



The 38th Convention of the Southeastern District

May 10 - 12, 2018
Hickory, North Carolina

President John R. Denninger

February 20, 2018

Dear Delegates to the 2018 Southeastern District Convention:

In just a few months, we will come together for the 38th Convention of the Southeastern District in Hickory, North Carolina. This should be a wonderful gathering for the purpose of study, decision-making, worship, prayer and praise, and good fellowship.

Under the theme, “**Let’s Go Fishing**,” the convention promises to involve us in celebrative worship, Bible study and prayer led by the **Rev. Dr. Robert Scudieri**, and a decision-making process that will help establish the agenda for the next three years and beyond.

The convention workbook will be your guide to the events and issues of the convention. Read it thoroughly, especially the sections referenced below.

To be well prepared for the convention, please give special attention to the following:

- **Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit** upon our preparations and our deliberations as we gather in convention.

Our convention chaplains, **Pastor David Guelzow and Pastor David Ziehr** (St. Stephens, Hickory, NC) will engage us at every key Convention moment in "listening prayer," so we might allow God to direct our proceedings through His Word. The election process, in particular, will be surrounded by prayer.

- **Read the biographical information on candidates for office in section A.**
Elections will take place early and quickly. They are scheduled to begin on Thursday, May 10. The use of electronic voting pads means that ballots are tabulated in thirty seconds. There will be little time to review candidate information once balloting begins, so please look over the materials and consider your choices of the best candidates in advance.
- **Thoroughly acquaint yourself with the overtures found in section B.**
The process is very important in allowing the convention to speak the will of the delegates with regard to issues raised in the overtures. All overtures are considered except those described in LCMS Bylaw 3.1.6, but delegates should remember that the overtures that appear in this workbook are usually NOT the final resolutions that will be brought before the convention. In most cases, this workbook gives you an indication of what the Floor Committees have already accomplished. But, their work is not yet finished. There are still open hearings on Thursday afternoon, May 14 which you are invited to attend, express your thoughts and give your input. Those resolutions that are then brought to the convention floor remain subject to debate, to amendment, and to the vote of the delegates.
- **Study the District President’s Report and other reports found in Section E.**
These reports provide a convention “roadmap” and tell the story of what has occurred in the District during the last triennium, and they furnish important background information regarding new directions this convention will consider taking between now and 2021.

You may expect to review the reports and resolutions by the end of March 2018. We will send notice to you through email and through the Convention App.

Floor Committees:

01	Mission Development	Rev. William D. Beyer
02	Congregational Outreach	Rev. Daniel R. Prugh
03	Stewardship & Finance	Mr. Thomas DeMik
04	Bylaws	Mr. Gilbert M. F. Brauch
05	Theology & Practice	Rev. Dr. J. Michael Ramey
06	Nominations & Elections	Dcs. Roberta S. Hillhouse

If you wish to make a personal statement to the floor committees, you may do so at open hearings to be held on Thursday, May 10 according to this schedule:

12:30 PM	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Congregational Outreach	<i>Conover 2</i>
	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Bylaws	<i>Conover 3</i>
	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Theology & Practice	<i>Conover 4</i>
1:30 PM	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Mission Development	<i>Conover 1</i>
	Floor Committee Open Hearings – Stewardship & Finance	<i>Conover 3</i>

After receiving such input on the overtures, the floor committees are charged with the task of framing the issues into final resolutions to be presented to the floor of the Convention.

Communication about the Convention, Workbook updates, additional reports, information about Exhibitors, and news about registration will all be posted on the Convention website (www.se.lcms.org/convention2018). In addition, there is a Convention App with push notifications available. To download the app, click on the link <http://my.yapp.us/CONVENTION> and follow the instructions listed on the page.

One last word...

In addition to the opportunities for worship and study and the time devoted to business, delegates will have the chance to hear from representatives of our synodical organizations, and especially from our Synod President, **Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**.

In the midst of this activity, there will, of course, be important time for celebration, recognition, and just plain good fellowship.

You are in my prayers and I ask that you do the same for us here at the SED office as we prepare for our gathering in May!

In the royal service of the King,



John R. Denninger, President
Southeastern District, LCMS