

# Coming in September 08

## The Red Mesa Leadership Development Network

**F**or many years, there have not been enough well-trained pastors and leaders to serve the many small churches and missions of Classis Red Mesa. And local Native American Christians have stepped up and tried to fill the need. And to their credit, they have come forward even though they don't have much or any seminary or other training, despite feelings of inadequacy for the task. The TEAMS committee, a committee of Classis, is working to develop an education model called a leadership development network or LDN to provide these leaders the training and support they need.

A leadership network is unlike a seminary or a Bible School in several respects. Students do not need to quit their jobs or uproot their families and move far away to attend school. They can learn at home and in their local churches. A three-year

Students do not need to quit their jobs or uproot their families and move far away to attend school. They can learn at home and in their local churches.

curriculum is being prepared, which focuses on bible knowledge and reformed theology, ministry skills, and personal spiritual development. The first two years are designed for anyone who wants to know the bible better and wishes to

serve as an elder or deacon, bible study leader, sunday school teacher or other church

leader. The third year curriculum is designed especially for those who feel called to be evangelists and pastors. At the end of the third year a student will have earned a certificate and will be well-prepared to undergo examination by Classis for the position of ministry associate to pastor a Classis Red Mesa church or mission.

Here is how the Red Mesa LDN will work. Every month students will complete assignments which are posted on the RMLDN website or sent in the mail. These assignments will include bible passages and other books to read, practical tasks to complete such as leading a bible study, giving a message, or organizing an evangelistic event, and short reflections or reports to write. Each student will be paired with a mentor who will guide and coach him or her through the months assignments, meeting weekly or monthly as needed. One Saturday each month a local pastor or other expert will hold a training session for the students at a central location, possible Naschitti or Tohatchi and will present a workshop on one of the month's topics. Students will also worship together and share their experiences with the month's assignments.

The curriculum is designed so that a student can begin in September of any year. The program will begin each September and end in May, starting this year in September of 2008. Because of its unique and personalized educational method, the LDN will not be accredited and its coursework will not transfer to any other educational institution.

**For more information about the coming Red Mesa LDN please contact one of these TEAMS committee members:**

Rev. Stanley Jim (advisor)  
Phone: 505 863-3468  
[Email: stanwjim@aol.com](mailto:stanwjim@aol.com)

Pastor Susan LaClear  
Phone: 505-235-9639  
Email:  
[maranathacrc@msn.com](mailto:maranathacrc@msn.com)

Rev. Ray Slim  
Phone: 505 723-2406  
[Email: rslim@yahoo.com](mailto:rslim@yahoo.com)

Ruth Benally  
Phone: 505 325-9639  
Email:  
[epbenally2@hotmail.com](mailto:epbenally2@hotmail.com)

Rev. Rob Byker  
Phone: 505 722-6353  
[Email:rbyker@rcsnm.org](mailto:rbyker@rcsnm.org)

