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 **2017 Rocky Mountain Synod**
**Pre-Assembly Information Packet**

***May 5-7, 2017 • ANTLERS HOTEL • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO***

***rmselca.org/assembly***

**Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA**
*A Reconciling in Christ Synod • Christ’s Church, Better Together*

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

***Re•formation: Then. Now. Always.***  *is the theme for this year’s Assembly. Synod Assemblies offer all of us an opportunity to discover and celebrate the breadth of what we do together as the Rocky Mountain Synod. Living into our new mission statement, we will spend time learning how congregations and ministries are living out our call* ***to proclaim and embody God’s unconditional love for the sake of the world.***

 *2017 marks a significant time in the life of the church- a time that only comes around once every 500 years! In light of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, we will be putting aside "business as usual" in order to spend time together in conversation, Bible study, worship, and community. I invite you to defer resolutions and memorials for this year and join me in dialogue and study around the gifts we claim as this part of the body of Christ we call the ELCA. Our time together will be framed around claiming four gifts: our theology, our legacy, our ecclesiology, and our practice.*

*It is our hope that our assembly voting members represent the full breadth of our synod. We encourage you to encourage new leaders to participate in our life together, especially our youth and young adult members. Childcare and translation services will be provided as needed to support those who may not otherwise be able to attend.*

*Come to Colorado Springs and let the Re•formation begin!

Bishop Jim Gonia*

**Community Art Project**Congregations will be invited to participate in a communal art and story project at this year’s assembly. Your stories will create the backdrop of our assembly. Please see the included packet for more information and instructions.

**Assembly Location & Travel Information**

**Location**Antlers Hotel
 4 S Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
[www.antlers.com](http://www.antlers.com)
(719) 955-5600

**Date and Time**The assembly will begin around **2 p.m. on Friday, May 5 and end by noon on Sunday, May 7.** *Resources will be made available for congregations for Sunday worship including text and video sermon and shared liturgy.*

**Assembly Registration Fee, which includes program costs, materials, three meals, and breaks. The Registration Fee does not include the hotel.**Voting Member: $300
Visitor with Meals: $250
Visitor without Meals: $125
Exhibitor with Meals: $175
Exhibitor without Meals: $50

**You will make your own hotel reservation at the Antlers Hotel and links will be posted at** [**www.rmselca.org/assembly**](http://www.rmselca.org/assembly) **.**Single: $115 Double: $125
*The room rate includes breakfast.***Hotel Reservation deadline is April 4**To guarantee our group rate, you must reserve your hotel by April 4. After this date, rooms may still be available, but we cannot guarantee the group rate.**Scholarships and Travel Assistance**We are Christ’s Church, Better Together! Which means we are not complete unless all are gathered around the table. Scholarships are available to those who need financial assistance. To request assistance, email Cheryl Almquist: cheryl\_almquist@rmselca.org

Travel Equalization forms will be available at the assembly providing assistance to those more than 150 miles away (300 miles round trip)

*Acting as the Church Together, there will be an option at registration to donate a small amount to Assembly Scholarships if your congregation is able.*

**Important Deadlines**

**Registration deadline is Friday, March 24**Registration will be available online in early February. The on-line request form for exhibitors will also be available at that time.

**Nomination deadline is Friday, March 24**The only election this year will be for Synod Council Vice President. The nomination form and information is posted on the assembly webpage.
 **Ministry Booklet Pages and Display Requests are due Friday, March 24**The on-line request form for exhibitors and ministry booklet pages will be available early February. The deadline for submitting requests will be March 24.

**Hotel Reservation deadline is April 4**

**Voting Member Information**

The voting members of the assembly are determined as follows:

A. Congregations are allowed 2 lay voting members, 1 male and 1 female. If a congregation is not able to find both a male and female, contact Janice Ladd-Horkey at the Office of the Bishop for permission to send 2 of the same gender: jladd-horkey@rmselca.org.

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).

. 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 Ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors) and Ministers of Word and Service (deacons) under call or on leave from call on the roster of the Rocky Mountain Synod are voting members.

G. All retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who are currently serving as interim pastors and all ordained ministers 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 are voting members.

 **H. Youth/Young Adult Voting Members**

It is the goal of this synod that at least 10% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not 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.

Information to assist you and your congregation in inviting, selecting and supporting your youth and young adult voting members for the upcoming Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly:

* + - A youth or young adult attending the Assembly, as a voting member from your

congregation, will sit with the members of your congregation and fully participate in the assembly schedule.

* + - It is our hope that each youth/young adult voting member attending the assembly would have an adult mentor––someone who is also a voting member from your congregation and has previously attended an Assembly. This could be a rostered or lay leader. This adult's role is to support the youth during the event, answer questions, explain the business at hand, and offer encouragement for full participation.
		- Make sure ALL of your congregation's voting members have copies of the schedule, reports and documents. If possible bring the congregation's voting members together before the Assembly to review the schedule, resolutions and documents which are posted at [www.rmselca.org/assembly](http://www.rmselca.org/assembly).
		- Set a date for your voting members to present a report to the congregation following the Assembly. Include your youth and young adult members!
		- Youth who are 17 and younger are the legal responsibility of the congregation.

Permission and medical forms and all other critical documents for responsible and safe participation are the responsibility of the congregation. Hotel housing is also the responsibility of the congregation. Sample forms, covenants, and guidelines for appropriate adult/youth interaction may be requested from the Office of the Bishop.