



ASSEMBLY FORUMS



**The following forums will be presented twice on Friday, June 7, 2013.
The first at 10:00am and the second at 1:00pm.**

Risks and Rewards in Small Town Ministry

Plaza A, main level: led by Pastor Amanda Stamp and Pastor Scott Egbers

This forum will take a look at the risks and rewards of small town ministry. We will consider perceptions of life in rural areas, and how reality may differ from these perceptions. This forum will be directed toward those who wonder about present day realities and the future of small town and rural ministry.

How do you handle that?:

Best Perspectives and Practices for the Congregational Council in Mid- and Larger-Sized Churches

Plaza B, main level: led by Pastor Paul Olson

Congregation Councils are called by their congregation to provide leadership. Sometimes there are issues that seem to be perplexing. This Forum will address some of the issues that might help Congregation Council members more effectively provide the leadership for their congregation. Some of the areas to be considered include:

- ◆ What does the congregation's Constitution say?
- ◆ What is the Mission/Vision of the congregation?
- ◆ How do you handle such things as Personnel Policies, IT Policies, Building and Facility Use Policies, Staff Team Health?

Every congregation is unique so there is not a "one-size" fits all but this Forum is intended to provide some possible guidelines for effective Council leadership. Conversation and dialogue will be primary tools for helping us all to learn.

Call Process: An Overview / Questions / Answers

Plaza C, main level: led by Pastors Ron Moorman and James Reents

The realities of parish life are clear: sooner or later all congregations are involved in locating and calling a new pastor! The question is: what all is involved in that process? What is the best way for a congregation to approach that responsibility? What steps need to be taken to insure that the new pastor will meet the identified needs and directions of the congregation? What are the necessary components of the ELCA and synodical processes? This critical juncture in a congregation's life demands care and thoughtful consideration. Come and learn.....come and get your questions asked and answered.....come join us for a thoughtful and comprehensive review of this critical part of congregational life!!

Called to Share the Gospel

Plaza D, main level: led by Pastor Robert Dealey, Director for Evangelical Mission

What is the gospel message that you and your congregation are called to share with others? What methods do you use to get the Word out? What would help you and/or your congregation to become more faithful and effective in sharing the gospel? It all begins with an understanding that every Christian is uniquely gifted to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no one "correct" way. Come and see what you can do.

Global Mission: Momba Anano Ny Tompo

Plenary Hall Visitors Area, main level: led by Global Mission Committee

Barbara Berry Bailey and Pastor Wayne Shelksohn will lead a forum about our planned trip in 2014 to our companion synods in Madagascar. They will provide slides and information related to what we hope to accomplish during this trip, expected costs, what to expect in the way of travel and other areas related to a trip of this type. It is also our hope to provide some information about the possibility of providing Bibles in the Malagasy Language for each household in our companion synods.

Health Care Reform: What's Next for the ELCA Health Plan?

Illinois Room, third level: led by Andrea Arey

Health care reform will likely bring significant changes to the ELCA health plan. We want to discuss these possible changes and answer questions that you may have. In addition, we will be sharing a revised Philosophy of Benefits that has been updated to respond to health care reform and other market changes. As we navigate the evolving health care landscape, Portico continues to minimize plan member disruption, identify opportunities for employers to save money, and preserve a wellness focus for the sake of ministry. Anyone who has, or provides, ELCA health benefits is invited to attend.

How do you figure that?: Pastors' Compensation

Governor Room, third level: led by Debbie Peterson

Everything you ever wanted to know about Pastor's compensation including synod guidelines and various on-line tools available to congregations to adequately plan for and compensate their pastors. There will be a short presentation and then time for Questions & Answers. Especially helpful for Treasurers, Council members and PASTORS!

The following forums will each be presented once:

10:00am

Networking Youth & Family Ministry Programs

Capital 1, third level: led by Raylee Brown and Jason Fisher

This forum will include cross-generational resources for your congregation to take home and use alongside your young people. Presenters will share information about the ELCA Youth Ministry Network and the wealth of resources it provides along with practical tips for how to network with other congregations and leaders in your area. Got some of your own ideas for youth & family ministry? Bring them to this forum and share with those who also have a passion for serving alongside young people and their families.

Geographical Parish 2.0: Questions and Answers / Sharing of Ideas and Experiences

Capital 2, third level: led by Participants in Existing and Forming Parishes

Last year at the Assembly we had a session on the Wartburg Parish—its organizational and operational principles and practice. That session sparked interest in several areas of the synod. A number of congregations in the western area have formed the Western Illinois Parish (WIP) and have moved rapidly toward implementation of a similar model. The forum will include a dialogue with the Wartburg Parish and this newly formed group to discuss the development and implementation issues that face congregations interested in exploring this innovative way of doing congregational business. Congregations from around the synod are urged to attend and explore the possibilities!

1:00pm

The Body of Christ Alive:

Hope and Realism for Congregations Seeking a Less than Full-time Pastor

Capital 1, third level: led by Bishop John Roth and Pastor Wayland Middendorf

How do we keep the Body of Christ alive and hope a reality for congregations looking for something less than a full-time call? There are congregations that are struggling to continue with a full-time, called pastor and yet these congregations are a real part of the Body of Christ. How do we meet these needs today and how will these needs be met in the future? Come join the conversation as we attempt to think outside the box and discuss these questions: What is less than full-time? Who might be interested in less than a full-time call? Can there be life and revitalization in a congregation with less than a full-time call?

Partners in Ministry: The Mission Investment Fund

Capital 2, third level: led by Devin Burg and Helen Wuerl

As a financial ministry of the ELCA, the Mission Investment Fund supports congregations and ministries pursuing and achieving their mission. With the loans we make for capital projects, ELCA congregations and ministries purchase land, construct new buildings, expand and renovate their facilities—and grow their ministries in the process. Investments we offer to ELCA members, congregations and ministries fuel the loans we make. Join us to learn about the Mission Investment Fund's broad portfolio of investment opportunities for individuals, congregations and ministries—and how your congregation or ministry can apply for a loan for a much-needed