



The 38th Convention of the Southeastern District

May 10 - 12, 2018
Hickory, North Carolina

President John R. Denninger

September 2017

Dear Partners in Mission:

The next Southeastern District Convention is scheduled for Thursday, May 10 – Saturday, May 12, 2018. Work in preparation for this important gathering is already underway here at the SED office and across the District. As we begin to look at fall schedules and events, there are some equally essential preparatory steps that I must ask you to take. Among these are the following:

Nomination of Qualified Persons for District Offices, Board of Directors

This is a high privilege belonging to every SED congregation that is a member of Synod. Please exercise it! Unfortunately, **only about 20% of our SED congregations** participate in this process. Don't assume that others will take care of placing qualified persons on the ballot. Take the time to inquire and to search out those who will help the SED move forward in its mission and ministry.

Selection of Circuit Forum Delegates and Convention Delegates

As we have shared with you through email and webcasts, when your Circuit Visitor announces your Circuit's Forum date, you should then schedule a congregational voter's assembly meeting prior to the forum date to:

- 1) Designate your congregation's pastoral and lay representatives to the circuit forum
- 2) Submit nominations of pastors for the office of Circuit Visitor **prior to the day of the Circuit Forum** (Nomination forms may be found on our website: www.se.lcms.org)
- 3) Suggest possible mission and ministry emphases for the Forum to pass along to the District Convention
- 4) Suggest possible overtures for the Forum to submit to the District Convention

At your congregational meeting, you may also elect your delegates to the District Convention, who may (or may not) be the same persons who are your representatives to the Circuit Forum. In the case of a multi-congregation parish, each congregation is entitled to a lay representative at the district convention.

Please note: With the changes to LCMS Bylaws 3.12.2.3-4, the Synod presidential voter list is no longer composed of the list of District Convention Delegates; going forward, it will be assembled by direct communication of the Office of the Secretary with congregations or multi-congregation parishes, each of which will have the opportunity to designate a lay and (if not vacant) pastoral voter.

Drafting Convention Overtures

This is another privilege that belongs to every SED congregation as well as any Circuit Forum or Conference. The mission focus of the SED relies on overtures that are positive, forward-looking and mission-hearted rather than those expressing a negative concern.

It is helpful if congregational overtures receive the affirmation of their respective Circuit Forum. The affirmation given by a Circuit Forum carries more weight on the Convention Floor than overtures coming from one congregation.

The deadline date for submitting all nominations and overtures is **December 18, 2017**. You can expect to get reminders along the way from our office. However, September may be a good moment to make sure that the SED Convention work receives attention on your congregation's upcoming meeting agendas.

Our 2018 District Convention theme is “**Let’s Go Fishing**” – John 21:1-14 and Luke 5:1-11.

In our work together we will:

- Come together in celebratory worship revolving around the Ascension of Jesus
- Give thanks for the blessing of our 215 congregations and 82 schools, and welcome new congregations which have been formed and chartered since the 2015 District Convention
- Ask His wisdom, guidance, and blessing on our Great Commission effort to connect the 32 million people living in the geographical boundaries of the District to Jesus
- Engage in Bible study and prayer with special focus on the priesthood of all believers and the equipping of the saints.
- Pray Holy Spirit wisdom and guidance as we discern ways to expand our mission effort in many more neighborhoods across the SED
- Assess progress toward the achievement of our SED mission goals
- Listen to the SED Board of Directors report on their activity for the sake of the mission including the vision, strategic focus, and mission endowment
- Elect servant-leaders and adopt resolutions that affirm the values and help define the paths that we will seek to follow until the next Convention
- Receive the report of our Synod President, or his representative, and hear about the structure and governance changes mandated by the 2016 LCMS Convention

Please take the time to carefully read the enclosed materials and to take the actions requested.

In the meantime, I am keeping you in my prayers and I ask that you do the same for us here at the SED office as we work together to prepare for our gathering in 2018!

In the royal service of the King,



John R. Denninger, President
Southeastern District, LCMS