for people of color**, is being planned by Pr. Santiago Rodriguez. Please let him know if you have interest.

## 2008 Schedule

### **Introductory Weekend**

June 20-22, 2008

### **Stage 2 Weekend**

July 11-13, 2008

### **People of Color Event**

Tba, probably in August

### **Equipping the Saints Retreat**

September 5-6, 2008

The Healer Community is facilitated by a Leadership for Liberation Team, whose members study, pray, act and provide direction for the movement.

### ***Leadership for Liberation Team***

- Pr. Santiago Rodriguez – Spiritual Advisor, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Providence, R.I. (401.421.5860)
- Pr. David Thorp, Faith Lutheran Church, North Windham, Maine (207.583.6446)
- Keila Medina-Rodriguez, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Providence, R.I. (401.454.2119)
- Pr. Tom Maehl, First Lutheran Church, Waltham, Mass. (781.893.6563)
- Vimar Rodriguez, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Providence, R.I. (401.454.2119)
- Ruth Nunnally, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Dorchester, MA. (617.776.5474)
- Marilyn Durant, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Westborough, MA

### ► **The Liberation Team** meetings for 2008

Feb. 10-11

June 22-23

Sept. 14-15

Nov. 30- Dec. 1

### **How to prepare for the Intro Weekend**

- Read and reflect on the Gospel of ***Luke***
- Read ***There Is a River*** by Vincent Harding (available from Synod Office)
- Pray for the participants and leaders

### **What to bring:**

- Bible
- Humor and courage
- Faith and hope
- Casual attire
- Your whole self for the whole time. The event is a time of spiritual and human transformation. The learning community commits itself to immersion in prayer, study and reflection without distractions or interruptions. Participants are asked to remain on site, refrain from alcohol and TV, and be attentive to the Presence of God and to one another.

### **What to expect at the events**

- God’s Holy Spirit leading us to greater spiritual worship through the renewal of our minds
- Discernment of God’s will as to what is good and acceptable
- Some pain – rebirth is painful. Some joy of discovery.
- Insight into historical truths that have been obscured and/or hidden from us
- An invitation to a community that journeys together toward a new cross-cultural identity