

# District Board Begins June 2018 Convention Plans

Meeting in Orlando in early November, members of the Florida-Georgia Board of Directors reviewed current mission activities and began planning for the 2018 District convention.

"It was great to have so many of you at the President's Equip Conference and I am very grateful to all who participated and how it all turned out," District



## BOARD ROOM

by John List  
District Communications Director

President Greg Walton told the Board "Now we set our sights on the next project: the District Convention"

In anticipation of that June 2018 event, District Secretary Jay Winters guided Board members

*healthy Christ-centered living and life-long learners committed to equipping and empowering others to join in fulfilling the Church's role in God's mission.*

through the process, especially with the Charter and Bylaws.

A review of District missions and activities centered on Florida-Georgia's two critical targets — Leadership and Outreach.

### LEADERSHIP:

*District and congregational leaders are loving, visionary people of the Word, models of*

▲ **President's Equip Conference:** One of the results of this successful conference for professional and lay leaders is a leadership summit for laity beginning next August. Professional church worker events are already well established.

▲ **Grace Place Wellness:** From October 16-20 President Walton served as chaplain for the first Grace Place Wellness Retreat in the District. Led by Dr. Darrell Zimmerman, it was held in Sarasota with nine clergy couples participating. "It was a wonderful week for me to have with these couples as God worked in our midst," Walton said. A second retreat is being planned for early 2018 to focus on those recovering from Hurricane Irma.

▲ **District President Administrative Assistants:** Hurricane Irma forced the rescheduling of the annual DPAA conference from September to December of

this year. Florida-Georgia is hosting the event, which will bring 34 Assistants from throughout the Synod to Orlando.

▲ **Adult Youth Leader Training:** The District Youth Ministry Council, under the leadership of Jeremy Becker, DCE, St. Paul/Weston, FL, has committed to providing training for lay adult leaders in Youth Ministry at all District youth events. Breakouts for adult leaders are included in the programming for both the Middle and the High School Gatherings.

▲ **Emergent Leaders 2018:** Eleven participants have registered for the next session of Emergent Leaders, set for first quarter 2018. A number of District Board members have participated in the process.

▲ **Veterans of the Cross:** March 5-7, 2018, are the dates for the next Veterans of the Cross Retreat, once again to be held at the

Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park, FL. The theme is "Risk Takers in Re-Formation" with Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer and Rev. Dr. Robert Scudieri presenting.

▲ **Lay Leader Summit:** A summit to help equip and encourage lay leaders in partnering in their local ministry for the sake of Jesus is tentatively set for August 23-25. Planning is in the very early stages.

▲ **District Pastors Conference:** Planning has begun for the Florida-Georgia Pastors Conference, September 24-26, 2018, at the Hilton Daytona Beach prior to the Educators Conference, set for September 26-28, 2018, at the same venue.

### OUTREACH:

*Living out their faith in Jesus with urgency and joy, the people of the Florida-Georgia District eagerly invest, both individually and corporately, in bold and*

*intentional service and witness to make known the love of Christ to all people.*

▲ **Mission Advisory Board:** The MAC is going through some transition as the District continues with the vacancy in the Executive Director of Missions role after Rev. Doug Kallesen returned to parish ministry. Four emerging missions are in the works: Lake Wood Ranch adjoining Sarasota and Bradenton, FL; The Pelican in Naples, FL; Port St. Lucie Cornerstone Mission, a daughter of Redeemer/Stuart, FL; and Missionary at Large Hispanic Atlanta.

▲ **Outreach Initiative:** The Outreach Initiative with Lutheran Hour Ministries is being reshaped and will primarily provide resources on the web through a portal. The new director is Rev. Tony Cook, who said he would like Florida-Georgia to serve in the beta testing section of this new format and

material. This will likely roll out the first quarter of 2018.

▲ **Five Two Miami:** The District will begin specific work in the Miami area with Oscar Benavides, who has joined the staff of Five Two. The goal is to see how the District can revitalize and begin new ministries in this urban context.

▲ **Revitalization:** The District is working with the congregation in Tifton, GA, to see if revitalization is possible. Rev. Doug Hudson of Trinity/Albany, GA, is working a few days a week with the people in Tifton.

▲ **2018 District Servant Event:** Jeremiah Bauer, DCE, St. Paul/Boca Raton, FL, is spearheading the planning for the District High School Servant Event that will engage youth in the ongoing recovery work in SW Florida or the Florida Keys.

▲ **2018 High School Youth Gathering:** Joe Guagliardo, recently retired Youth Director at Faith/Merritt Island, FL, is leading the planning team for the February 2-4 event at Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach.

▲ **2019 LCMS Youth Gathering:** Youth and adult leaders will gather July 11-15 in Minneapolis, MN, under the theme "Real. Present God." Each District appoints a coordinator who attends an orientation and training session early in 2018 to prepare them to provide timely information, help coordinate potential District events and generally be the "go to" person for Gathering information. Joe Guagliardo will be serving that role for Florida-Georgia. ■

*The next District Board meeting is set for January 19-20, 2018 in Orlando*

## Hurricane Irma Recovery Continues

Florida-Georgia congregations continue to recover from the damaging September visit of Hurricane Irma, which came ashore at Marco Island, FL, continued up the west coast of the state and into Georgia before exiting just south and west of Atlanta.

"Due to the size of Irma, there was no part of the Florida-Georgia District that was left untouched," reported John Elliott, District Business Manager and Disaster Relief Coordinator.

Some storm stats:

-48 congregations reported damage, mostly in Florida.

-Two congregations sustain sizeable damages: Grace/Key West and Marco Lutheran/Marco Island.

-Donations for disaster assistance through October 24, 2017: \$99,166.25.

-Two congregations have received \$35,200 thus far from LCMS disaster relief.

A 2018 District High School Servant Event is being planned that will engage youth in the ongoing recovery work in SW Florida or the Florida Keys. ■



*Worship at Marco Lutheran is being held in the Great Room because of Irma damage to the sanctuary. The cross fell onto the roof damaging the sanctuary ceiling, letting water into the building and ruining newly laid carpet. Tiles by the altar have cracked as the floor has started to buckle due to the damp floor.*

## LCMS Recognized for Service to Military Personnel

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod has been recognized by the United States Department of Defense for its support of employees who also serve in the military.

At an awards banquet in late summer, Kathy Milner of LCMS Human Resources received the "Above and Beyond" award on behalf of the Synod. It was presented by the Missouri division of the DoD's Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program.

The Synod was nominated for the award by LCMS Director of

Security Joel Rivers. Asked why he nominated the Synod, Rivers said, "As I approach the end of my Navy career I thought it was appropriate to nominate the LCMS because in my 18 years working here the LCMS has been very supportive and accommodating of everything I've had to do for the Navy — from my once-a-month drills to the two weeks of annual training to my two deployments. This was just a small way for me to show my gratitude for this support over the years." ■



*Kathy Milner, LCMS Department of Human Resources, and Joel Rivers, director of LCMS Security, hold the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve award given to the LCMS by the U.S. Department of Defense.*