

A Call to Create: Rethinking Vocation for the Ecozoic Age

Gathering of the Ministerium

September 28–30, 2026



Gather to meet, reconnect, worship, relax, learn, sing, pray, and play together while overlooking the ocean. The Gathering of the Ministerium offers valuable continuing education for all rostered ministers, interns, vicars, and actively serving synod authorized ministers. Everyone who attends, whether on-site or digitally, will receive 10 CEUs.

Worship ☀️ **Continuing Ed** ☀️ **Fellowship** ☀️ **Relax**

Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer



Rimmer joined Lenoir-Rhyne as rector and dean of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) in April 2023. In this role, he serves as the lead academic and church administrator for LTSS and works to further develop the seminary to an exemplary status within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Event Theme

A Call to Create: Rethinking Vocation for the Ecozoic Age

As the church continues to articulate our understanding of Ministry for every age, how can we express the vocation of rostered leaders in a way that is theologically grounded, fit for our time, and life giving? In our ecological age, how can an ancient understanding of God as maker of all that is seen and unseen help us reimagine Ministry? From his perspective as an eco-theologian and a leader in the global church, Dr. Chad Rimmer will guide us as we retrace our steps through the Christian confession, in order to cast a fresh, ecumenical vision of Ministry that is rooted in the mission of the Triune God, who is Love.

Schedule

Monday

- 12:30 Event Check In + Reunion
(lunch on your own)
- 1:45 *Welcome and Introductions and
Ordination Anniversary Celebration
- 2:00 *Covenant Renewal Litany & Land Acknowledgement
- 2:20 Growing Relationships
- 2:45 *Continuing Education Session 1: The Asymmetry of
Grace: Ministry as priest, prophet or poet?
- 3:45 *Synod Sharing Time
- 4:00 Break or *Bishop Meet & Greet for Digital Attendees
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Beer and Fellowship at Smartmouth Brewing Company

Tuesday

- 7:00 Breakfast on your own
- 8:30 *Morning Prayer
- 9:00 *Continuing Education Session 2: The Via Creativa: From
Fall to Disintegration
- 10:00 *Synod Sharing Time
- 10:15 Break
- 11:00 *Continuing Education Session 3: The Feast of Creation:
A Trinitarian Revision
- 12:00 *Synod Sharing Time
- 12:15 Have Fun! Lunch on your own and free time activities
- 5:30 Dinner
- 7:00 *Worship with Eucharist



Schedule

Wednesday



- 7:00 Breakfast on your own
- 8:25 *Announcements
- 8:30 *Continuing Education Session 4: A Doxology of Love: Being Artisans of Peace
- 10:15 *Bishop's Time
- 11:30 Have Fun, Hit the Road

**Notes the opportunities for digital attendees*

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 online using their own devices. They will be able to participate in all continuing education presentations and worship. Digital attendees can schedule a time to meet with Cathy Schibler from Portico if they request it. No meals will be provided for digital attendees.



On-Site and Digital Community Options

Attend the gathering in-person at Virginia Beach or online on Zoom

Questions Regarding Portico

We are excited to have Pastor Cathy Schibler, our Synod's Portico Representative, available to attend this year's event. You are invited to stop by the table to chat or to schedule an appointment with Cathy. During an appointment, you can ask any questions you have about your benefits or review them with her. It is important for Portico to support you in your ministry! Even if you are attending digitally, Cathy is happy to meet with you online.



Getting to Know Each Other

As we gather from across the Synod, we invite you to lean intentionally into conversation, connection, and community, trusting that in relationship with one another and in communion with God, we live and move and have our being. Participants will be assigned to small groups, identified on name badges, with a dedicated 20-minute relationship-building session following Monday's first session and additional opportunities during Tuesday's refreshment break. Tuesday evening's "Reimagine" dinner conversations will gather participants around shared ministry themes to spark creative, forward-looking dialogue across the Synod.



If arriving early for the event, you are invited to an informal gathering for connection on Monday morning in the Atrium.

PrayGround

"Let the little children come." Attendees with small children are encouraged to use the prayground, which will be located in our main gathering space. If your family is traveling to the beach and the prayground 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 prayground will not be staffed.



Beer & Fellowship

Walk over or drive to Smartmouth Brewing's Virginia Beach Pilot House at 313 32nd Street to raise a glass and enjoy fellowship with one another. One drink ticket will be provided for each attendee. There will be an open mic for musicians who want to perform during the fellowship time.



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.



Games & Fellowship

Enjoy a welcoming space for fun, connection, and community during free time at the Gathering of the Ministerium. A variety of interactive games will be available, encouraging participation across friend groups and creating a relaxed, engaging atmosphere for all. Attendees are also invited to bring a favorite game to share with others. Whether you enjoy strategy games, group games, or lighthearted competition, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.



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 check them out. The cost is \$7 to view. For more information, [click here](#).



Area Attractions

Take free time to explore activities and attractions in the local community. Use the QR Code to review a list of fun opportunities.



Nap / Relax

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.

Hotel Information

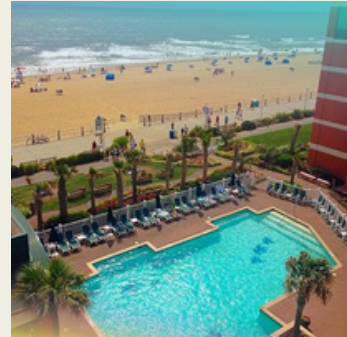


Holiday Inn & Suites, North Beach

3900 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
757.428.1711

Reservation Group Code is **VSY**

**IHG member number can be applied*



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](#) (double check the check in date and check out date when using the link). To receive the negotiated room rate (\$126 plus taxes), **your reservation must be made by August 28**. Our group name is Virginia Synod, and **our group code is VSY**. After August 30, reservations will be based on space and rate availability.

You are also invited to come early or extend your stay, and the hotel is offering a discounted rate for adding Saturday and/or Sunday (\$126), Wednesday, and/or Thursday nights (\$126). 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 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 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.



HOTEL RESERVATION



Hotel Block Ends August 28



Event Registration

Early Bird Discount until August 3
Hotel Block ends on August 28
Register before September 14 (On-Site Attendee)
or September 21 (Digital Attendee)

On-Site Attendees

\$195 for Rostered Ministers or SAMs
\$95 for Non-Rostered Spouse

Remember to reserve your hotel room

Early Bird Discount until August 3 of \$180
for Rostered Ministers/SAMs and
\$80 for a Non-Rostered Spouse

Hotel Block closes on August 28

Registration deadline is September 14

Digital Attendees

\$95 to participate digitally

Early Bird Discount until August 3 of \$80

Registration deadline is September 21

The schedule notes the opportunities for
digital attendees

 REGISTER NOW



Cancellations and Refund Policy for Gathering of the Ministerium 2026

For all cancellations, please complete the [request form](#) or contact Debbie or Lenae.
Don't forget to cancel your hotel room!

Registration refunds for cancellations through September 14, 2026, will be issued as follows: a \$15.00 processing fee will be charged, and the remaining balance will be refunded. September 15 through September 27, 2026, refunds for cancellations will be issued as follows: 50% will be refunded due to the hotel's non-refundable processing fee. After September 27, no refunds will be processed. All refunds will be processed after the event.

