

Religion *Dallas - Ft. Worth Chapter*
Communicators
Council **E-NEWSLETTER**

February 2006

February chapter meeting to feature writing study guides

Ann Hafften, most recently Coordinator for Middle East Networking with ELCA Global Mission and an able communicator will present our February program on Thursday, Feb. 23. She will speak on how to **design and write study guides**. Her work has helped the ELCA in developing action and education networks, assuring the availability of background information. Ann has been responsible for planning, directing and organizing strategies with synods that will inform and mobilize ELCA members. We'll meet at UMR Communications Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive, Dallas 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch. For reservations e-mail or call Deb Christian, dchristian@umr.org, 214.630.6495 x147 by 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 20.

Slater Awardees selected, Awards lunch planned for March 9

Three professional communicators from the Dallas-Fort Worth area named Norvell Slater Communications Award recipients for work done in 2005 include **Huntley Paton**, publisher of the *Dallas Business Journal*; **Lorri Allen**, News Director for *FamilyNet-TV*; and **Tony Pederson**, Chair of the Journalism Division at Southern Methodist University.

Slater Awards are presented to honor outstanding achievement in communication of faith values through the media in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area marketplace. The three categories include Religion Communicator of the Year (a church, religious organization, or person in such an organization); Commercial Communicator of the Year (a secular/commercial media organization or person in such an organization); Lifetime Communicator (person whose lifetime career has fulfilled the criteria). Criteria are church, organization or person with outstanding achievement in effectively communicating faith values in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area marketplace.

Paton was chosen as Commercial Communicator for the year based on the editorial stances frequently taken by the *Dallas Business Journal* that support faith values. He is also a board member for North Texas chapter of Gegrapha, a fellowship of Christian journalists. **Allen** was selected Religion Communicator of the Year for her commitment to communicating faith values and assisting others in doing so through her web sites www.lorri.com and www.soundbitecoach.com plus her work merging broadcasting with ministry through her work as news director and anchor for FamilyNet. For his longtime involvement with freedom of the press issues, which allow faith groups free expression of their beliefs and values, **Pederson** was named Lifetime Communicator.

The Norvell Slater Awards Luncheon to honor the recipients is set for Thursday, March 9 at the Radisson Hotel (I-35E and Northwest Highway) 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Plan to be present to celebrate the achievements of the Religious Communicator of the Year, Commercial Communicator of the Year and a Lifetime Communicator. Cost is \$25 per person.

Time to register for 2006 Convention

Registration is open for the 2006 RCC National Convention, March 30- April 1 in Grapevine, Texas. With a theme of *"Where Art Intersects Faith: Communicating Faith through the Arts"*, workshops for professional development, keynote addresses by Bobby Ross and Dr. Ann Perry; the DeRose-Hinkhouse and Wilbur Awards programs and opportunity to meet, fellowship and network with other religion communicators are all part of this yearly event. Registration information is available on the convention website www.rcc-dfw.org/convention.html. Early registration rate (by March 1) is \$325. Plan now to come and celebrate the diversity of faith communities, creativity and excellence.

Volunteers needed

Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter is the host chapter for the 2006 RCC National Convention, March 30-April 1. All chapter members are encouraged to register and attend the assemblies, workshops and awards programs. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to assist with everything from handing out registration packets, to greeting, to hosting a bus trip, to assembling handouts, to assisting workshop presenters, etc.** Contact Cherrie Graham, cherrie@wt.net or Deb Christian, dchristian@umr.org with the time you would be available and where you are willing to serve. Check out the web site for additional information www.rcc-dfw.org/convention.html