

2017 SEPA Bishop's Convocation Schedule
Hotel check in time at 3 pm on Wednesday

Wednesday, November 15

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | Registration with lunch on your own |
| 1:15 pm | Welcome and Opening Devotions |
| 1:45-2:45 | “Meeting People on the Way: Finding Spaces and Places for Sharing the Good News” - Rev. Ruben Duran |
| 2:45 pm | Break |
| 3:00 pm | “Grow, Hold, Fold: Turning around Faith Communities for Grace Filled Gospel Messaging and Welcome” Ms. Beth Lewis |
| 4:00 pm | Q&A with Ms. Lewis and Rev. Duran |
| 4:45 pm | Free time |
| 6:30 pm | Prayer and Dinner <i>After dinner free time</i> |

Thursday, November 16

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 7:30 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 am | Devotions Rev. Duran, preacher |
| 9:30 am-10: 45 | Ms. Lewis |
| 10:45 am | Break with refreshments |
| 11:00-12:15 am | Rev. Duran |
| 12:15 pm | Prayer and Lunch |
| 1:30 pm | Free Time |
| 6:30 pm | Prayer and Dinner |
| 7:30 pm | Conversations with Bishop Burkat |

Friday, November 17

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 7:30 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 am | Relations Stations on the Way |
| 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 the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA

The registration form is a separate sheet.



November 15-17, 2017

Bear Creek Resort and Conference Center
101 Doe Mountain Lane
Macungie, PA 18062
(610) 682-7100

Welcome from Bishop Burkat



After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. Luke 10:1

God's people are always on the move! The word "synod" itself means **on the road together**. We are on a journey of Christian witness with each other. Some of us are eager to see where the road leads; others of us are wary. In the Biblical witness we learn that, more often than not, the people of God were pushed or even shoved onto the road. Most of the time they were frightened and complaining. Yet they went on the journey.

We ministers have been appointed like the seventy to share the Good News, traveling together to every town, city and place where Jesus is sending us. As we prepare for this journey we will have two accomplished guides with us at the 2017 Convocation to equip and cheer us along our appointed paths.

Beth Lewis, President and CEO of 1517 Media, will share how, in the face of rapid changes in religion, lifestyles and technology, we can make the radical shifts necessary to proclaim a grace-filled Gospel using portable resources and practical solutions in reaching generations new to the Christian message.

Ruben Duran, ELCA Director for New Congregational Development, will lead us in an exploration of how Christ goes before us to prepare the way, meets us when we are out and about, and changes us when we least expect it. He will help us equip God's people to be "detectives of divinity" as they are called and sent on the road.

Several of our own SEPA leaders will share "Out and About" ministries already going well, and how to get them started. Something new this year: On Friday we will learn from each other how to set up "**Relation Stations**" along the way. More information will follow shortly.

I look forward to this time apart with rostered leaders for worship, conversation, and renewal. I encourage you to register for the 2017 Convocation. And please invite your colleagues, especially those new to our Synod, to join us at Bear Creek Mountain Resort.

Our Presenters' Biographies



Beth Lewis spent 22 years working for three Fortune 500 publishing companies, Time Warner, McGraw-Hill and Times Mirror. She has served as President and CEO of 1517 Media since 2002. She is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School and holds an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Wartburg Theological Seminary. Beth is a popular keynote speaker and teacher in both Lutheran and ecumenical gatherings on a wide variety of topics to assist church and not-for-profit organization leaders: from turnaround strategies for faith-based organizations to strategic thinking to effective use of technology for congregations. In June 2015, the organization was named one of the Top Workplaces in Minnesota by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. In 2015, she was recognized with the Women in Business Award by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*. Beth is the immediate Past-President of the PCPA (Protestant Church-Owned Publishers Association). She also serves as Secretary and on the Executive Committee for the Luther Seminary Board of Directors. In addition, Beth serves on the Board of Directors for the Thrivent Federal Credit Union. She will retire from her role at 1517 Media when her fourth, 4-year term concludes in August 2018. She is married to the Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.



Rev. Ruben Duran serves as ELCA Director for New Congregations. He is responsible for promoting the development of Synodical mission strategies, local initiatives, and emerging models for the multiplication of new communities of faith in the USA and the Caribbean. He currently oversees 384 new mission congregations reaching people in multiple contexts throughout the country.

Ruben is a native of Lima, Peru, South America. He served parishes in the Seattle, Washington and Los Angeles, California areas prior to becoming Associate to the Bishop and Mission Director for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. He has also served as Associate Director for Latino Outreach, and Executive for Congregational Outreach Services in the ELCA churchwide offices prior to his current position.

Ruben is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California; Trinity Lutheran College in Seattle, Washington; and, the Escuela Nacional de Turismo in Lima, Peru.

Registration Information

Go online to register for the 2017 Bishop's Convocation
Registration must be completed online by **September 25**. For a
discounted rate you must register and mail payment by October 13.

To register please go to:

<https://community.ministrylink.org/convocation2017>

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 9/25 | by 10/13 | Total |
|---|---------|----------|-------|
| A. Registration, only or | \$145 | \$220 | _____ |
| B. Registration, meals and shared room | \$562 | \$637 | _____ |
| C. Registration, meals and single room | \$607 | \$682 | _____ |
| <i>For my non-rostered spouse (registration paid by SEPA Synod)</i> | | | |
| D. Meals and shared room | \$437 | \$437 | _____ |
| 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 September 25.*

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

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