

THE GREAT GATHERING



*..and they were ALL together in one place...
Acts 2:1*

AFRICAN DESCENT LUTHERAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



*The African Descent Lutheran Association's (ADLA)
15th Biennial Assembly*

*The Association of Lutheran Liberians in the
Americas (ALLIA) National Annual Convention*

Baltimore, Maryland (Inner Harbor)

Hosts: ADLA Baltimore-Chapter, ALLIA, & Delaware-Maryland Synod

Host congregations: Christ Lutheran Church & People's Community Lutheran Church

Thursday, July 30 - Sunday, August 2, 2015



Greetings Beloved Sisters and Brothers!

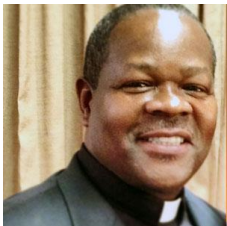
We can hardly believe it ourselves, but two years have passed since our last Assemblies and we are excited for the **Great Gathering**.

Our community

This year's joint Assembly is calling all persons of African Descent within the ELCA, to join us in Baltimore, Maryland this **July 30 - August 2nd** for some worship, celebrating, remembering, fellowship and planning of our collective future.

This means **YOU**.

Looking forward to all of us being together in one place - to God be the glory!



Yours in Christ,

Reverend L.B. Tatum

Reverend L.B. Tatum
African Descent Lutheran Association
National President



Yours in Christ,

Reverend Moses Dennis-Suah

Reverend Moses Suah-Dennis
Association of Liberian Lutherans in America
President





Why Now? *“This 21st Century will be the century in which the world will be called upon to atone with reparatory justice for the crimes against Africans and their descendants. These legacies continue to cripple, and squeeze the air from their lungs!*

It took all of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries to establish and globalize these crimes of enchainment and enslavement.

It took all of the 19th century, from Toussaint’s Haiti in the 1790s to Lincoln’s USA in the 1860, to Brazil and Cuba in the 1880s, to uproot chattel slavery from the modern world.

It then took all of the 20th century for African descendants to convert their legal freedom into citizenship and institutional leadership - gains continually threatened by forced rooted in slavery’s enduring legacies. Now, if it will take all of the 21st century to achieve reparatory justice, we shall not retreat but will mobilize this decade and begin again to move speedily along the journey to reparatory justice.

Our finest and treasured values - peace, justice, respect, and reconciliation require that we attain reparatory justice. It will be the basis, the only sustainable foundation upon which 21st century humanity will rebuild this world with peace and prosperity for all.”

Excerpt from Feature Address delivered by Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles - The University of the West Indies at the United Nations for the inaugural International Decade for People of African Descent. [Complete speech.](#)



The Great Gathering
Acts 2:1

GATHERING SCHEDULE

Thursday July 30, 2015

11 am - 5 pm
5 pm
6 pm



Registration/**FREE TIME!**
Leave for Worship at Christ Lutheran
Opening Worship at Christ Lutheran

Friday July 31, 2015

8:30 am
9 am - 1pm

1 pm - 2 pm
2:15-3:30 pm
3:45-5:00 pm
5:30 pm



Transportation to Christ Lutheran
Plenary Session #1
- Business Meetings
Lunch - On Your Own
Unity Workshops Session A / Young Adult Track
Unity Workshops Session B / Young Adult Track
Dinner - On Your Own

Saturday August 1, 2015

8:30 am
9 am - 1pm

1 pm - 1:45pm
2:00-3:00 pm
3:15-4:15 pm
4:15-7 pm
7 pm-10 pm



Transportation to Christ Lutheran
Plenary Session #2
- Business Meetings
Boxed Lunch at Christ Lutheran
Unity Workshops Session C / Young Adult Track
Unity Workshops Session D / Young Adult Track
FREE TIME!
Banquet - Marriott Inner Harbor (Semi-formal)

Sunday August 2, 2015

10:00 am

11:00 am
3:00 pm



Transportation to People's Community Lutheran
Church (Concierge will hold luggage)
Closing Worship at People's
Gathering Closed



The Great Gathering
Acts 2:1

UNITY WORKSHOPS

Friday July 31, 2015 - Sessions A & B

Criminal Justice and the Social Statement

Times: 2:15-3:30; 3:45-5:00



Presenter: Judith Roberts

- Exploring, implementing and executing a Justice Agenda
- Mass incarceration of African American males
- What happens after prison?
- A proposed action plan could be working within our congregations in partnership with Univ. of MD law school to work with ex-offenders in getting their records expunged
- Other social justice legislation
- Examination of the ELCA Social Statement

First Responders: Violence in the Cities

Times: 2:15-3:30; 3:45-5:00



Presenter: Reverend L.B. Tatum

- Understanding and supporting community responses to urban violence
- Cities as sites of multiple forms of violence
- Community capacities for violence prevention
- Social interventions and the role of congregation

Affirming Oneness of People of African Descent

Times: 2:15- 3:30; 3:45-5:00



Presenters: Dr. Joseph Bocko; Bishop Cal Halloway

- Affirm our ONENESS as people of African Descent; gain greater clarity of issues that hinder our Oneness and ways to overcome them for the “greater good”
- Submit recommendations on the design, implementation and enforcement of effective measures to eliminate racial profiling of people of African Descent
- Improving the human rights situation of people of African Descent by devoting special attention to their needs through, inter alia, the preparation of specific programs of action in the ELCA
- Communication procedures and mechanisms to accept and utilize the gifts of all people of African Descent in the church



UNITY WORKSHOPS

Friday July 31, 2015 - Sessions A & B

Faith Based Development

Times: 2:15-3:30; 3:45-5:00



Presenters: David Bowers and Deborah Stevenson

Enterprise Community Partners is a leading provider of the development capital and expertise it takes to create decent, affordable homes and rebuild communities. For more than two decades, Enterprise has pioneered neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and others that share their vision. The Faith-Based Development Initiative (FBDI) operated by the Enterprise Community Partners in Washington, DC, acts as a trusted partner that can introduce house of worship staff to members of the faith community who have walked the affordable housing development path. Every step along the way, the initiative provides critical advice and training, plus technical and financial resources that are tailored to the faith-based community.

Diversity Dynamics within the African Descent Community

Times: 2:15-3:30; 3:45-5:00



Presenter: Dr. Joseph Donnella

- Internalized Oppression
- Sexism
- Classism
- Cross cultural bias

Introduction to “Welcome to Coaching”

Times: 2:15-3:30; 3:45 – 5:00



Presenter: Rev. Lester Newberry-White

- Coaching as an invaluable ministry of the church.
- Purpose of coaches
- The certification process
- Opportunities available



UNITY WORKSHOPS

Saturday August 1, 2015 - Sessions C & D

Talking with the Presiding Bishop

Time: 2:00-3:00

Presenter: Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



- Hear directly from ELCA'S presiding bishop on church's commitments to our communities
- Vision for implementation of the National Strategy

Youth Report

Time: 3:15-5:00

Presenters: TBD



July 15-19, 2015 in Detroit the **ELCA Youth Gathering** for high school-age **youth** takes place every three years and is about faith formation, worship, study and fellowship.

- There will be a Youth Track at the biennial with special programming for youth
- Youth attending the Detroit Gathering and/or the biennial youth track will report and develop an action plan for involvement in ADLA's program of action

Blacks in the Bible

Time: 2:00-3:15; 3:15-4:15

Presenter: Dr. Emmanuel Grantson



Rebuilding and Strengthening the African Descent Congregations and Leaders

Time: 2:00-3:00; 3:15-4:15

Moderator: Dr. Everett Flanigan

Panelists: Dr. Everett Flanigan, Yolanda Tanner, Amsalu Gelatta and Diane Haywood



- Leadership Development
- Ministry Development
- Youth and Young Adults
- Strengthening Congregational Partnership



UNITY WORKSHOPS

Saturday August 1, 2015 - Sessions C & D

Health Issues in the African Descent Community

Time: 2:00-3:00; 3:15-4:15

Presenters: Patrice Henry (John Hopkins); Gail Smith (LWR); Dr. Ulysses Burley

- Leading causes of health issues in African descent communities
- Addressing HIV/Aids, Ebola and other diseases affecting our community
- Education, training, testing and advocacy issues



Hunger and Poverty

Time: 2:00-3:00; 3:15-4:15

Presenter: Josselyn Bennett

- Root causes of hunger and poverty
- Advocacy Network
- Alleviating hunger and poverty in our community
- Programs and projects of the ELCA



BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Rev. Dr. James Thomas is presently serving as the Associate Professor of Church and Ministry and the Director of African American Ministries at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC.

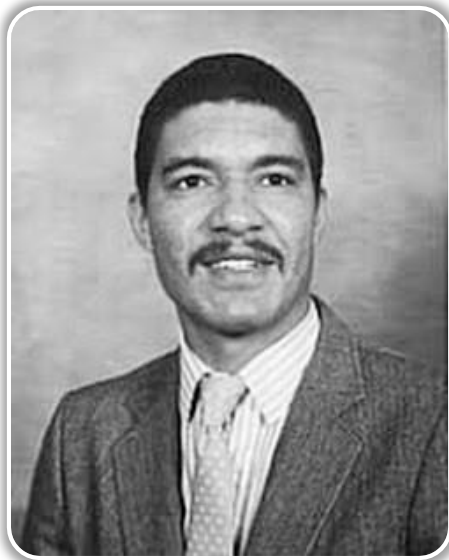
Thomas is a lifetime member of the Council of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) as well as a member and former National President of what is now ADLA. Thomas came to the seminary after serving 13 years as pastor at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx, New York. He has also served as Assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod from 1988 to 1995.

Thomas has served as an adjunct professor at Luther Seminary and Augsburg College in Minneapolis and New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. Pastor Thomas has also taught in the Lutheran Program at General Seminary in New York City. He was Reserve Air Force Chaplain for 28 years, leaving service having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Thomas received his Master of Divinity Degree from Christ Seminary-Seminex in St. Louis, a Master of Sacred Theology from Union Theological Seminary, New York, and he received the Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He also holds masters degrees from the City University of New York and the Bank Street College of Education, both in New York. He earned an undergraduate degree from Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska.



We will always REMEMBER....



LOGISTICS

Host Congregation/Assembly Gathering Site

Christ Lutheran Church

701 S Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

<http://www.christinnerharbor.org/>

Sunday Host Worshipping Congregation

Peoples' Community Lutheran Church

6200 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21239

<http://goo.gl/iFaatC>

You do NOT need a Facebook account to view!

Hotel Discounted Room Nights

Fairfield Inn & Suites Baltimore Downtown/Inner Harbor

101 S. President Street Baltimore MD 21202

- Free High Speed Internet
- Free breakfast
- Fitness Center
- 159.00 USD/night

<http://goo.gl/PWRwGF>



Please utilize the shortened URLs for the various pages.

REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIPS

On-line Registrations

Biennial Assembly Registration Webpage

<http://goo.gl/kil56M>

<http://goo.gl/NH6uw9>



BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO

- ▶ "Help me and let me help you"
- ▶ symbol of cooperation and interdependence



AKOMA NTOSO

- ▶ "Linked hearts"
- ▶ symbol of understanding and agreement



GYE NYAME

- ▶ "Except for God"
- ▶ Supremacy of God



FUNTUNFUNEFU DENKYEMFUNEFU

- ▶ "Siamese crocodiles"
- ▶ symbol of democracy, unity in diversity



EPA

- ▶ "Handcuffs"
- ▶ symbol of law, justice, slavery



NKONSONKONSON

- ▶ "Chain links"
- ▶ symbol of unity, human relations



NYAME NTI

- ▶ "By God's grace"
- ▶ symbol of faith and trust in God



SESA WORUBAN

- ▶ "I change or transform my life"
- ▶ symbol of transformation



SANKOFA

- ▶ "Return and get it"
- ▶ symbol of learning from the past



West African Adinkra Symbols & Meanings

