

Building Beloved Community: Strengthening Our Souls for Leadership

Your Synod Assembly Offering 2019

This year's synod assembly offering will be used to support the **Bishop's Discretionary Fund**.

Why Your Offering Matters:

This year, we are asking you to donate to the **Bishop's Discretionary Fund**. This is a restricted fund which is intended to give the bishop complete discretion and authority to provide confidential financial support to people in need. In our synod these monies have often been used to assist rostered leaders in times of crisis, such as was done recently to provide emergency funds for travel surrounding the unexpected death of a family member. They are also used for expenses related to the exercise of ministry not otherwise provided in the synod's budget.

Much like a Pastor's Discretionary Fund in a congregation are disbursed by the pastor, the Bishop's Discretionary Funds are disbursed at the direction of the Bishop who is the chief pastor of the congregations, rostered leaders and institutions of the synod. In the congregation, sources for discretionary funds vary. Some set aside days when loose offerings are designated for the fund. Often clergy deposit monies received from baptisms, weddings and funerals to the fund. As the Bishop does not have these sources for the fund, at times we seek a special offering at an event to replenish the fund. We are at such a time as the Fund has less than a \$500 balance.

A gift to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund is a gift to the Synod and not a gift to the Bishop. The Bishop is to be considered to be in a position very similar to that of a trustee, managing funds which belong to the synod. This offering will help support our rostered ministers through rough patches so that they can continue to lead their congregations in healthy ways.

This is one way to be church together caring for siblings in Christ.

Offerings can be made in the following ways:

- At Synod Assembly
- Online through event registration site: <https://bit.ly/SCSWAssembly2019>
- Mailed to the synod office with "Assembly Offering" in the memo: South-Central Synod of Wisconsin/ 6401 Odana Road/Suite 20/Madison, WI 53719
- Text **GIVE** to: (608) 571-1576
or give here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/387616

Thank you for prayerfully considering an offering for this important ministry!



**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Synod Assembly 2019 KEYNOTE

“Building Beloved Community: Strengthening Our Souls for Leadership”

About the Speaker



Dr. Ruth Haley Barton

Ruth Haley Barton (Doctor of Divinity, Northern Theological Seminary) is founder of the Transforming Center (www.transformingcenter.org), a ministry dedicated to strengthening the souls of clergy, Christian leaders and the congregations and organizations they serve. A sought-after speaker, retreat leader and trained spiritual director (Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation), she is the author of numerous books and resources on the spiritual life including:

- *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry*
- *Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups*
- *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*
- *Life Together in Christ: Experiencing Transformation in Community*
- *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence*
- *Invitation to Retreat: The Gift and Necessity of Time Away with God*

Dr. Barton has been a student, a practitioner, a teacher and a leader in the area of Christian spirituality and spiritual formation for over twenty years. She has served on the pastoral staff of several churches, has taught at the graduate level and travels widely, teaching and consulting with churches in the areas of spiritual formation, leadership discernment and transforming community.

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