

# Stream of Information

## Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

### Pre-Assembly Highlights

- **FRIDAY, Synodical Mission in Action**
  - The Eucharist with Necrology will include the installation of Conference Deans and Ms. Elizabeth Yenchko, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop.
  - Greetings will be brought by The Rev. Dr. Marja Coons –Torn, Conference Minister of the Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ, a full communion partner of the ELCA.
  - A Quasi-Committee of the Whole (which includes all voting members of the assembly) will discuss all matters related to “*Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*” and the Report and Recommendation for Ministry Policies of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality. This will enable the assembly to discuss all of these matters at one time, rather than in a piecemeal fashion.
  - The Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Martin, Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Susquehanna University, will lead a Bible Study entitled “Our Biblical Mission to Brother Sun and Sister Moon,” a study of our mission to the environment.
  - Mission Moment Videos will be shared throughout the assembly by the Mission Interpretation Task Force.
  - The Camp Mt. Luther Summer Camp Staff will be inducted.
  - Following dinner in the Degenstein Dining Hall, pastors and congregations will be recognized who are celebrating significant anniversaries. Pastors Weaver and Esborn will provide the entertainment.
  - The Synod Council will propose no percentage change in 2010 salary guidelines (step increases remain in place) or housing allowances for rostered leaders.



Mr. David D. Swartling, Secretary of the ELCA will be our ELCA representative. He will report on Friday morning and will answer submitted questions on Saturday.

*Synod Assembly will be held at Susquehanna Univ. on June 19-20, 2009.*

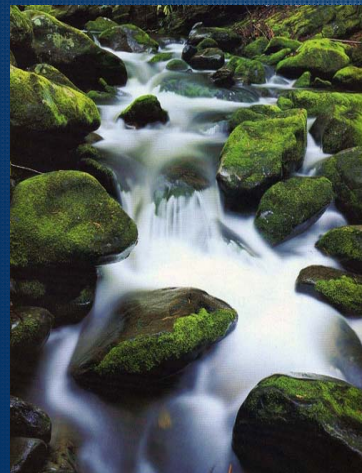
- *God's Work. Our Hands.*
  - *Mission in Action*

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### *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*

*Voting members are encouraged to bring copies of the sexuality statement to the assembly as well as copies of the Report and Recommendation for Ministry Policies.*

<http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/JTF-Human-Sexuality.aspx>



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*Continued from previous page.*

### Pre- Assembly Highlights

- **SATURDAY, Congregational Mission in Action**
  - A Celebration of Lay Ministries (Service of the Word) including the blessing and sending of synodically authorized lay ministers.
  - An interactive ministry fair and mission-in-action workshops will highlight many of the exciting ministries occurring in the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. All congregational members are invited, beginning with worship at 10:00 AM through the conclusion of the workshops at 2:15 PM.
  - A report from the synod's new part-time Director of Communications, Chad Hershberger, will provide the assembly with information about our new websites and other means of communication.
  - Responses to questions submitted to the ELCA Secretary, David Swartling.
- **Other highlights:**
  - A bell from a one-room school house in Loganville (near York, PA) will be placed on stage and used to call plenary sessions and worship to order. This bell was inherited by Christ Lutheran Church, Loganville, and will be given to Reed Memorial Church in Liberia whose bell was stolen by rebels during their civil war.

Displays in Degenstein and Weber  
Along the Way Bookstore  
Susquehanna University Bookstore



### To be considered!

The following resolutions and memorials are known as of this date:

1. A memorial calling for the creation of an advisory committee charged with crafting a clear vision for Lutheran Disaster Relief and asking for an affirmation of the ELCA's commitment to the mission of disaster preparedness through the Church in Society Program Unit. *(Pr. Sarah Hershberger, Disaster Response Coordinator)*
2. A resolution calling upon the Upper Susquehanna Synod to take the necessary steps to abolish racism and review the factors inhibiting people of color from experiencing the fullness of leadership in this Synod. *(Pr. Andrew Fitch, Project Connect Discernment Advocate)*
3. A memorial calling upon the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to defeat both the proposed Social Statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust", and the proposed resolutions of the Task Force in Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policy, and to adopt the resolutions put forward in "Dissenting Position One." *(Pr. Maurice Frontz, et. al.)*
4. A memorial calling upon the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to require a 2/3 vote for any changes in this church's current policy and practice for the rostered leaders. *(Pr. David Pennebaker)*

For additional information, contact the submitters and/or look for the resolutions in our next mailing.