

RE·FORMATION

THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

2017 HANDBOOK

Rocky Mountain Synod
2017 Assembly
May 5-7, 2017
Colorado Springs, CO

■ THE ASSEMBLY: RE•FORMATION: THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.

Re•formation: Then. Now. Always. is the theme for this year's assembly. In this 500th Anniversary year of the Lutheran Reformation, we will celebrate our unity, worshipping and learning together with our full-communion partners. We will engage the Small Catechism in light of our call to be a public church, and explore the gifts we claim as this part of Christ's Church.

■ PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Friday, May 5, 2017

11:00-5:00pm: Registration

1:30pm:

2:00pm: Plenary 1

 Opening of Assembly

 Nominations from the floor: Vice-President

 Claiming our Gifts Session 1: Theology

4:30pm: Break

5:00pm: Dinner (Group 1)

 Catechism Re•Formation (Group 2)

***Groups determined by conference*

5:00pm: Dinner (Group 2)

 Catechism Re•Formation (Group 1)

***Groups determined by conference*

7:00pm: Nomination Forms due for nominations from the floor

7:30pm: Opening Worship: Re•Formation: Then. Now. Always.

 Celebrating our Full-Communion Partnerships

 Opening worship will be held at First United Methodist Church

Saturday, May 6, 2017

8:30am: Plenary 2

 Companion Synod Trip Report

 Claiming our Gifts Session 2: Legacy

 Keynote: Alaide Ibarra, ELCA AMMPARO Strategy

11:00am: Break

11:30am: Lunch(Group 1)

 Catechism Re•Formation (Group 2)

***Groups determined by conference*

12:30pm: Lunch (Group 2)

 Catechism Re•Formation (Group 1)

***Groups determined by conference*

1:45pm: Plenary 3

Claiming our Gifts Session 3: Ecclesiology

Synod Council Officer Reports

Keynote: Adrian Miller, Colorado Council of Churches

3:50pm: Break

4:15pm: Full-Communion Partnership Breakout Sessions

5:45pm: Question and Appetizer Sessions

RMS Budget

RMS Constitution Updates

RMS Strategic Plan

3E: Educate, Equip, Enact

ELCA AMMPARO Strategy

6:15pm: Dinner and Ministry Fair

Join us for a western themed dinner and fair sponsored by ministries of the Rocky Mountain Synod and ELCA!

Sunday, May 7, 2017

8:30am: Plenary4

Claiming our Gifts Session 4: Practice

Budget adoption and closing business

10:00am: Recognition of Anniversaries

10:30am Break

11:00am: Closing Worship

Welcoming of Ministers of Word and Service

Access assembly information, receive notice of schedule changes and reminders, and give your offering using your phone or tablet through the RMS App!



■ OFFERINGS

FRIDAY EVENING OFFERING:

Betela Seminary in Madagascar and Rocky Mountain Synod Seminary Scholarship Fund

For many years, the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Lutheran synods in northern Madagascar have accompanied one another in deepening relationships, prayer, and ministry together as Companion Synods. Half of the Friday evening offering is designated for Betela Regional Seminary, for its mission of training leaders theologically for work in the Malagasy Lutheran Church. The offering will be shared with the Rocky Mountain Synod Seminary Scholarship Fund, to support candidates pursuing rostered ministry in our church.

FRIDAY NOON OFFERING:

ELCA World Hunger

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING:

Rocky Mountain Synod Youth Leadership

Two areas of focus of the Rocky Mountain Synod Strategic Plan is Equipping all Leaders and Connecting in Ministry and Witness. The Sunday morning offering will be used to support young leaders in the church through youth leadership opportunities that equip and inspire young people for service. This offering will go to support a variety of programs, including sending two youth and one adult to the 2017 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in Houston, TX. It will also support this summer's Youth Discipleship Team (YDT) Reformation on the Road that is commemorating the 500th anniversary by networking the youth of the RMS with a five state, eight city trip.

■ ASSEMBLY LOCATION

Antlers Hilton 4 Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs

The Southeast Colorado Conference is the host of this year's assembly. For those traveling by plane, either rent a car, or take advantage of various shuttle services with drop-off locations at or near the Antlers.

<https://www.coloradoshuttle.com>
<https://frontrangeshuttle.com>

■ ASSEMBLY GUESTS

Adrian Miller, Executive Director Colorado Council of Churches



Adrian Miller is a Colorado native and a lifelong member of Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Denver, Colorado. Adrian is a graduate of Stanford University and Georgetown University Law School. After practicing law in Denver for several years, Adrian became a special assistant to President William Jefferson Clinton and the Deputy Director of the President's Initiative for One America. After his White House stint, Adrian returned to Colorado and served as the General Counsel and Director of Outreach at the Bell Policy Center—a progressive think tank dedicated to making Colorado a state of opportunity for all. He has served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Council of Churches since 2013. The Colorado Council of Churches is the expression of Christian denominations, Christian congregations and affiliated partners that have intentionally entered into a covenant relationship to live out its mission: Walking together in faith, working together for justice.

Alaide Ibarra, ELCA Churchwide Representative



Alaide Vilchis Ibarra is the Assistant Director for Migration Policy and Advocacy at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), where she coordinates with international and national experts in affected communities to advocate for fair and compassionate policies. Alaide is a DREAMer who became a United States citizen in 2014. She found her voice as an immigration advocate, testifying in the Kansas legislature to protect the in-state tuition law, which allowed her and other young Kansans to continue their education. She continued her immigration advocacy work at the federal level interning and working with nonprofits and faith-based organizations, including the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). She is driven to do her work because of her family, and the wonderful communities and people she has encountered as a migrant. Alaide has a Bachelor of Science in journalism and a Bachelor of Arts in international studies from the University of Kansas and a Master in Public Policy from American University in Washington, DC.

■ VOTING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Study the pre-assembly materials.
2. Attend all sessions of the assembly.
3. Participate in all legislative actions. Vote. If the issue is not clear, ask the chair for clarification.
4. Share the information and actions of the assembly with your congregation. This can be done by verbal or written report, or both. Help your congregation to know about their work of ministry beyond your local parish

■ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following information will assist each voting member in the discharge of responsibility. Some material is taken from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Rocky Mountain Synod and will be identified by the symbol RMSC.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The church was constituted on January 1, 1988 from the previous church bodies of The American Lutheran Church, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and Lutheran Church in America. Spanning the United States and the Caribbean, the ELCA consists of 65 synods. The Rocky Mountain Synod is one of five synods in Region 2.

ELCA Regions

The ELCA is divided into nine regions, which are points of connection and ministry for each of the synods in the various regions. Regions work together, especially in terms of the call process for rostered leaders.

The Synod

The territory of the Rocky Mountain Synod is the states of COLORADO; NEW MEXICO, excluding Curry county; UTAH excluding Washington county; WYOMING, excluding the counties of Big Horn, Lincoln, Park, Sheridan, Teton, and Washakie; and including in TEXAS only the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Presidio, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler.

Purpose of the Synod

To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the church shall:

- Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
- Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier of all.
- Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation

among the nations, standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.

- Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
- Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives. (RMSC S6.02)

Synod Council Functions

- Be the Board of Directors of the synod and serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod.
- Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- Provide for an annual review of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastor) and Ministers of Word and Service (Deacon) and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the actions in this regard.
- Issue letters of call to pastors and deacons who are serving in specialized ministry, as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
- Promote the interests of the ELCA.
- Provide oversight and coordinate the work of the Boards, Commissions, Committees and all other synodical entities.
- Determine the time and place for each Synod Assembly and oversee the agenda and program.
- Elect the representatives of the synod, who are to serve, in addition to the bishop, ex-officio, on the governing bodies of institutions and agencies to which this synod relates.
- Elect the representatives to the Regional Council. (RMSC S10.03.01)

Special Assistance Fund

A Special Assistance Fund has been developed and approved by the Synod Council to offer financial assistance to voting members who would otherwise be unable to attend the assembly. Through this fund it is the goal and vision of this synod that a more representative body of believers be developed from across the synod, regardless of socio-economic circumstances. Members of congregations selected to be voting members to the assembly and who would suffer loss of daily wages while attending the assembly are qualified to receive assistance from this fund. These should be individuals who are non-salaried, daily wage earners without the benefit of paid vacation days. Up to approximately \$200 per person is available. The pastor of the congregation should submit a request on behalf of the member, whose name may be kept confidential. Dollars will be made payable to the congregation for payment to the member. The pastor must state the employment of the voting member and the amount of wages that would be lost during the days of the assembly. The pastor will be asked to report the use of the funds to the Synod Council using the form that will be provided. Any taxes will be the responsibility of the recipient. For further information, contact the Office of the Bishop.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ELCA TERMS

Augsburg Fortress • Augsburg Fortress is a nonprofit corporation that provides pastors, educators, worship planners and members of the ELCA with products and services that communicate the Gospel, enhance faith and enrich the life of the Christian community from a Lutheran perspective.

Conference of Bishops • The 65 bishops of the ELCA meeting for prayer, deliberation, and discernment.

Church Council • The governing board of the ELCA, entrusted with the business of the ELCA between triennial churchwide assemblies.

Churchwide • Term referring to any ministry, process, or emphasis carried out across the entire ELCA. The term is also used to refer to the headquarters of the ELCA in Chicago, Illinois, which is housed in the ELCA Lutheran Center near O'Hare airport.

ELCA • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Denominational title), formed by the 1988 merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). The three expressions of this church body are the congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization headquartered in Chicago. The ELCA has over 4.2 million members in about 10,000 congregations (2010 figures).

Full Communion • A relationship between Christian denominations in which each fully accepts the validity of the other's ministry and sacraments.

Full Communion Partners • In the ELCA this term refers to those denominations with which we enjoy full-communion relationships: Episcopal Church USA, United Methodist Church USA, Moravian, Presbyterian Church USA, Reformed, and United Church of Christ.

Portico • Portico, a nonprofit corporation based in Minnesota, provides retirement, health and related benefits and services to enhance the well-being of nearly 50,000 pastors, deacons, employees and their families. The vision of the Portico is for those they serve to lead healthy lives and achieve financial security.

Presiding Bishop • The pastor elected by the churchwide assembly to lead the ministry of the entire ELCA; currently serving is Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Region 2 • One of 9 regions of the ELCA and includes 5 synods.

SYNOD TERMS

Bishop • The pastor elected by the Synod Assembly to lead a synod of the ELCA; currently serving the RMS is Bishop James Gonia

Conference • A geographical grouping of congregations within the synod. Ten in the RMS: Wyoming, Utah, North Colorado, Boulder-Broomfield, Metro East, Metro West, Metro South, Southeast Colorado, North New Mexico, and Border.

DEM • Director for Evangelical Mission who is called by churchwide to serve in the Rocky Mountain Synod; currently serving the RMS is Pastor Judith VanOsdol

Executive Committee • Four officers and four at-large members of the Synod Council.

Office of the Bishop • Located in Denver, Colorado, where the bishop and staff facilitate our ministry together. The Office of the Bishop is on the campus of the **RMS Lutheran Center** at 7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO 80221.



RMS • Rocky Mountain Synod

Synod • In the ELCA, one of 65 geographical units or expressions of the church.

Synod Council • The elected leaders of a synod, including laity and clergy, the vice president, secretary, treasurer, and bishop.

LEADERSHIP TERMS

Candidacy • The process by which those discerning a call to ministry are supported and guided through the process of Entrance, Endorsement, and Approval as they prepare for ministry vocations as rostered ministers.

Deacon • Rostered minister called to the ministry of word and service speak God's word to God's world, and in turn they speak also for the needs of God's world to the church

Dean • A rostered minister chosen to lead one of the Conferences within a synod.

Interim • A rostered minister who is serving a ministry between two called persons.

Intern • A seminary student who is on staff of a ministry in training for concluding his or her theological education.

Lay Person • A person who is not a member of the clergy.

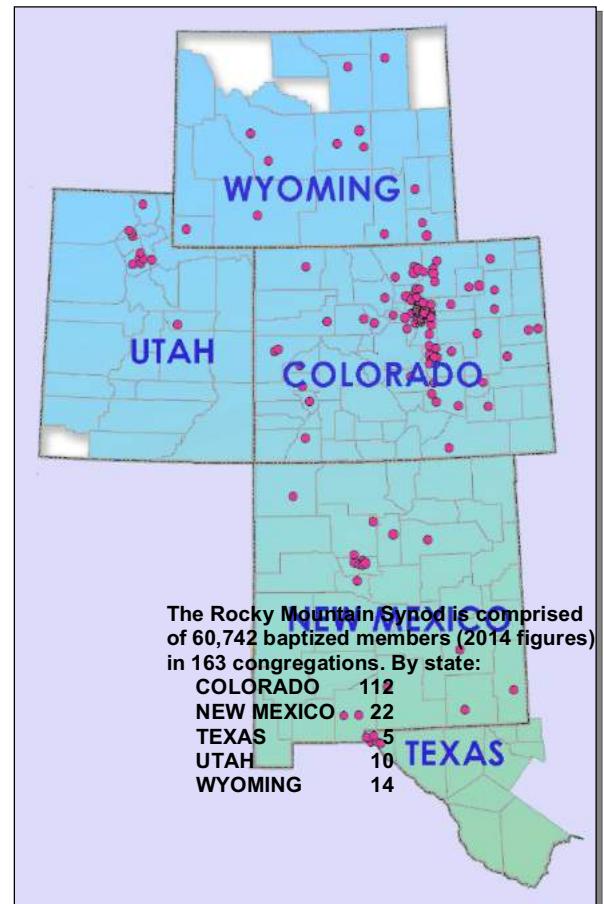
Officers • The officers of the synod are the Bishop, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

On Leave From Call (rostered pastors and deacons who is currently without a call to a ministry.)

Roster, Rostered • The Roster is the official list of all the pastors and deacons in the ELCA. A leader who appears on this list is said to be "rostered."

Transition Ministry • The process of matching the gifts of rostered leaders with a new ministry opportunity.

Vision and Expectations • A document that states the conduct expected of all rostered leaders in the ELCA and with which rostered ministers must comply.



RELATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Seminary • The theological educational institutions that trains rostered ministers and ministry professionals in the ELCA. There are 9 Lutheran Seminaries in the US.

PLTS • Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (Berkeley, CA) is the Seminary in the territory of Region 2

CLU • California Lutheran University is the one ELCA university in Region 2, one of 27 ELCA Colleges and Universities nationwide.

Wartburg West • Wartburg College is a college of the ELCA in Waverly, Iowa, with the Wartburg West Urban Semester located for 30 years in Denver, Colorado. Called to Common Mission, the Wartburg West program is located at Saint John's Episcopal Cathedral

ASSEMBLY TERMS

Memorial • A document which is considered by the voting members of a Synod Assembly, asking the Churchwide Assembly to take a position or initiate an action related to a specific issue. Memorials are adopted, or they fail.

Plenary • A full session of all voting members in which business is conducted and reports are heard.

Reference and Counsel • This committee reviews all resolutions and memorials prior to their consideration at an assembly.

Resolution • Requests for actions, priorities, or positions are brought before the assembly in the form of a resolution. Resolutions are adopted, or they fail.

Visitor • Any person who attends an assembly to observe, not as a voting member.

Voting Member • At an assembly of this church, an individual elected to listen, discern, and decide on behalf of the whole church. (The term, "delegate" is not used in relation to assemblies.)

RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. To the extent consistent with these rules of procedure, **Robert's Rules of Order** latest edition shall govern.
2. The voting members of the assembly shall include:
 - A. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female.
 - B. In addition, based upon baptized membership records for the previous year
 - (1) Congregations having membership of 650 to 1,199 baptized members shall be allowed one additional lay voting member (male or female).
 - (2) Congregations having membership of 1,200 or more baptized members shall be allowed two additional lay voting members (one male and one female).
 - C. In the selection of voting members, congregations are urged to be aware of the matter of inclusiveness of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
 - D. All ordained ministers under call or on leave from call on the roster of the Rocky Mountain Synod.
 - E. All ordained ministers from church bodies with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established...shall have voice and vote during the period of the ordained ministers' service in a congregation of this synod.
 - F. Ten percent of the retired pastors on the roster of the Rocky Mountain Synod as well as ten percent of the retired deacons.
 - G. All retired pastors on the roster of this synod who are currently serving as interim . pastors and all pastors on leave from call on the roster of this synod who are currently serving as interim pastors and who are in attendance at the assembly.
 - H. All deacons under call or on leave from call, of the official Word and Service roster of this synod shall be voting members.
 - I. The lay officers of the synod and the lay members of the Synod Council shall be voting members.

J. Retired rostered ministers on the roster of this synod other than those selected to represent the ten percent representation (see F above), shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly. Ordained clergy on other denominational rosters with whom there is no full communion partnership who are serving in shared ELCA ministries in the Rocky Mountain Synod shall have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.

3. The Privilege of the Floor

- A. The Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- B. Ordained clergy on other denominational rosters serving in shared ELCA ministries in the Rocky Mountain Synod shall have voice but not vote in meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- C. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate. Like privileges shall be accorded to persons in connection with their reports, such as chairpersons of synodical committees, representatives of the institutions and agencies related to or officially recognized by this synod and the president of the Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA.

4. The Chairperson of the Synod Assembly shall be the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod.

5. The Secretary of the Synod Assembly shall be the secretary of the Rocky Mountain Synod

6. The bishop, in consultation with the Synod Council, shall appoint a Committee on Reference and Counsel to review all proposed changes or additions to the Constitution and bylaws and other items submitted which are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the Synod Assembly

7. Other committees to serve the Synod Assembly shall be appointed by the bishop

8. With the consent of the Assembly, the chairperson shall have the authority to call items of business before the Assembly in whatever order he or she considers most expedient for the conduct of the Assembly's business

9. In the elections to be held at this Assembly, a majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election

10. Candidates nominated from the floor may complete the standard Application for Nomination form. A biography abstracted from the Application can be distributed. No other documents from the candidates will be permitted to be distributed

11. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council, shall require a two-thirds vote of the assembly for adoption. (RMSC S7.32.14)

12. Speeches during debate on any items before this assembly shall be limited to three minutes.

■ GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The assembly is meant to be a meaningful experience for all. Everyone should feel free to participate. Good order at an assembly is not intended to restrict participation but to protect the rights of each voting member. The following guidelines (from Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised) are to help in understanding the business proceedings. The Bishop hopes they will be of assistance in enabling you to participate in the necessary business.

Obtaining the Floor - Prior to a voting member speaking in the assembly, whether to make a motion or to engage in debate, it is necessary to obtain the floor. When no one else "has the floor," the voting member may address the chairperson saying, "Bishop Gonia." If recognized by the chair, the voting member is then entitled to speak, first stating his/her name and congregation.

Making a Motion - When presenting a motion to the assembly, a copy must be written out and given to the secretary.

Amendments to Motions - When a motion brought before an assembly does not meet with ready acceptance by all the voting members, and if it can be made more suitable or acceptable in an altered form, a proposal to modify the wording can be introduced by making a motion to amend.

"Previous Question" - To move the "previous question" is to bring the assembly to an immediate decision as to whether debate on a motion should cease. It is not debatable. If adopted, the assembly proceeds, without further debate, to vote at once on the pending question(s). A two-thirds vote is required to close debate.

■ IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

During plenary, go to a microphone and announce the emergency, as those in attendance most always include persons with medical training.

**To contact Office of the Bishop staff during the assembly,
please use one of the following cell phone numbers:**

**Janice 303-803-5012
Cheryl 303-949-3450**

■ ASSEMBLY CHAPLAINS

Pastors Ralph Anderson, Phil Erlander, and Hank Maertens will be serving as the chaplains for assembly. They will be available for pastoral care throughout the assembly and can be found at Ministry Mentors display table outside the assembly hall.

■ HOSPITALITY

Childcare is available during the plenary sessions as well as worship. Child care is located in Hayden and will be provided by Colin Felix and Melanie Slick of Bethel Lutheran, Windsor, CO

The Registration Area will be open through Friday evening. Beginning Saturday morning, questions regarding schedules, break-out rooms, etc. can be directed to the **Assembly Office, Located in the Executive Board Room**. A bulletin board for announcements and prayer requests will be located outside the assembly hall.

■ YOUTH VOTING MEMBERS AND VISITORS

Youth Welcome and Orientation – Friday, May 5 at 1:30 p.m. Youth participants are invited to a brief orientation to learn about the purpose and procedures of the synod assembly, to review the schedule, and to learn about special opportunities for Youth voting members and visitors.

Housing is included with a youth assembly registration. Participants have the option to stay together with other youth and with select adult chaperones staying in adjacent rooms.

Evening Devotions and Conversation will be held each night at 9:00 in the youth housing area. A chance to process the day and to join together to explore and celebrate the youth voice and leadership in the church.

Adult Chaperones will be available throughout assembly to answer questions, to encourage full participation, to share unique youth leadership opportunities, and to supervise unattended minor housing. *Adult chaperone names and contact information will be available at the registration table.*

■ SPECIFICS FOR 2016

Known items of business for this assembly are listed below. Other items may yet arise from Executive Committee recommendation, Synod Council recommendation, or from the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

1. **Elections:** An election will take place for Synod Council Vice President.
2. **Adoption of the Budget for 2017 and 2018.** Time is set aside for the consideration and discussion of the budget prior to the time set for adoption. The budget shows the interdependence that exists between congregations, the synod and churchwide agencies.
3. **Resolutions:** Resolutions received after the deadline will be reviewed by the Reference and Counsel Committee and presented to the assembly for consideration.
4. **Other business matters** pertaining to items brought before the assembly; motions germane to the specific issue under discussion are made and acted upon.
5. **Business not related to the agenda** can come to the assembly through the Committee on Reference and Counsel, RMSC S7.32.11 states: A Reference and Counsel Committee . . . shall review all proposed changes or additions to the constitution and bylaws and other items submitted which are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the Synod Assembly.

■ SYNOD OFFICERS & SYNOD COUNCIL

Synod Officers



Jim Gonia
Bishop and
Presiding Officer



Earline Bohling
Vice President



Jody Brammer-Hoelter
Secretary



Dennis Reynolds
Treasurer

Synod Council

Todd Herrod
Diana Biggs
Melanie Ferraro
Terry Cole
The Rev. Larry Davis
Debra Elstad
Jerry Ethridge
Jay Voth
The Rev. Julie Brooks
Joan Jacobson

Susan Mitchell
Hendrick Depot Samosir
Betty Pepin
The Rev. Dana Peterson
Maggie Nieberger (Youth Rep)
The Rev. Sara Wirth

■ PEOPLE

Reference and Counsel Committee

The Rev. Steve Leiser, chair
Ruth Hoffman, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry- NM
Peter Severson, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-CO
Ms. Joan Jacobson, Synod Council
The Rev. Eric Allert
The Rev. Art Thorstenson

Parliamentarian

Kirby Glad, PRP

Board and Committee Team Leaders

Campus Ministry Committee – The Rev. Katie Chullino
Candidacy Committee – The Rev Ann Hultquist
Congregation and Leadership Health – Bishop Jim Gonia
Congregational Ministries Board – Rich Nelson
First Third of Life Team – Andy Sprain
Global Mission Committee The Rev. Alena Lamirato
Companion Synod Committee – The Rev. Brad Doty
Hunger Network – Carol McDivitt
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – The Rev. Emily Cardin (CO) and Judy Messal (NM)
Lutheran Men in Mission – Jim Monkman
Youth Discipleship Team (YDT) – The Rev. Paul Judson
Mission Strategy | Mission Imagination | Mission Generosity – The Rev. Judith VanOsdol
Women of the ELCA – Carol McGill

New to the Rocky Mountain Synod since last Assembly

The Rev. Wesley Aardahl from Western North Dakota Synod to Pastor Ascension Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY

The Rev. Gary Sandberg from Southern Ohio Synod to Pastor Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, CO

The Rev. Tomas Bayou from Word & Sacrament candidate to Chaplain-Spiritual Care Coordinator, Sun Crest Hospice, Denver, CO

The Rev. Diana Linden-Johnson from Word & Sacrament candidate to Pastor Peace Lutheran Church, El Paso, TX

The Rev. James Locke from Western Iowa Synod to Pastor Ascension St. Matthews Church, Price, UT

The Rev. Wesley Dunbar from LaCrosse Area Synod to Pastor Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Fort Morgan and Bethlehem Lutheran, Brush, Colorado

The Rev. Rebecca Johnson Aardahl from Western North Dakota Synod to Pastor Christ Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY

The Rev. Eric Allert from Grand Canyon Synod to Pastor Christ Lutheran Church, Highlands Ranch, CO

The Rev. Stacy Payne from Southwest California Synod to Associate Pastor Atonement Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO

The Rev. Elizabeth Reinking from Central States Synod to Pastor Epiphany Lutheran Church, Denver, CO

The Rev. Phillip Kettering from Southwestern Minnesota Synod to Interim Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM

Deacon Shanna VanderWel, DM from Virginia Synod to Director of Youth & Family Ministry Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver, CO

The Rev. David Pederson from Oregon Synod to Pastor Bethel Lutheran Church, Windsor, CO

The Rev. Janet Kettering from Southwest Minnesota Synod to Interim Pastor Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO

The Rev. Bruce Kolasch from Montana Synod to Pastor Elim Lutheran Church, Ogden, UT

The Rev. Reba Kiger-Kolasch Pastor retired from Montana Synod to Rocky Mountain Synod

The Rev. Brian Mortenson from South Dakota Synod to Senior Interim Pastor First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO

The Rev. Nathan Keith from Eastern North Dakota Synod to Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Laramie, WY

The Rev. Paula Stecker from Metropolitan Chicago Synod to Pastor Christ the King Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO

The Rev. Patricia Mohr-Kelly from Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod to Interim Pastor Lutheran Church of the Servant, Santa Fe, NM

Deacon Richard Mohr-Kelly On Leave From Call from Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod to Rocky Mountain Synod

The Rev. Garrett Struessel from South-Central Synod of Wisconsin to Pastor First Lutheran Church, Longmont, CO

The Rev. Martha Singletary (PCUSA), Interim Pastor St. Peter Lutheran Church Carlsbad, NM

Congregation Anniversaries

125 First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO

Tabor Lutheran Church, Pueblo, CO

50 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glenwood Springs, CO

Trinity Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM

Deceased Rostered Ministers since the last Assembly

The Rev. Charles Weishaupt deceased 5/25/2016

The Rev. Franklin Heglund deceased 6/29/2016

The Rev. Frank Benz deceased 7/25/2016

The Rev. James Austin deceased 10/9/2016

The Rev. Robert Eller Pastor retired deceased 1/3/2017

Rostered Minister Anniversaries

Word & Service

30 Barbara Hanst 4/6/1987

35 Bonnie Yockstick 11/11/1982

Dorothy Stenman 11/11/1982

Janet Krakow 3/8/1982

Word & Sacrament

25 Penni Walsh 8/16/1992

Sue Svanoe 8/2/1992

30 John Knutson 10/25/1987

John Petty 8/8/1987

Judith Vansdol 6/28/1987

Michael Lundgren 8/16/1987

Peter Morin 8/23/1987

Sally Ponfick 7/5/1987

Timothy Bettger 10/18/1987

Wayne Pouppirt 11/1/1987

William "Larry" Davis 8/23/1987

35 Claire Cassell 9/26/1982

Daniel Barwinski 6/20/1982

David Pederson 8/29/1982

Jeffrey Louden 8/29/1982

Karen Thompson 11/7/1982

40 James Hytjan 6/5/1977

James Saunders 9/18/1977

Richard Thompson 6/26/1977

45 Benjamin Larzelere 5/21/1972

Donald Marxhausen 9/23/1972

Edward Smith 5/21/1972

50 Howard Corry 11/26/1967

James Leistikow 8/20/1967

Jares Brown 6/25/1967

Kenneth Vogler 3/11/1967

Rolf Brende 7/9/1967

Vaughn Neshiem 6/25/1967

55 David Peters 5/20/1962

Dean DeSelms 5/15/1962

George Jacobson 6/27/1962

Gordon Ward 5/27/1962

Lawrence Baietti 7/15/1962

LeRoy Miltner 3/25/1962

Neil Kvern 8/26/1962

Warren Salveson 6/24/1962

60 Edward Strebe 8/4/1957

Willard Rinnert 6/23/1957

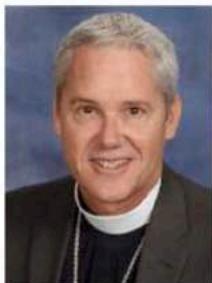
65 Donald Schmidt 6/15/1952

Graham Rinehart 5/21/1952

Luther Bergeland 5/25/1952

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD + OFFICE OF THE BISHOP STAFF

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- Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains
- Urban Servant Corps

- Advocacy Ministry in New Mexico
- Border Servant Corps

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- Support for Rostered Ministers
- Administration & Technology
- Transitions (Call Process, Interim Ministry)
- Lutheran Center Facilities



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- Leadership Development
- Healthy Congregations



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- Ministry Reviews
- Stewardship
- Ethnic Congregations



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- Theological Conference
- Communications & Website
- Mission Interpretation
- Ministry Reviews
- Global Mission
- World Hunger



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- Outdoor Ministry
- First Third of Life



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- Candidacy
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- Administration
- Staff Support



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- Staff Support

Administrative Staff

Administrative Staff

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(Cheryl Almquist retires on June 1)