

July 18, 2017

**TO:** Iowa District West Pastors and Professional Church Workers  
**FROM:** Pastoral Conference Committee – Dennis Martens, Secretary/Treasurer  
**RE:** Iowa District West Pastoral Conference, September 25-26, 2017

---

**The next Iowa District West Pastoral Conference will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 8301 Aurora Avenue, Urbandale on September 25-26, 2017.** Our conference presenter will be Dr. Mark Rockenbach on the topic, “**Full of God’s Grace and Mercy.**” See schedule and biography. Also, please make a special note to take a look at Tuesday’s agenda. We will be serving lunch and reconvening from 1-2:45pm for a discussion led by Pres. Turner on a proposed revision of the District *Handbook* and realignment of circuits.

**There is only one congregational fee of \$40 for this Conference** which is paid by each parish. For example, a congregation having three professional church workers attending would pay a flat \$40 congregational charge, which includes meals for the church workers. There is no fee for spouses of workers to attend the sessions, or for pastors who are retired. Meal costs for spouses/children are extra, and can be found on the registration form. **Multi-point parishes, including those identified by the Synod (formerly permanent vacancies served by another congregation), will be treated as one parish for the \$40 fee. Congregations are requested to provide for the expenses of the conference for the pastor and wife and the Emeriti pastor under contract and wife.** We would like to thank IDW and acknowledge that the professional church worker fee for this conference is being financially offset through the District’s Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company Group Partnership Program.

**Housing arrangements are to be made directly with the motel/hotel by each participant.** Conference lodging has been arranged at Sleep Inn, 11211 Hickman Road, Urbandale, IA, Phone: (515) 270-2424. Sixty-five rooms have been reserved for the conference. The cost is \$85 per night plus taxes, which includes a hot breakfast. (For more info go to: <https://www.choicehotels.com/iowa/urbandale/sleep-inn-hotels/ia405?source=gyxt>.) Room rates are **only guaranteed until August 25.** Please call Sleep Inn as soon as possible to make your arrangements. See the link on the agenda for a map from the hotel to the conference. **Note:** Gloria Dei will *not* provide breakfast Tuesday morning.

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church** is located *south* of I-80/35 (exit 129) at the intersection of Aurora and 86th Street (east side of the street). **Sleep Inn** is located by Living History Farms off I-35/80 and Hickman Road (exit 125). Go east on Hickman Road, turn north on 111<sup>th</sup> Street, then turn left in front of The Machine Shed Restaurant, and follow road around to Sleep Inn which is positioned off I35/80 west of The Machine Shed Restaurant.

Talk with your elders/leaders about attending this required IDW conference. The registration form will hopefully answer all questions about registration matters. As always, we can use your help in planning for food/child care accommodations at Gloria Dei by filling out and emailing your registration information to [dmartensfaith@yahoo.com](mailto:dmartensfaith@yahoo.com) by **September 15.** You may also call me at 712-786-2225.

We thank our congregations for their support and encouragement of the continued growth of our pastors and professional church workers.

Pastor Dennis Martens, Secretary/Treasurer

**Link to restaurants in the Urbandale area:**  
[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g38474-Urbandale\\_Iowa.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g38474-Urbandale_Iowa.html)