



# GATHERING OF MINISTERIUM

October 2-4, 2023

WORSHIP | CONTINUING ED | FELLOWSHIP | RELAX

## LEADING WITH HOPE IN A SEASON OF CHANGE; WALKING THE ROAD TOGETHER

*Gather to meet, reconnect, worship, relax, learn, sing, pray and play together while overlooking the ocean. The Gathering of the Ministerium includes valuable continuing education for all rostered ministers. Everyone who attends, whether in person or online, will receive 10 CEUs.*



On-Site at the Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach, Virginia Beach



Digitally connect to Zoom from home



## Rev. Dawn Alitz, Ph.D.

The Rev. Dr. Dawn Alitz joined the staff at Luther Seminary in 2016, where she designs and coordinates programming and coaching experiences to equip Christian leaders. Dawn received her Master of Arts in lay leadership from Luther Seminary in 2003 and her Ph.D. in 2009. Dawn has taught in adjunct positions at the seminary, as well as with Augsburg College and Lexington Theological Seminary. Prior to her work at Luther, she served in a number of ministry settings including mission start and established congregations.

## Event Theme

As Christian leaders, our preaching and teaching centers around a message of hope and resurrection. There are times, however, when it seems difficult to walk this road ourselves, let alone walking it with others. Over these sessions, we'll spend some time in the text of the Road to Emmaus; exploring how questions and coaching can accompany us as leaders and equip us for walking with our people more deeply.

# Schedule



## Monday

*\*Notes the opportunities for digital attendees*

- 12:30 **Event Check In + Reunion  
(lunch on your own)**
- 1:45 **\*Welcome and Introduction of New  
Rostered Ministers**
- 2:00 **\*Covenant Renewal Litany**
- 2:30 **Short Break**
- 2:45 **\*Continuing Education Session 1:  
What are you discussing with each other?**
- 4:15 **Break & \*Bishop Meet & Greet for  
online participants**
- 5:00 **Reception**
- 6:00 **Dinner**
- 7:30 **Beer and Hymns at Smartmouth  
Brewing Company**

## Tuesday

- 7:00 **Breakfast on your own**
- 8:30 **\*Morning Prayer**
- 9:00 **\*Continuing Education Session 2:  
We had hoped . . .**
- 10:30 **Break**
- 11:00 **\*Continuing Education Session 3:  
Were not our hearts burning within  
us?**
- 12:30 **Have Fun! Lunch on your own and  
free time activities**
- 5:30 **Dinner**
- 7:00 **\*Bishop and Staff Time**

# Schedule



## Wednesday

- 7:00 **Breakfast on your own**
- 8:30 **\*Continuing Education Session 4: Why Jesus, why questions?**
- 10:00 **Short Break**
- 10:15 **\*Closing Worship with Eucharist**
- 11:30 **Have Fun, Hit the Road!**



## Digital Attendees

This year's gathering includes an option to participate as a digital attendee. Digital attendees will be able to connect to the gathering on their own devices online. They will be able to participate in all continuing education presentations, worship and will participate in small groups. No meals will be provided for digital attendees.



# In-Person Community Options

## ATTEND THE GATHERING IN-PERSON AT VIRGINIA BEACH

### Reception to Welcome the Bishop

Please join us in welcoming our new bishop of the Virginia Synod. The reception will be a time to mingle with colleagues and greet and talk with the new bishop in a casual environment. The reception is at 5 p.m. on Monday just before dinner.



### Beer & Hymns

Be a part of Beer & Hymns at Smartmouth Brewing's Virginia Beach Pilot House at 313 32nd Street. Raise a glass and raise your voice in praise of God. One drink ticket will be provided for each person who attends. Beer and Hymns begins at 7:30 p.m. on Monday night and all musicians are invited to bring an instrument to join in accompanying our song.



### PrayGround

"Let the little children come." Rostered Ministers with small children are encouraged to use the pray ground, which will be located in our main gathering space. If your family is traveling to the beach and the pray ground area would be helpful, make sure to respond to the registration question. If we do not receive responses that this space will be beneficial for this year's gathering, it will not be provided. The pray ground will not be staffed.



# Free-Time Options

Take advantage of one of the free-time options to spend time with colleagues or on your own. Please watch for additional free-time options on the Virginia Synod Rostered Ministers Facebook page.



## Cornhole

Are you ready for a little friendly competition? Sign up to play in an organized tournament bracket with prizes, or sign up to play in a just-for-fun game of corn-hole. The tournament may take several hours; the just-for-fun game will be ongoing, and you can stay for 30 minutes or several hours. The tournament bracket and sign-up sheets are posted on the display table. No experience is needed. There is no cost to participate in this activity. Meet in the hotel lobby at 1:30.

## Golf

Enjoy a full afternoon on the golf course. The recently renovated Red Wing Golf Course will host golfers of all skill levels. The cost for golfers is \$34.00 plus tax and is payable at the golf course. Golfers wishing to carpool to the course should meet in the hotel lobby promptly at noon. As a church of grace, mulligans will be awarded abundantly and generously!



## Nap

Resist the urge to craft Sunday's sermon or reply to all those emails. Instead, take a nap, watch an episode of your favorite show, or sit on your hotel balcony and enjoy the sounds of the ocean.

## Sand Sculptures

Each year sand sculptors from around the world come to Virginia Beach for the Neptune Festival to compete in the annual International Sand Sculpting Championship. A group will meet in the lobby at 1:30 to go check them out.

# HOTEL INFORMATION

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES, NORTH BEACH  
3900 ATLANTIC AVENUE  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451  
757.428.1711

Reservation Group Code is VSG



## HOTEL RESERVATION PROCESS

You will be responsible for making your hotel reservations by calling the Holiday Inn directly at 757-428-1711 or [clicking here](#). To receive the negotiated room rate (\$117 plus taxes), **your reservation will need to be made by September 4**; our group name is Virginia Synod, and our **group code is VSG**. After September 4, reservations will be based on space and rate availability.

You also are invited to come early or extend your stay, and the hotel will guarantee the same rate for adding Sunday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday nights. Guests may check-in anytime after 4:00 PM. Requests for early check-in can be made when you make your reservation, but it is not guaranteed. Check-out time is 11:00 AM, but for Wednesday, the check-out time has been adjusted to noon.



If you are an existing IHG member, please have your number available when making your reservation. All reservations must be accompanied by a first-night room deposit plus applicable state and local taxes and guaranteed with a major credit card. If a guest wishes to cancel a reservation, **the deposit is refundable if notice is received 72 hours before the day of the arrival** and a cancellation number is obtained. Guests will not incur room charges for an early departure.

This hotel is a family-friendly property. It has amenities available for adults and children. Please call or check the hotel's website for those activities open during our meeting and what equipment is available at the hotel vs. what you may need to bring with you. While not included in your registration package, breakfast (buffet or a la carte) is available at The Greenery Restaurant, adjacent to our meeting space.



# Event Registration

REGISTER BEFORE SEPTEMBER 4

[REGISTER HERE](#)

TWO ATTENDEE OPTIONS

## On-Site Attendees

\$185 for Rostered Minister and  
\$95 for Spouse that is not Rostered

Remember to reserve your hotel room  
*(information on page 6)*

Early Bird Discount until August 4 of \$165 for  
Rostered Minister & \$85 for a Spouse not  
Rostered

Hotel Block closes on by September 4

Registration deadline is September 4

**Register by August 16 to be in the  
St. Augustine Conference Contest!**

*(for both on-site and digital attendees)*

## Digital Attendees

\$80 to participate digitally

Early Bird Discount until August 4 of \$70

Registration deadline September 4

*The schedule notes the opportunities for  
digital attendees*

### **Refund Policy for Gathering of the Ministerium 2023**

*For all cancellations, please complete this request form, <https://forms.gle/fCae56CXuB8ubpKRA>.  
Don't forget to cancel your hotel room!*

*Registration refunds through September 3, 2023, for cancellations will be issued as follows: A  
\$25.00 processing fee will be charged, and the remaining balance will be refunded.*

*September 4 through October 2, 2023, refunds for cancellations will be issued as follows: 50% will  
be refunded due to the non-refundable processing fee charged by the hotel.*

*All refunds will be processed after the event.*