Mid-South District
2026 Fall Pastors' Conference
Pickwick Landing State Park
October 11-14, 2026
AGENDA

Church and State Today: Political Changes and Confessional Challenges

The 2023 convention asked the CTCR to update its guidance on church, state, and the Christian love of neighbor, "especially in light of an increasing hostility toward the Christian faith." Since the CTCR's original report on church and state, 1995's Render unto Caesar, American culture and the American church have both undergone significant changes that have raised questions about the church's ability to remain faithful to its confession while also making a difference in civic life. How can we avoid the Scylla and Charybdis of "activism" and "quietism"? How can we respect governing authorities, as Paul and Peter urge us, when those governing authorities oppose or prohibit our confession of the faith? Is there really a single definitive "Lutheran" perspective on church and state, and, if so, what is it? How should we interact with recent Christian political trends such as Roman Catholic Integralism or Neo-Reformed Christian Nationalism? We will use the recent CTCR report to discuss the contemporary political changes and challenges to the relationship of church and state in this country, the Lutheran theological framework of the two kingdoms, the Lutheran teaching on the three estates, and specific practical guidelines for maintaining our moral authority without simply becoming political partisans.

Sunday, October 11

7:00 p.m. -		Fellowship (No meetings or official business)

Monday, October 12

7:00 a.m. -	8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Magnolia Ballroom C)
8:00 a.m. -	9:00 a.m.	Registration (outside Magnolia Ballroom)
9:00 a.m. -	9:30 a.m.	Matins – **Grace Alone** (Magnolia Ballroom B)
9:30 a.m. -	10:45 a.m.	District Business (Magnolia Ballroom B)
10:45 a.m. -	11:00 a.m.	B-R-E-A-K
11:00 a.m. -	12:00 p.m.	Lutheran Family Service Presentation on Burnout (Magnolia Ballroom B)
12:00 p.m. -	1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Magnolia Ballroom C)
1:00 p.m. -	2:00 p.m.	Rev. Dr. Richard Serina, Jr. – ***Revisiting 1995's Render unto Caesar*** (Magnolia Ballroom B)
2:00 p.m. -	2:30 p.m.	B-R-E-A-K
2:30 p.m. -	3:30 p.m.	Rev. Dr. Richard Serina, Jr. – ***The Lutheran "Two Kingdom" Framework: Theological Principles***
3:30 p.m. -	4:00 p.m.	B-R-E-A-K
4:00 p.m. -	5:00 p.m.	Rev. Dr. Richard Serina, Jr. – ***Is There Really a Lutheran Perspective? Two Kingdoms or Three Estates?***
5:00 p.m. -	6:00 p.m.	Rest and Relaxation
6:00 p.m. -	7:30 p.m.	Dinner (Magnolia Ballroom C)
7:30 p.m. -	8:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer – **Faith Alone** (Magnolia Ballroom B)
8:00 p.m.		Fellowship

Tuesday, October 13

7:00 a.m. -	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (Magnolia Ballroom C)
8:30 a.m. -	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion (Magnolia Ballroom A) *Preacher: Rev. Dr. Richard Serina, Jr.*
10:00 a.m. -	10:30 a.m.	B-R-E-A-K
10:30 a.m. -	12:00 p.m.	Rev. Dr. Richard Serina, Jr. – ***Moral Authority without Political Partisanship: Practical Guidelines and Contemporary Challenges*** (Magnolia Ballroom B)
12:00 p.m. -	1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Magnolia Ballroom C)
1:00 p.m. -	2:30 p.m.	Rev. Dr. Richard Serina, Jr. – ***Case Studies in (Recent) LCMS History***
2:30 p.m. -	3:15 p.m.	Ramsey Solution – Financial Peace University (Tentative)

3:15 p.m. -	6:00 p.m.	Rest and Relaxation
6:00 p.m. -	7:30 p.m.	Dinner (Magnolia Ballroom C)
7:30 p.m. -	8:00 p.m.	Prayer and Preaching – ***Scripture Alone***
8:00 p.m.		Fellowship

Wednesday, October 14

7:00 a.m. -	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (Magnolia Ballroom C)
8:30 a.m. -	9:00 a.m.	Itinerarium (Magnolia Ballroom B)
9:00 a.m. -		LCEF Sponsored Golf (for those interested)/Travel Home