

DATE: December 2015

TO: Ordained Ministers, Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, Diaconal Ministers, Congregations and Visitors

FROM: Nancy L. Gordon, Secretary, Delaware-Maryland Synod

SUBJECT: **2016 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ! (2 Cor. 1:2).

This will serve as your official notification of the 29th annual Assembly of the Delaware-Maryland Synod which will be held **Thursday, June 2, through Saturday, June 4, 2016, at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland.** The assembly begins on June 2 at 11 a.m. and closes on June 4 at 12:30 p.m.

This letter provides detailed information on the assembly program, registration procedures, hotel choices, cost and related items. Please read it carefully and proceed accordingly.

Assembly Theme and Keynote Speaker

With this year's assembly, we begin a new four-year series of themes that will focus us on God's Church and our participation in it. For 2016, our theme is, ***"God's Church: Led by the Spirit."***

Our keynote speaker is The Rev. Dr. Dave Daubert, the Lead Consultant and Managing Partner for Day 8 Strategies, which does coaching and consulting for faith-based organizations and their leaders. He works across the US and Canada and is a leading proponent for emergent planning for nimble ways of working in today's world. Dave brings his experiences as an agricultural engineer, nonprofit board member, parish pastor, and denominational executive to his work in faith-based organizational renewal.

Dave is the author of three books, most notably the popular "Living the L-Word: Renewing your Congregation." His works will be available at the assembly's book store.

Bishop's Election

2016 is an election year for synod bishop. Our synod utilizes the "ecclesiastical ballot" in the belief that the election is as much a call process and depends on the stirrings of God's Holy Spirit. The first ballot, to

be taken during the first business session on Thursday afternoon, serves as a nominating ballot, and every rostered ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is eligible to be elected.

The election process will be presided over by our representative from the ELCA, The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA. Because of the agenda time needed for bishop's election, we are not able to offer workshops this year.

The Assembly will also elect a synod secretary for a four year term and fill various Synod Council and committee positions.

A word about representation at Synod Assembly

Each congregation of the Delaware-Maryland Synod will be represented by two or more lay persons, normally one male and one female, up to the first 185 reported baptized members. For each additional reported 185 baptized members, or major fraction thereof, a congregation will be entitled to one more lay representative, male or female. In addition, each congregation is entitled to send one youth/young adult voting member. **The enclosed information sheet (on lime green cardstock) indicates the number of voting members to which your congregation is entitled.**

All ordained ministers on the roster of this synod, all certified Associates in Ministry (AIM), all Deaconesses, all Diaconal Ministers (DM), all retired leaders rostered in this synod and the lay members of the Synod Council are voting members. Under our church's constitution and by-laws, leaders on the active roster of this church are **required** to attend. **Those who are unable to attend for whatever reason must send a letter to the bishop by April 15, 2016, explaining the circumstances and asking to be excused.**

The 2010 Synod Assembly passed a resolution to allow each congregation to send one additional voting member, either male or female, who is a youth or a young adult. The term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not yet reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service. On Thursday, evening, June 2, there will be an opportunity for interested youth and young adults to gather to debrief the day and fellowship with one another; more details will be available as the assembly approaches.

More details will be posted on the synod website, under the Assembly tab, as we move closer to the Assembly. If you have any further questions regarding youth/young adults (only) at Assembly, contact Karen Pugatch at kpugatch@demdsynod.org or 410-230-2860.

All materials are on the website: Printed materials BY REQUEST ONLY

All materials for the business sessions of the Synod Assembly will be posted on the synod's website www.demdsynod.org for your review prior to the assembly. Again this year, there will not be a second general mailing sent to voting members. **In our efforts to become increasingly green, we will not provide printed hand-outs but will leave it up to voting members to print and bring their own copies or to access documents electronically. IMPORTANT: If you wish to receive a paper copy of materials at registration, please indicate so when you register.**

NEW THIS YEAR: We will not be handing out additional packets at the registration desk as we have done in years prior. Materials sent to us for inclusion in an Assembly packet will also be scanned and uploaded (by May 15, 2016) and available on the website with all other materials.

Registration is open from January 20 – April 15, 2016

Registration for the 2016 Synod Assembly opens on January 20 and closes on April 15, 2016. **The primary mode for registration will be ONLINE through the synod website.** Please note that your e-mail address will be automatically added to our weekly e-letter distribution list so that we can keep you informed of synod events and happenings. If you do not wish to receive the e-letter, you may unsubscribe at any time.

To register:

- Go to the Delaware-Maryland Synod website on or after **January 20, 2016:** www.demdsynod.org
- Click on the 2016 Synod Assembly registration link under the Synod Assembly tab.
- On-line payments are to be made by credit card. This is a secure site for registration.
- Multiple registrations may be completed by one person. No password is needed.
- If you prefer to pay by check, **please print out a copy of your on-line registration and send with the check to:**

Ms. Geneva Wallace, Assembly Registrar
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA
575 South Charles Street, Suite 202
Baltimore, MD 21201-2482

If you are unable to register online, a mail-in registration form is included with this letter. You may register by returning the form **before April 15, 2016** to:

Ms. Geneva Wallace, Assembly Registrar
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA
575 South Charles Street, Suite 202
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2482

If you are a volunteer and/or your registration is paid by the synod, please contact Cindy VanVliet, after January 20, 2016, for a code that links to your on-line registration: cvanvliet@demdsynod.org or 410-230-2860.

Help wanted... seeking Assembly volunteers!

Volunteers are needed to serve on committees, as Pages during business sessions, assist with worship services at the Assembly, and help with childcare in the Assembly Daycare Room. If you are interested in serving, contact **Cindy VanVliet, Assembly Coordinator, 410-230-2861** or cvanvliet@demdsynod.org

Registration fees

The 2000 Synod Assembly approved a resolution to make the Synod Assembly self-sustaining. The registration fees set by the Synod Council at its meeting on July 11, 2015, are slightly higher than in past

years due the increased costs associated with a bishop’s election year and a 3-day format. The Synod Assembly Planning Committee has contracted with Quizdom to use voting machines for elections in 2016. **The Synod Council includes an incentive for early registration this year, so register early and be charged the lowest available registration fee!**

Rates in chart below apply to:			Ordained Ministers Lay Voting Members Youth/Young Adult Voting Members	Associates in Ministry Deaconesses Diaconal Ministers	
Early Bird Rate:	\$199.00	Regular Rate:	\$229.00	On-Site Rate:	\$259.00
On-line and mail-in registration must be received by 4/29/16 . <i>No exceptions.</i>		On-line and mail-in registration must be received by 5/15/16 . <i>No exceptions.</i>		After May 15, 2016, you must wait to register on-site at Assembly. On-site registration attendees will be assigned overflow seating. <i>No exceptions</i>	

Rates in chart below apply to:			Retired Ordained Ministers Retired Deaconesses Visitors	Retired Associates in Ministry Retired Diaconal Ministers	
Early Bird Rate:	\$80.00	Regular Rate:	\$85.00	On-Site Rate:	\$90.00
On-line and mail-in registration must be received by 4/29/16 . <i>No exceptions.</i>		On-line and mail-in registration must be received by 5/15/16 . <i>No exceptions.</i>		After May 15, 2016 , you must wait to register on-site at Assembly. On-site registration attendees will be assigned overflow seating. <i>No exceptions</i>	

A One Day Visitors’ Pass is \$65.00.

Optional meals at the Convention Center

Lunch on Thursday, June 2 (for \$22) and Friday, June 3 (for \$22) will be available for purchase. Dinner will be on your own on Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3. Breakfast is on your own. **Meals must be ordered and paid for during registration. This will be the only opportunity to purchase them.**

Childcare at the Assembly

Childcare will be available, free of charge, for children **ages 2-8 years** during the **business sessions only**. Please sign-up for childcare through on-line registration **by the deadline which is April 15, 2016**. If you do not have access to on-line registration, contact **Jennifer Baxter** at **410-230-2860** or jbaxter@demdsynod.org

Worship at the Assembly

There will be three main worship services during the 2016 Synod Assembly, all with Holy Communion:

- Thursday, June 2, 2016, 11 a.m. Opening Service (Setting: “Liturgy of Joy,” by Rev. James Capers with special musical guest, Jeremy Grenhart)

- Friday, June 3, 2016, 11 a.m. Assembly Worship (contemporary music with special guest musician, Monte Leister)
- Saturday, June 4, 2016, 11 a.m. Closing Service (with ordinations/consecrations/commissionings, if any, and installation of synod officers, council members, conference deans and secretaries)

All services will be held in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at the Convention Center. In addition to the three main worship services, morning prayer will be offered on Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, from 8:30 – 8:50 a.m.

Because 2016 is the year when ELCA World Hunger is being emphasized as part of the ELCA Always Being Made New capital campaign, all worship offerings at the assembly are designated for World Hunger and local food projects.

Hotel information

We are offering several new hotel options this year.

Reservations at one of the Assembly hotels must be made **by April 30, 2016** in order to receive the group rate. **Reservations received after April 30, 2016 will be provided on a space available basis at prevailing rates.** Make reservations early to get the hotel of your choice. Indicate any special accommodations when you call. **Mention tax exempt status when reserving room. You MUST show tax exempt form/proof at arrival.**

Hotel Contact Info	Room Rate – 6/1/16 & 6/2/16	Rates – 6/3/16 & 6/4/16
Dunes Manor Hotel 2800 Baltimore Avenue Ocean City, MD 21842 (800)-523-2888 Ask for “in-house reservations” Code is: “SYNOD”	6/1/16: Standard Room \$159/night 6/2/16: Standard Room \$159/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT include Breakfast or 4.5% room tax.</i>	6/3/16: Standard Room \$209/night 6/4/16: Standard Room \$209/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT include Breakfast or 4.5% room tax.</i>
Each room is oceanfront w/ private balcony, free Wi-Fi, in-room safe & upgraded H2O bath amenities. Complimentary coffee 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in the lobby. Each room has: refrigerator, Starbucks coffee w/ coffee maker, microwave, hair dryer & iron. Starbucks Espresso & frozen drinks avail in the lounge. Heated indoor /outdoor pool, Jacuzzi, sundeck, exercise room & rocking chairs on verandah for relaxing by ocean.		
Hotel Contact Info	Room Rate – 6/1/16 & 6/2/16	Rates – 6/3/16 & 6/4/16
Howard Johnson Oceanfront Inn - 2401 Atlantic Avenue Ocean City, MD 21842 (800) 926-1122 Reservation is under “Delaware- Maryland Synod” group block	6/1/16: All Rooms \$99/night 6/2/16: Poolside Room \$129/night 6/2/16: Oceanfront Room \$159/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT include Breakfast or 4.5% room tax.</i>	6/3-4/16: Poolside Room \$129/night 6/3-4/16: Oceanfront Room \$159/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT include Breakfast or 4.5% room tax.</i>
All rooms feature: microwave, high speed Wi-Fi, 32" flat-screen TV, refrigerator, coffee maker, hair dryer, in-room safe, private balcony, outdoor pool, new contemporary furniture, complimentary parking & daily newspaper. The Satellite coffee shop is known as one of the best breakfasts in OC. Satellite serves lunch as well.		

Hotel Contact Info	Room Rate – 6/1/16 & 6/2/16	Rates – 6/3/16 & 6/4/16
Howard Johnson Oceanfront Plaza Hotel - 1109 Atlantic Avenue Ocean City, MD 21842 (800) 926-1122 Ask for room in “ Delaware- Maryland Synod ” room block	All rooms are “Side Oceanview”: 6/1/16: All Rooms \$99/night 6/2/16: All Rooms \$159/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT include Breakfast or 4.5% room tax.</i>	All rooms are “Side Oceanview”: 6/3-4/16: All Rooms \$159/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT include Breakfast or 4.5% room tax.</i>
Hotel has free Wi-Fi, indoor pool/Jacuzzi, and parking. Brothers Bistro is on site. All rooms have a microwave, refrigerator, iron/ironing board, coffeemaker, balcony and 32 inch flat-screen TV.		
Hotel Contact Info	Room Rate – 6/1/16 & 6/2/16	Rates – 6/3/16 & 6/4/16
LaQuinta Inn & Suites 106 32 nd Street Ocean City, MD 21842 (410) 289-5762 Call hotel directly. Ask for room in “ DE/MD Synod ” room block.	Standard Queen Room (2 queen beds) : 6/1-2/16: \$99/night <i>Larger rooms available at higher rate.</i> <i>Room rate INCLUDES ”Bright Side Breakfast” in lobby dining area.</i> <i>Room rate DOES NOT include 4.5% room tax.</i>	Standard Queen Room (2 queen beds): 6/3/16: \$165/night 6/4/16: \$179/night <i>Larger rooms available at higher rate.</i> <i>Room rate INCLUDES ”Bright Side Breakfast” in lobby dining area.</i> <i>Room rate DOES NOT include 4.5% room tax.</i>
Each room has free Wi-Fi, a refrigerator, microwave, 32” HDTV, iron/ironing board, hair dryer, coffeemaker, and balcony. There is a fitness center, outdoor pool, game room and coin-operated guest laundry area on site.. Free breakfast in lobby dining area. One free parking spot allotted per room. This hotel is PET-FRIENDLY and there is a TWO-NIGHT MINIMUM .		
Hotel Contact Info	Room Rate – 6/1/16 & 6/2/16	Rates – 6/3/16 & 6/4/16
The Holiday Inn 6600 Coastal Highway Ocean City, MD 21842 (800) 837-3588 Ask for room in “ DE/MD SYNOD ” block	Standard Room 6/1-2/16: \$119/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT INCLUDE breakfast or 4.5% room tax</i>	Standard Room 6/3-4/16: \$249/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT INCLUDE breakfast or 4.5% room tax</i>
The hotel offers many conveniences such as a business center, free high speed internet in all rooms, indoor/outdoor pools, 2 hot tubs, Bath and Body Works products, fitness room, tanning bed, game room and authentic Italian cuisine at Touch of Italy. Standard rooms feature sitting area with lounge chair, pullout sofa bed, full efficiency kitchen, cable TV, hair dryer, coffee maker, iron /ironing board.		
Hotel Contact Info	Room Rate – 6/1/16 & 6/2/16	Rates – 6/3/16 & 6/4/16
The Flagship Hotel 26 th Street & Oceanside Ocean City, MD 21842 (800) 837-3585 Ask for room in “ DE/MD SYNOD ” room block	Standard Room 6/1-2/16: \$49-\$69/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT INCLUDE breakfast or 4.5% room tax</i>	Standard Room 6/3-4/16: \$149/night <i>Room rate DOES NOT INCLUDE breakfast or 4.5% room tax</i>
Flagship is a moderate, family-style hotel with an Indoor pool, kiddie pool and hot tub. Inner courtyard has children’s playground, shuffle board and picnic areas. Free WiFi, fitness room, tanning bed, newspaper, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, laundry facilities, and guest parking (1 car/room), 100% non-smoking and no pets allowed. Jonah and the Whale restaurant attached.		

