

### Assembly Speakers and Highlights



Diana Butler Bass

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Diana Butler Bass will serve as this year's keynote. A nationally renowned author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture, she holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the author of seven books, including *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story*, published in 2009. Her best-selling *Christianity for the Rest of Us* (2006) was named as one of the best religion books of the year by *Publishers Weekly* and *Christian Century*.



Horacio Castillo

#### Padre Horacio Castillo

Padre Horacio Castillo joins us throughout the assembly to strengthen the bonds of our companion relationship with the Agustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG). Castillo was last with us in 2007, when Amanda Olson de Castillo was ordained and installed as a missionary to ILAG from the Saint Paul Area Synod. Since then, the relationship has deepened and additional congregations have become involved in the partnership.



David Swartling

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David Swartling, secretary of the ELCA, will serve as the churchwide representative. Elected secretary in 2007, he has been a litigation attorney since 1976 and served in the U.S. Navy from 1969-1973. As a member of Bethany Lutheran, Bainbridge Island, Wash., he served the church in a variety of capacities prior to his election as secretary.

#### Book of Faith: Drawing from the Word

For the last two years at our synod assembly, prompted by the ELCA's Book of Faith initiative, we have invited a variety of people to share "Dwelling in the Word" moments—brief reflections on how their own faith journey has unfolded and been shaped by their encounter with Scripture. This year we have asked four of our pastors to assume a bit of a teaching role and to reflect on the theme passage from Acts 1:8: *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* Our homes—Jerusalem—and our world—the ends of the earth—are different places now. How might we best understand what Jesus sent the disciples to undertake, and how might we best sense what we are being called to do in our world today and in the years unfolding?

#### Congregational Videos

At the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, congregations across the ELCA submitted 90-second videos addressing the ELCA tag line "God's work. Our hands." The response was overwhelming, and the videos spoke to the range of congregational ministry being done in this church. Congregations were invited to submit videos for this year's synod assembly around that same theme and will be sprinkled throughout the agenda.

#### Health and Wellness

In keeping with the ELCA Board of Pensions focus on health and wellness, look for ELCA parish nurses in the Community Room, where they will perform blood pressure checks and provide other information on health issues. During Friday lunch, take advantage of a walk around the Prince of Peace campus or take part in Wii sports, just outside the Community Room.