

Conference 6 Gathering

Saturday, September 17th

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| 9:30 | Registration and Check In |
| 10:00 | Opening Worship |
| 10:05 | Address by Bishop Mark |
| 10:10 | Reformation 500 program |
| 11:45 | Short closing worship |
| 12:00 | Lunch & Introductions |
| 12:45 | Conference Conversation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post-its• Nominate clergy to the synod council• How shall we work together?• Name |
| 3:00 | Depart |

Chapter 12 CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS AND COALITIONS, OR OTHER AREA SUBDIVISIONS

- †S12.01. This synod shall establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions within its territory as specified in the bylaws. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships among congregations, institutions, and synodical and churchwide units for mission purposes.
- S12.01.B12 This synod shall establish conferences within its territory. Conference division shall take into account political and geographical factors. They shall be approximately equal in number of congregations and baptized members and be easily grouped into five approximately equal electoral districts. A congregation may petition the Synod Council to change the conference to which it is assigned; such a change takes effect immediately after approval by the Synod Council and shall be reported to the next Synod Assembly. The Synod Council shall maintain a current roster of conference alignments.
- S12.01.A98. The following procedure shall be followed when a congregation considers petitioning to change conference assignments:
1. The congregation seeking a change in its conference alignment will consult with:
 - a. other ELCA congregations in its immediate area;
 - b. the two conferences involved;
 - c. the Synod's Witness and Service Discipling Team; and
 - d. the Bishop's Office.
 2. If, after the above consultation, the congregation decides to proceed with its petition, it is, according to the synod's bylaws, free to do so. The petition shall include a rationale for the change of conference affiliation, based on fulfillment of the purpose of the conference as expressed in SB12.01.02 and the mission needs of this church, and include documentation of the consultation with the partners noted in item #1 above.

3. When the Synod Council receives the petition, the Council may consult with the other partners noted in item #1 above and may seek their recommendation.
4. The recommendation and decision will be based on what, in the best judgment of the Synod Council, will best further the mission of this church.

- SB12.01.02. The purpose of the Conferences shall be:
- a. to deliver and support synodical and churchwide programs;
 - b. to develop mutually supportive clergy and congregational relationships.
 - c. to develop strategy for common mission;
 - d. to be a means to provide pastoral care for clergy and congregations;
 - e. to be a means for expressing needs and opinions of congregations and clergy to this synod; and
 - f. to nominate persons within each conference for synodical positions elected by the Assembly from the electoral districts, as specified in the bylaws.
- SB12.01.03. Each conference shall hold an assembly at least annually, composed of such representation of the congregations as the conference shall determine. The annual assembly for each year shall be held at least 60 days prior to the meeting of that year's Synod Assembly. In instances where two or more conferences deem it useful, they may convene in a joint assembly, provided that any business (such as nominations or elections) requiring action by the conferences individually be handled separately by each conference's delegates.
- SB12.01.04. Each conference shall elect its own officers, which shall include a Dean. The Dean shall be an ordained minister on the roster of this synod who is a member of one of the congregations of the Conference. The dean shall serve a term of three years, and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. The dean's responsibilities shall be to represent the conference on the Council of Deans; to assist the bishop in providing pastoral care to congregations and clergy of the conference; and to fulfill such other responsibilities as the bishop or Synod Assembly may assign. The dean may preside at meetings of the Conference Assembly and Cabinet.
- SB12.01.05. In the event that the office of the dean should become vacant, the Conference Cabinet shall appoint an interim dean; the next session of the Conference Assembly shall elect a new dean.
- SB12.01.06. There shall be a cabinet in each conference, consisting of the officers and other persons as the conference shall determine. The cabinet shall be responsible for planning the Conference Assembly and for fulfilling the purposes of the conference as listed in SB12.01.02. - 20 - Revised 7-28-16
- SB12.01.07. A coalition is a ministry of this synod implementing a strategy for mission developed by congregations, conferences or other agencies in an identified geographic area. It shall have a governing board which shall report to the Witness and Service Discipling Team of this synod. A coalition may receive funds from congregations, this synod, and/or other agencies. A coalition may employ staff, requesting the Synod Council to issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of appointment to associates in ministry. A coalition shall operate under constitutions and bylaws which shall be ratified by the Synod Council. Coalitions and conferences are different entities and fulfill different functions. While a coalition may include congregations as members which are all or part of one or more conferences of this synod, provisions of SB12.01.03 and SB12.01.04 shall be fulfilled by each conference.