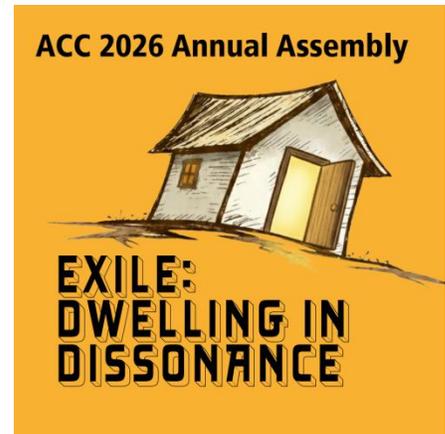


Hospitality guide for Friday night dispersed gatherings

March 20, 2026, 7:00 – 8:30pm

Friday night dispersed Assembly gatherings invite congregations and small groups to participate in the ACC Assembly weekend together in their own spaces. Host a watch party for the Friday virtual session, then discuss using provided questions — a simple way to engage your congregation with the weekend's theme, provide a touchpoint with the conference, and welcome other ACC members in your community to join you. Please let Brook in the conference office know if you plan to host a gathering.



Hosts should consider providing:

- Dessert or snacks to enjoy during or after the session
- Bathroom access during the gathering
- Projection of a Zoom webinar
- Someone designated to lead a conversation on the theme using provided discussion questions

Things ACC will provide to hosts:

- Discussion questions for the gathering
- Webinar link to each assembly registrant
- If needed, recipes for ACC staff members' favorite desserts

Tentative schedule for Friday evening, March 20:

6:45-7:00 pm	Zoom space open for informal greetings
7:00 – 7:35	Welcome & keynote address from Michael Taylor
7:35 – 8:30	Small group discussion using provided questions
8:30	Dessert or ending, if dessert is provided earlier during the keynote

Sample Congregational Announcement

March 20, 7:00 – 8:30pm

Join {congregation} for a watch party of Atlantic Coast Conference's 2026 Assembly opening session, featuring a keynote address by Matthew D. Taylor on the weekend's theme, Exile: Dwelling in Dissonance. Taylor is an author, theologian, and religious studies scholar specializing in Christian Nationalism who will be exploring the tension between our cultural moment and our calling as Christian peacemakers. Gathering in {location}. Discussion and dessert to follow. Please RSVP to {who}.

Friday Keynote Speaker

Matthew D. Taylor is a visiting scholar at the Center on Faith and Justice at Georgetown University. He is the author of *Scripture People*, *The Violent Take It by Force*, and the forthcoming book *Defying Tyrants*, which will be published in October. His work has appeared or been featured in the *New York Times*, *Weekend Edition*, *On the Media*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Bulwark*, *Politico*, *Sojourners*, and *Religion News Service*. A theologian and religious studies scholar who specializes in American Islam, Christian nationalism, and Christian extremism, he is also the creator of two limited podcast series—*American Unexceptionalism* and *Charismatic Revival Fury*. Taylor holds a PhD from Georgetown University and an MA from Fuller Theological Seminary.



Weekend theme

This year's theme is Exile. As Jesus' followers, we often find ourselves at odds with the world around us. Lives of love, peacemaking, and justice—or our understanding of how these look—can run counter to the values of others, including other people of faith. Like the people of the biblical story, we may find ourselves feeling like exiles in our own families or neighborhoods. We are also aware that others experience exile because of their culture, sexuality, or life circumstances.

During Lent, our theme is “dwelling in dissonance.” Part of this dissonance comes from our sense of place in the world and our identification with other exiles. During our ACC Assembly, we will wrestle with this theme together through focused conversations on Christian nationalism and loving our LGBTQIA+ and immigrant communities.

Thanks for considering hosting a gathering during ACC's upcoming Assembly weekend! Let us know if you have any questions before or after signing up to fill this need. Email brookm@atlanticcoastconference.net or text/call 610-463-6225.