

August 2, 2018

**TO:** Iowa District West Pastors and Professional Church Workers  
**FROM:** Pastoral Conference Committee – Dennis Martens, Secretary/Treasurer  
**RE:** Iowa District West Pastoral Conference, September 24-25, 2018

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**The next Iowa District West Pastoral Conference will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 8301 Aurora Avenue, Urbandale on September 24-25, 2018.** Our conference presenter will be Ted Kober on the topic, *“Built on the Rock: The Healthy Congregation.”* See schedule and biography.

**There is only one congregational fee of \$60 for this Conference** which is paid by each parish. For example, a congregation having three professional church workers attending would pay a flat \$60 congregational charge, which includes the church workers’ meals. This fee also includes the cost of instructional materials and Ted Kober’s book, “Built on the Rock” which your circuit visitor will make available to you to read before the fall conference. Your circuit visitor will also give you the book “Sexual Morality in A Christless World” by Rev. Matthew Rueger which we will use in our 2019 Spring Conference. 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 \$60 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 district dividend receipts from our association with Brotherhood Mutual.

**Housing arrangements are to be made directly with the motel/hotel by each participant.**

Participants will need to make those arrangements **ASAP** to ensure that a room is reserved for them. Conference lodging has been arranged at **Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel**, 1800 50<sup>th</sup> Street, West Des Moines, IA, Phone: **(800) 325-3535**. 60 rooms have been reserved for the conference. The cost is \$99 per night plus taxes, which includes a hot breakfast. (To make a reservation go to: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/IDW>). Please note that room rates are **only guaranteed until September 7**. Please call Sheraton Hotel as soon as possible to make your arrangements. See the link on the agenda for a map from hotel to the conference. **Note:** Gloria Dei will **not** be providing 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). Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel is just off the I-35 & University Avenue Exit heading east on University Ave to 1800 50th Street (SW corner in West Des Moines).

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 515-386-3517.

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:**

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g38474-Urbandale\\_Iowa.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g38474-Urbandale_Iowa.html)