

Theological Conference Schedule

Regional Gatherings - Albuquerque, Cheyenne, Colorado Springs, and Salt Lake City
Monday, September 18 - Thursday, September 21, 2023



“God’s Refracted Love Story for the World”

As leaders in the Rocky Mountain Synod, we find ourselves at a crossroads: What does it mean to be the church? What is the future of our ministries? What is the future of our synod?

How do we manage the full spectrum of ministry, remain healthy leaders, and continue to be inspired to tell God’s love story?

This year’s Theological Conference will explore these questions and more.

Art: “Prismatic” an installation by Melissa Borrell

Monday 9/18

3:00 p.m.

Hotel check-in begins – shuttle transportation available by request
Homewood Suites, 222 Central Ave. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
(2.1 miles/7 minutes from SPLC)

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 1415 Stillwater Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82009
(1.6 miles/5 minutes from ALC)

Home2Suites, 3090 N. Nevada, Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(1.7 miles/5 minutes from FLC)

Home2Suites, 2350 S. Foothill Dr., Salt Lake City, UT. 84109
(2.2 miles/7 minutes from ZLC)

4:00 p.m.

Church check-in and Welcome Reception

St. Paul L.C., 1100 Indian School Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Ascension L.C., 712 Storey Blvd., Cheyenne, WY. 82009

First L.C., 1515 N. Cascade Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Zion L.C., 1070 Foothill Dr., Salt Lake City, UT. 84108

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Dinner

6:00 p.m.

Welcome Bishop Jim/Partner Presentations – hybrid

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Opening Worship

After-hours

Informal gatherings at the hotels (beverages & snacks provided)

Tuesday 9/19

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Breakfast-on-own – limited breakfasts are provided by the hotels

Keynote -- Rev. Dr. Linda Thomas “Public Church and Theological Intersectionality” - zoom

10:00-10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m.

Bishop’s Election Committee “Who Are We?”

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:15-2:45 p.m.

Boundary Training – Excellence in Leadership

2:45-3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00-4:30 p.m. Boundary Training – Excellence in Leadership
4:30 p.m. Free-time/Dinner-on-own

Wednesday 9/20

Breakfast-on-own
9:00-10:00 a.m. Keynote -- Rev. Dr. Linda Thomas “Public Church and Theological Intersectionality” - zoom
10:00-10:15 a.m. Break
10:15-11:15 a.m. Keynote – Rev. Dr. Linda Thomas “Public Church and Theological Intersectionality” – zoom
11:15 a.m. Bishop’s Election Committee “Who/What is our Future?”
12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch
1:15-2:45 p.m. Boundary Training – Excellence in Leadership
2:45-3:00 p.m. Break
3:00-4:30 p.m. Boundary Training – Excellence in Leadership
4:30 p.m. MIF Reception
5:00 p.m. Dinner

Thursday 9/21

Breakfast-on-own
9:00-10:00 a.m. Keynote -- Rev. Dr. Linda Thomas “Public Church and Theological Intersectionality” - zoom
10:00-10:15 a.m. Break
10:15-11:30 a.m. Closing Worship

Dr. Linda E. Thomas is full professor of theology and anthropology and director, Albert “Pete” Pero, Jr. and Cheryl Stewart Pero Center for Intersectionality Studies. She studies, researches, writes, speaks, and teaches about the intersection and mutual influence of theology and culture from a womanist perspective.

Dr. Thomas has taught in the fields of theological anthropology, cultural studies, and ethics. She is particularly focused on the experience of African-American women, and is passionate about uncovering and exploring historical and contemporary experiences and ideologies that govern actions, policies, and norms surrounding race, class, and gender. She always incorporates multiple teaching and learning methods in the classroom; in addition to traditional sources, she regularly uses literature, music, and film to provide variety and relevance for her students.



Dr. Thomas's interdisciplinary focus of theology and anthropology unites critical sociological-anthropological observations with a concern for the church and its future ministers as the church relates to the wider society.

She was one of the principal leaders behind LSTCs "Public Church Curriculum" (launched 2014), which explicitly seeks to unite the academic study of theology for the church with service/justice work in the world. LSTC has recently been nationally recognized for this innovative curriculum, and she uses the dialogical method of teaching in her classes as part of her commitment to a "public church."

Her professional academic experience began as Dean of Students at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C., where she also taught courses in spiritual formation. She has served on the faculty at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. At Garrett, she also served as the Director of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience. She has served as a visiting professor at the University of Chicago, Vanderbilt University, and Drew University.

Dr. Thomas is a well-published author, with several books and dozens of academic journal articles to her name. She has also given lectures at major conferences in Africa, Europe, and Latin America, and most recently in South Africa, Germany, Sweden, and Brazil. She unites a commitment to academics of the highest standard with a concern for social justice through the womanist tradition. Pivotal to the womanist tradition is the integration of faith with the scholarly life and pursuit of justice for all those who have been oppressed.

Dr. Thomas holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from The American University in Washington D.C., a Master of Divinity in Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and a BA in English Literature and Sociology from Western Maryland College. Her work has taken her to South Africa, Peru, Cuba, and Russia. She has also been recognized as an Association of Theological Schools Faculty Fellow and a Pew Charitable Trust Scholar.

At LSTC, Dr. Thomas has served as Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, Chair of the Theology and History Division of the Faculty, Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, and Chair of the Diversity Committee.



Courageous, resilient, and faithful leaders for the sake of the world

Excellence in Leadership is a ministry born out of the need for courageous and resilient people in the church, in organizations, and in the world. We are currently living in a time that asks specifically for leaders who have the capacity to think about the future in new ways and we believe that effective

leadership begins with the individual and is honed in community.

This ministry helps each person learn how to appreciate who they are, how they are embodied, and manage the way they personally respond to challenges and conflict. Through doing this work, they are then able to show up more effectively in places of anxiety, conflict, and frustration. When leaders show up in healthy ways, they are better equipped to help the people and systems they work with to also respond in healthier ways.