Bishop Robert Schaefer and his staff have selected 4 Global Mission Committee members to travel to the ELCA Latin America – Caribbean Consultation in Lima, Peru on Nov. 9 – 13, 2016. Pr. Steve Winemiller – Chair of the Haiti Task Force; Anita Unrath – member of the Haiti Task Force; Pr. Jaime Dubon – Synod staff liaison to the Global Mission Committee; and PJ May – Chair of the Global Mission Committee will travel to Peru and meet with representatives from each of the Florida Bahamas Synod’s Companion Churches (Cuba, Haiti, Guyana, and Surinam). Other participants will be Companion Synod representatives from the US and Canada who have companion relationships in Central and South America and the Caribbean, and representatives from each of those Companion Churches.

This year’s Consultation’s theme is “Interculturality”. The objectives for the consultation are the following:

1) Participants have created a common understanding of interculturality and can begin to evaluate their mutual accompaniment.

2) Participants evaluate their current three year plans and share new developments and priorities in their churches and synods with each other.

3) Participants will create three year plans and integrate their learning in their three year plans.

Prior to the Consultation, each participant must complete the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) - the most internationally accepted assessment inventory that measures intercultural competence, cultural intelligence, global effectiveness, and cross-cultural adaptability. The Companion Synod participants will also pre-conference together and complete a discussion guide for each of the Companion Church relationships to be used in meetings and planning sessions at the Consultation.