

2016 SEPA Bishop's Convocation Schedule
Hotel check in time at 4 pm on Monday
All presentations will be held in the ballroom

Monday, October 17

- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Registration with lunch on your own
- 1:15 pm
Opening Prayer
- 1:30 pm
Presenter: *David D. Grafton*
- 2:30 pm
Presenter: *Anwar N. Muhaimin*
- 3:00 pm
Presenter: *David Straus*
- 3:30 pm
Break with refreshments
- 3:45 pm
Q&A and dialogue | Facilitator: *David Grafton*
- 4:45 pm
Free Time
- 6:30 pm
Dinner
After dinner free time with optional fire pit and smores

Tuesday, October 18

- 7:30 am
Breakfast
- 9:00 am
Devotions
- 9:30 am
Breakout | Three 15 minutes discussions
Questions from *Anwar N. Muhaimin and David Straus*
- 10:15 am
Plenary Reflection
- 10:45 am
Break with refreshments
- 11:15 am
Panel Discussion
- 12:15 pm
Meditation – *Anwar Muhaimin (Ballroom)*
- 12:30 pm
Lunch
- 1:30 pm
Free Time
- 6:15 pm
Meditation - *David Straus (Dining Area)*
- Dinner
- 8:00 pm
Devotions (*Ballroom*)

Wednesday, October 19

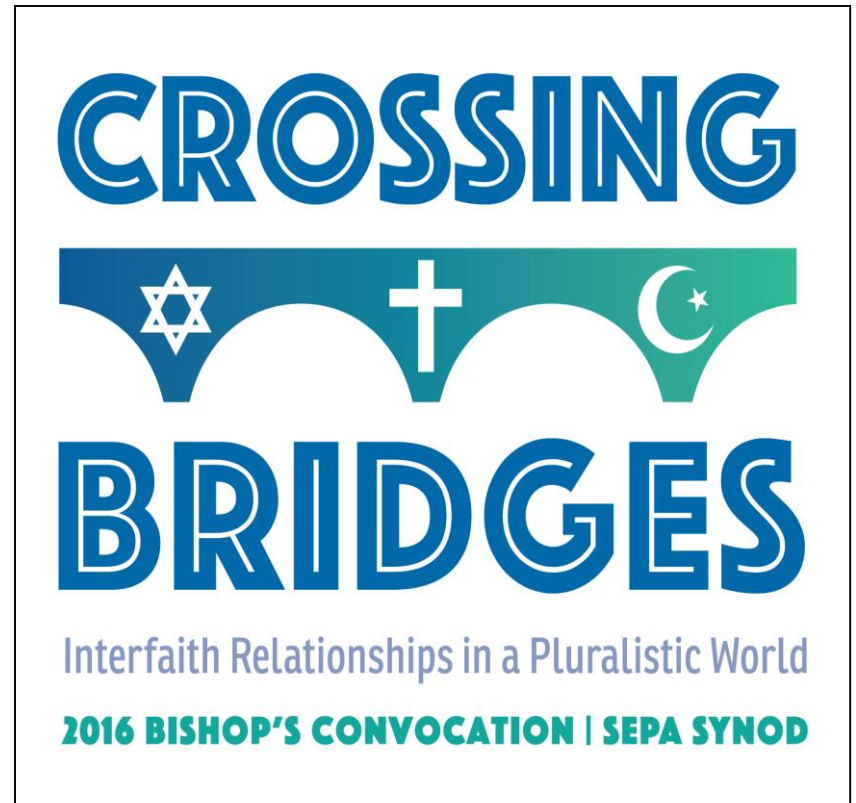
- 7:30 am
Breakfast
- 9:00 am
Conversation with *Bishop Burkat (Ballroom)*
- 10:00 am
Break
- 10:15 am
Holy Communion
- 11:15 am
Departure

Lunch is available at the Trails End Café for lunch on your own.

Massages available by appointment

Convocation this year is being supplemented by Grants from Portico's Health and Wellness and Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA

The registration worksheet is a separate sheet.



October 17-19, 2016

Bear Creek Resort and Conference Center

101 Doe Mountain Lane

Macungie, PA 18062

(610) 682-7100

Registration Information

Go online to register for the 2016 Bishop's Convocation
Registration must be completed online by September 12. **For a discounted rate you must register and mail payment by August 22.**

To register please go to:

<https://community.ministrylink.org/convocation2016>

Please note: Registration is online, payment can be made by check or credit card (additional fees apply for credit card transactions). In order to complete your registration please fill in your name, congregation and your registration selection and if you are paying by check mail this form with your check payable to SEPA Synod to: *Finance Office, Wiedemann Center, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, 7241 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119*

Name _____

Congregation _____

	by 8/22	by 9/12	Total
A. Registration, only or	\$125	\$200	_____
B. Registration, meals and shared room or	\$542	\$617	_____
C. Registration, meals and single room	\$587	\$662	_____
<i>For my non-rostered spouse (registration paid by SEPA Synod)</i>			
D. Meals and shared room	\$417	\$417	_____
Spouse Name (if applicable) _____			

Total Amount Due: A or B or C or B +D \$ _____

If planning to join convocation meals while commuting, contact Cynta Outterbridge (coutterbridge@sepa.org) for cost. **Deadline for scholarship request is August 22.*

The registration fee is non-refundable. Hotel fee refund is based on hotel policy and cancellation notice.

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Welcome from Bishop Burkat



"Love works no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (Romans 13:10)

I invite you to take the first steps across centuries of divisions, suspicions, and stereotypes to cross bridges in your neighborhoods and spheres of influence. At our 2016 Bishop's Convocation we will engage in conversations promoting Interfaith understanding and respect, in order to bridge and connect our religious communities in the holy bonds of peace and justice.

Our three distinguished speakers are prominent leaders in interfaith dialog and relations. **Imam Anwar Muhamin**, **Rabbi David Straus** and I serve as co-conveners (along with Archbishop Charles Chaput) of the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia (RLC). **The Rev. Dr. David Grafton**, currently Associate Professor for Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim at LTSP, has served on the administrative council of the RLC as our Lutheran representative. Dr. Grafton who has accepted a new position as Professor at Hartford Seminary will inform and guide our conversations and explorations of Christian, Jewish and Muslim engagement.

We want participants to be courageous, comfortable, and confident speaking with other religious traditions in this pluralistic world before incidents of religious hatred invade our communities. Religious leaders from the three Abrahamic traditions can be powerful allies and a unified public voice in promoting peace, respect, justice and understanding.

I look forward to this time apart with rostered leaders for worship, conversation and renewal. I encourage you to register for the 2016 Convocation, and please invite your colleagues, especially those new to our Synod to our location at Bear Creek Resort and Conference Center, Macungie, PA.

Our Presenters



Shaykh Anwar N. Muhaimin was born in Philadelphia, PA and left the city at the age of 11 with his family to formally study Islam in Saudi Arabia. He completed memorization of the Holy Koran and was bestowed the title of Shaykh from the Islamic University of Medina, Saudi Arabia, Department of Arabic Language, from which he graduated with a degree in Arabic literature in 1989. He holds a Masters of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University. He currently serves as President and Executive Director of Quba Institute, a religious & educational non-profit in Philadelphia founded in 1949. Additionally, he is a founding board member of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, a co-convenor for Religious Leaders Council of Philadelphia, and serves on the Council of Islamic Organization.



Rabbi David Straus is the Senior Rabbi of Main Line Reform Temple in Wynnewood, PA. He is a past president of the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis, and served as chair of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council. He is a co-convenor of the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia, and serves on the board and executive committee of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. He is the chair of the National Council of Synagogues which meets with the US Catholic Conference of Bishops, National Council of Churches, and the Evangelical

Community. He has served on the board of Philabundance and the advisory committee of Eldernet of Lower Merion, and the Jewish Community Federation of Philadelphia. He was ordained in 1983 at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, OH, and earned his BA from Northwestern University. He is married to Lynne Breslau, and they are the proud parents of Julia and Max, who are both in graduate school.



The Rev. Dr. David D. Grafton is the newly appointed Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Duncan Black Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary. Dr. Grafton holds the PhD in Islamic Studies, from the Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, University of Birmingham, England, and a Master of Divinity from Luther-Northwestern Theological Seminary. Dr. Grafton's academic interests focus on Christian-Muslim relationships in the Middle East, 19th and 20th Protestant missionary thought on Islam, 19th and 20th century Islamic

social-political thought, as well as the history of the Arab Church. He has provided lectures and seminars on Islam, Middle East Religion and Society, and Christian-Muslim Relations in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, England, and the United States. Dr. Grafton has served ELCA congregations in New Jersey, England, and an international inter-denominational congregation in Cairo, Egypt. He is married to Karla Fackler Grafton and has three children: Andrew, Rebekah and Danielle.

"Crossing Bridges - Interfaith Relationships in a Pluralistic World"

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