

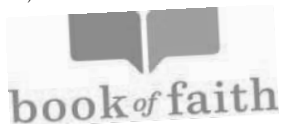


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Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly
May 27-29, 2010 + Denver Downtown Hyatt Regency

We center on our "Book of Faith" to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has made a commitment to encourage all members of our congregations, from children to adults, to dig deeper into our book of faith, the Bible. The Book of Faith Initiative recommends a new model for our church—a grass-roots approach embracing a common vision in which all are invited to open scripture and join the conversation.



Online registration opens **February 22** at rmselca.org/assembly. The deadline for resolutions, nominations, displays, and plenary time requests is **March 15**. Registration deadline is **April 22**.

We welcome Diane Jacobson, director of the Book of Faith Initiative

Dr. Jacobson is Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. In her presentations at our assembly, she will challenge us to deepen and broaden engagement with the Bible for all ages, all cultures, and to draw on our heritage of faithful ways to let the Word engage us.

We Experience the Word

On Friday afternoon, we will *Experience the Word*, through workshops at the Hyatt and mini-excursions throughout Denver. We will engage the Word through art, through urban ministry experiences, through music, through stories, and more.

"Life together" means challenge and hope

The news is filled with reports about cities cutting services. Libraries are closing. Flower gardens will go unplanted. One city in Colorado has replaced trash cans in parks with signs that ask visitors to pack out their garbage. Funds were eliminated for trash pick up.

While there are tentative signs of economic turnaround, funds for services that enhance a community's life together are likely to remain in short supply. Congregations know this, too.

Because offerings are less, there is a reduction in funds available for our life together as the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA.

Our fiscal year ended on January 31, and offerings to the RMS from congregations had been expected to be \$3 million. Actual offerings to the Rocky Mountain Synod were \$2.7 million. The shortfall resulted in a reduction of about \$148,000 to ELCA Churchwide and a Rocky Mountain synod budget deficit of about \$146,000.

The executive committee of synod council has already revised the current budget with significant reductions to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, campus ministry, outdoor ministry, health and wellness for leaders, Lutheran Family Services of Colorado, Lutheran Social Service of Utah, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Border Servant Corps, Urban Servant Corps, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Colorado and New Mexico, Global Missions Committee, Border Immersion Project, staff expenses, and support to our churchwide ELCA partnership.

Even so, projections still show a deficit for the current year of over \$100,000. Half of that will be additional reductions to ELCA churchwide. Synod Council will be considering additional RMS reductions.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in November acted to reduce the 2010 churchwide current fund spending authorization by nearly \$7.7 million, 10 percent less than the budget authorized by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. The council's action eliminated 40.75 full-time equivalent positions, of which six were vacant.

Meanwhile, the ministry and mission of the ELCA continues with stalwart faithfulness in the face of challenge. ELCA gifts to Haiti Earthquake Response have exceeded \$3.6 million. The work of the church continues...

—Kent Mueller, director for administration and communication



ELCA gifts to Haiti Earthquake Response have exceeded \$3.6 million.



Rocky Mountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Nominations needed for RMS positions

Constitutional updates may result in new procedures and numbers

The Vision, Passion, Action initiative has resulted in proposed constitutional changes to reshape synod boards, committees, and task forces. Nominations are needed for the following positions. Elections take place at the Synod Assembly, May 27-29, 2010. The nomination form and more information are online at www.rmselca.org/assembly. Nomination deadline is March 22.

2011 Churchwide Assembly August 14-20, Orlando, Florida

Border Clergy
Boulder Broomfield Lay Male
Metro East Clergy
Metro South Lay Male
Metro West Lay Female
North Colorado Lay Female
North New Mexico Lay Male
SE Colorado Lay Male
Utah Lay Female
Wyoming Clergy
Multicultural Male Clergy
Multicultural Female Clergy or Lay
Synod Vice Linda Bobbitt
Bishop Allan Bjornberg
At Large Lay Female
At Large Lay Male
At Large Clergy

Synod Council

This is the governing body for the Synod between Synod Assemblies. In addition to financial and legal business, it helps establish priorities for the synod and oversees progress on those priorities.

at-large Lay Male
at-large Lay Female
Metro East Lay Male
Metro West Lay Male (2 yr term remains)
North Colorado Clergy
Utah Lay Female
Youth representative

Campus Ministry Committee

Oversees the ministries at colleges and universities in the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Congregation & Leadership Health

This new ministry team proposes and oversees the ways in which our synod promotes wellness and addresses conflict. Both congregations and leaders (lay and rostered) are the focus of encouraging health and wellness.

Congregational Ministries Board

Works with Synod Council to identify major needs and areas of concern in all areas of congregational life and mission.

Mission Outreach Board

Oversees the development of new congregations and the renewal of existing congregations within the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Global Missions Board

Oversees our Companion Synods Program, arranges for immersion experiences, and provides education surrounding issues of global justice.

Committee on Discipline

Provides part of the due process required when a party is accused of something for which they can be disciplined. This may include congregations, rostered leaders or members of congregations.

Consultation Committee

When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider the matter.



Faith Alive In The Home

April 23-24, 2010
Bethany Lutheran Church
Cherry Hills Village, CO
(just south of Denver)

Be a congregation "on the move" from faith taught two hours on Sunday to faith caught 24/7! Conference presenter is Dr. David Anderson, author of *From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith* and program staff for Vibrant Faith Ministries. He is a known leader in family life enrichment and partnering home and congregations for passing on faith.

This is for ALL people interested in passing on faith: church volunteer, parent, young person, elder, church staff... anyone ready to learn!

More details are coming soon on the Rocky Mountain Synod website. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Linda Staats at 602-740-3752.

RMS Roster Changes

DECEMBER 2009

The Rev. Marsha Hendrickson from Pastor, Covenant Lutheran Church, Wheatland, WY to on leave from call 12/1/2009.

The Rev. Christian Marc Nisonger from Candidate to Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Centennial, CO 12/9/09.

JANUARY 2010

The Rev. Daniel H. Mangler from Pastor, Shepherd of the Hills, Estes Park, CO to Retired, 1/1/2010.

The Rev. Elizabeth Graham from Pastor, Risen Lord Lutheran Church, Conifer, CO to Retired, 1/1/2010.

Synod Council proposes constitution revision

The Rocky Mountain Synod Council has announced a series of proposed revisions to the RMS constitution for the purpose of clarifying our mission and aligning our constitution with our priorities and purpose. The proposal will be brought before the voting members of the 2010 Synod Assembly in Denver, May 27-29, 2010. A summary and the proposed revisions may be downloaded and viewed at rmselca.org/assembly

"Discerning God's Call" retreat is April 22:

Whether you are ready to commit to the Candidacy process or just beginning to ask questions regarding a vocational call to ministry, you are invited to attend this retreat, April 22, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 4500 Wadsworth Blvd, Wheat Ridge, CO. Registration cost is \$20 and covers lunch and materials. Please register by April 5. Call Janice Ladd-Horkey to register: 303-777-6700 or 800-525-0462.

The Rev. Dena Williams from on leave from call to Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Denver, CO 1/1/2010.

The Rev. R. Dean Smith from Pastor, Bethel Lutheran Church, Windsor, CO to on leave from call 1/2/2010.

The Rev. Steve Hartten from Pastor, Peace in Christ Episcopal Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, CO to on leave from call 1/10/2010.

The Rev. William W. Bruggeman from retired to Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Roswell, NM 2/1/2010.