

2024 ACC Annual Assembly

Living  the Change

March 15-16

ACC Pastors & Administrators,

ACC's Annual Assembly is coming up and we'd like your help promoting this annual gathering and celebration of our shared community. We're trying some new things this year to make our gatherings more inclusive, more accessible, and more enjoyable.

Our hope is that these gatherings appeal to a variety of folks from our congregations – not just delegates. The topic of “Living the Change” will be especially relevant to leadership teams and staff members who are on the front lines of navigating the changes and complexities of church life.

Friday evening gatherings

We're excited to have Meghan Good share our keynote address on the opportunity of the Anabaptist church in this moment. She will help us navigate our calling as congregations in unsteady times and challenge us toward authentic faith together. We're also excited about a new format for this session: watch-parties hosted in individuals' homes. We're looking for 5-6 hosts to welcome 5-10 people each in their homes. We have a host guide to share but need your help identifying those in your congregation who just love to provide hospitality. Any leads here are much appreciated!

Saturday Session 1: delegate session

The delegate body is the main governing body of Atlantic Coast Conference. Annual delegate sessions are an opportunity for delegates to learn about conference, participate in its direction, and to hold it accountable. This year we plan to lean into the learning aspect to give delegates a better idea of how the conference operates and what its purpose is. We invite your help in nominating delegates who care deeply about the broader church.

Congregations designate delegates differently, but anytime there can be consistency in the role over multiple years, it really helps the connection between conference and the congregation. If you have questions about who can be a delegate, visit our Assembly webpage at atlanticcoastconference.net/news-events/2023-assembly/

Saturday Session 2: honoring our stories

River Crossing Playback Theatre is an improv ensemble skilled at facilitating group storytelling. They will invite us as the audience to contribute our stories of change – both its joys and its difficulties – and will help us learn from each other's experiences in a way that honors both our differences and our common ground. We invite you to bring your stories to this time. Storytelling will be followed by a facilitated opportunity to share and support each other in what's working and what's challenging in our congregations as we walk in these new times together.

Saturday kids program

We will also offer both childcare (0-5) and a kids program (K-5) on Saturday at Ridgeview. We want young people and their parents to join in our times of gathering and are excited about the program that's coming together for kids. Please encourage your young families to join us!

Communication

Over the next few weeks, keep an eye out for invitations that you can pass along to your congregation. We'll send these by email in our weekly announcements column. We invite you to share these announcements electronically, in your bulletins, and during Sunday morning announcement times. If there are any specific ways we can help you spread the word, please let us know!

For now, here are three things you can do to help us promote Assembly:

1. **Nominate congregational delegates who may not have served in this role before.**
We're always looking for ways to connect with new faces from member congregations. We expect the sessions will be both informative and feel worthwhile to attendees.
2. **Share the plan for our kids program with families from your congregation** who may be interested in the weekend's content. We hope the kids program will be a draw rather than the lack of childcare being a barrier to participation.
3. **Follow ACC on Facebook and Instagram and share our social media invitations** over the next six weeks. We plan to highlight different parts of our planned time together and need your help to spread the word.

Thanks to each of you for your role in your congregations and in the life of Atlantic Coast Conference. We appreciate you and are excited to see you in March!

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