



Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Gathering of the Ministerium 2017

### Information and Planning Tips

#### 1. Property Name and Address

Holiday Inn and Suites North Beach  
3900 Atlantic Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451  
Phone: 757-428-1711  
Fax: 757-425-7872  
[www.vboceanfrontnorth.com](http://www.vboceanfrontnorth.com)

Please MapQuest or Google directions from your starting point to the hotel. Please visit the hotel's website for services and amenities. You will receive a Welcome Letter upon check-in providing you additional information about the hotel and the surrounding area. ***Please plan additional travel time into your schedule to allow for heavy traffic and potential accidents.***

In the event a guest wishes to cancel a reservation, the deposit is refundable if notice is received 72 hours prior to the day of arrival and a cancellation number is obtained.

#### 2. Our time together begins on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The starting schedule is:

12:30 pm	Registration + Reunion (lunch on your own)
1:45 pm	Covenant Renewal Litany

#### 3. The Weather and Packing

Dress is casual. The weather this time of year can vary. The current prediction is cloudy with some rain and temperatures during the day around 80 degrees; evening temperatures in the mid to high 60's. We strongly encourage you to pack a sweater/jacket for our time in the hotel, as the cooling effects of air conditioning can vary from person to person. Don't forget your umbrella in case it rains and your bathing suit in case the sun comes out!!!

#### 4. Check-In Time and Check-Out Time

Official check-in time is 4:00 pm. Early check-in may be requested by contacting the hotel directly. Check-out time has been extended to 12 noon for our group.

## **5. Luggage**

Luggage carts are available in the hotel lobby for use in transporting your items to your room.

## **6. Complimentary Parking**

There is a parking garage across the street from the hotel. You will **not** need a pass to place in your vehicle. There is no valet parking available.

## **7. Participants with Children**

The Holiday Inn and Suites North Beach is a family friendly hotel. It has amenities available for adults and children. Please call or check the hotel's website for those activities open during the time of our meeting, and what equipment is available at the hotel vs. what you may need to bring with you.

## **8. Internet Access**

You will have complimentary wireless Internet access.

## **9. Guidebook App**

This year, similar to Synod Assembly, many aspects of The Gathering of the Ministerium and future synod events for 2017-2018, as well as synod social media platforms will be available via this app. Visit [guidebook.com/g/gom2017](http://guidebook.com/g/gom2017). Tap the "download" button to download the Guidebook app on your preferred device(s). Open Guidebook and search for: Gathering of the Ministerium 2017.

To access Guidebook on your laptop, visit: [guidebook.com/guide/114481/](http://guidebook.com/guide/114481/)

## **10. Meals and Breaks**

Two meals are provided as part of your registration fee: Monday and Tuesday dinners. *While not included in your registration fee, breakfast is available in The Greenery Restaurant*, either buffet style or a la carte. Your room includes a refrigerator and microwave. You may want to bring food items to eat breakfast in your room or go out to a local restaurant.

We extend our sincere appreciation to **Virginia Lutheran Homes, Inc. and Lutheran Family Services of Virginia**, who are co-sponsoring our Monday afternoon break; to **National Lutheran Communities and Services**, who is hosting the Monday evening welcome reception; and to **Roanoke College** for hosting Tuesday evening's reception. Please remember - the Tidewater Conference was the winning conference for early registration, so the rostered ministers of that conference will be the first in line to partake of the food and beverages for the Monday evening reception.

## **11. Exhibits and Displays**

Will be available in a room off The Atrium. **As a reminder, there will be a table and coat rack available for you to bring vestments and stoles, choir robes, clerical shirts and blouses** (in reasonably good condition) that no longer fit or are of any current use to you or your churches. Folks will be able to drop by to see if any of these items might be of good use to them. Please indicate sizes, where applicable. Many thanks to Leslie Scanlon for originally sharing this new idea with us last year!!

## **12. Organized Free Time Activities and Service Project**

We have three planned activities arranged for your enjoyment. Based on registration - and in case you cannot remember - summary sheets for each activity will be placed on a table, either in our meeting space or just outside of it.

**Golf:** We currently have five (5) people registered for this great activity. Drew Tucker will be heading up the group, which will meet in the hotel lobby and possibly carpool to the Red Wing Golf Course. Written directions also may be available. **The cost for this event is \$34.00 plus tax, payable at the golf course.**

**Corn hole Tournament:** To date, we have nine (9) people registered for competition and thirteen (13) registered for fun. Randy Lohr will be overseeing this group and announce the details of where to meet and how things will work. **There is no charge for this activity.**

**Massages:** As of this communication, we have fifteen (15) folks registered for this relaxing experience, offered by the Advanced Fuller School of Massage. Mindy Reynolds is working with the school's lead instructor to finalize specific appointment times. Please bear in mind, some people may have to be scheduled during a different hour than the one you selected, but very close to the one you chose. These appointments will be posted on the respective summary sheet. **Please remember to bring cash to pay for your massage - \$20.00** for the twenty (20) minute table full body massage. ("Clients" are fully clothed for their massages). Tips for the students are most welcomed.

**Service Project:** There will be an opportunity for those persons interested in participating in a service project at Luther Manor in Virginia Beach. Luther Manor is one of Virginia Lutheran Homes, Inc. senior residences. The service project involves a fall clean-up of the courtyard in preparation for holding its annual fundraiser. Tools will be provided; bringing work gloves would be advised. Starting time (after lunch) to be announced and directions to be provided.

## **13. Continuing Education**

As part of "engaging in professional development" outlined in our *Vision for the Virginia Synod Ministerium (Covenant)* and the ELCA's Rostered Minister Annual Report, the Ministerium Team believed it was important to officially acknowledge attendance at synod-wide events that include continuing education components. As a result, those of you who faithfully attend the educational sessions, Portico Benefits Services Update, Synodical Updates, and Ministry Moments, will receive a certificate. These certificates will be available at the conclusion of the last session on Wednesday morning.

**14. Evaluations**

Last year, we had 63 people participate in the on-line evaluation, for an approximate 46% return rate. This information was invaluable to us as we planned this year's Gathering of the Ministerium. Thank you for your great participation. We would like to experience this year's event prior to finalizing the content of an evaluation. You will receive an e-mail inviting you to complete a survey as soon as possible, *after* the Gathering of the Ministerium.

**15. Contact Persons for Assistance**

If you need help or have a question, please contact either one of the following persons via cell phone. Texting would be most helpful.

Mindy Reynolds: 804-516-6784

Lenae Osmondson: 757-729-8995

We sincerely hope you have a great time learning and sharing fellowship with one another!