

**living  
out the  
LARCUM  
covenant**

**“Baptism, Dispute,  
and Difference in the  
Shadow of Pandemic”**

**Friday and Saturday,  
December 3-4, 2021**

**This year coming from all over the  
Commonwealth by Zoom**

**Dr. Michael Root  
Presenter**

for more information, contact  
Mr. Rick Caporali, Registrar  
State LARCUM Committee  
703-451-8576  
rcaporali@stbernpar.org

**Virginia LARCUM Conference  
2021**



**VIRGINIA  
LARCUM  
CONFERENCE**

# welcome

## VIRGINIA LARCUM BISHOPS IN COVENANT

**Rt. Reverend Mark A. Boulakas**  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

**Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge**  
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington

**Rt. Reverend Susan E. Goff**  
Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

**The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes**  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

**The Reverend Robert F. Humphrey**  
Bishop of the Virginia Synod, ELCA

**Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout**  
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond

**Bishop Sharma Lewis**  
Bishop of the Virginia Conference, United Methodist Church

**Reverend Leila Ortiz**  
Bishop of the Metro Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA

# register

**Please register as soon as possible with the registrar.**

**Regular conference fee:                      \$25.**  
**Student rate                                      no charge**

**AGAIN THIS YEAR:**  
**You can register online at**  
**[www.virginialarcum.org](http://www.virginialarcum.org)**

*Invite your friends to the virtual conference on behalf of the Virginia LARCUM Committee! Thanks.*

**Please send all correspondence to Registrar by Wednesday, December 1, 2021:**

Mr. Rick Caporali  
7600 Old Keene Mill Rd.,  
Springfield VA 22152  
rcaporali@stbernpar.org

# speaker

## **Dr. Michael Root**

Michael Root is Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at The Catholic University of America in



Washington, DC, USA. He earlier taught at various Lutheran seminaries in the United States and served ten years as a Research Professor at the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, France. He was received in the Catholic Church in 2010. He served on various

ecumenical dialogues for both Lutheran churches and the Catholic Church. He was on the drafting team for the Lutheran-Catholic *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*, and for *Called to Common Mission*, the agreement that led to full communion between the Episcopal Church USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a Catholic he has served on the USA Catholic-Lutheran dialogue.

# schedule

**December 3, 2021**  
**FRIDAY Evening**

**6pm**  
**Welcome and Orientation for new attendees**

**6:35pm**  
**Opening Devotions**

**7pm**  
**Session One**  
**“Unity, Division, and Dispute  
Between and Within our Churches:  
the Contemporary Situation”**

*Dr. Michael Root  
Introduction, Rev. Don Rooney*

*Not only does it seem that the age of ecumenical breakthroughs has ended, but tensions within our churches have become sharper. How do we understand the unity given in baptism in relation to divisions between and tensions within our communities?*

**8:05pm**  
**WORSHIP OF THE GREAT ASSEMBLY**  
*An ecumenical prayer service for the community of Scripture, prayer, song and common intercession for the unity of all Christians.*

**December 4, 2021**  
**SATURDAY Morning**

**9am**  
**Morning Prayer**

**9:30am**  
**Session Two**  
**“What Does Ecumenical Commitment  
Mean in the Contemporary Situation? ”**

*How do we experience division today? How do we witness to unity despite division and internal disputes and tensions? How do we conduct our sometimes passionate debates in a way that affirms our common foundation in Christ?*

**10:40am**  
**Mid-morning Devotions**

**11am**  
**Session Three**  
**“Our Churches After(?) the Pandemic”**

*How will church life be different as we come out of the pandemic? How might the pandemic affect how the churches relate to one another? How can we help one another adjust to new realities?*

**12:15pm**  
**CLOSING DEVOTIONS**

# covenant

The unity of the church is the gift of the Spirit and a task of the church. We hereby CALL INTO COVENANT our respective Synods, Dioceses and Conferences and COMMIT OURSELVES to the following actions.

In behalf of the unity of the church,  
WE WILL:

1. pray for each other, particularly at the principal Sunday celebration;
2. sponsor seasonal prayer services, especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;
3. encourage shared lectionary studies;
4. promote pulpit exchanges in accord with the respective guidelines of each tradition;
5. encourage cooperation among member churches in providing premarital preparation for ecumenical marriages;
6. encourage shared religious formational and educational events, e.g. youth ministry, vacation Bible school, living room dialogue;
7. develop joint efforts in evangelism and social justice;
8. develop covenants among our congregations, institutions and chaplaincies;
9. support statewide, regional and local LARCUM Conferences, and establish annually a joint meeting of our ecumenical bodies;
10. encourage each diocese and synod to develop supportive prayer services and covenanting models for its congregations through their respective ecumenical and liturgical committees;
11. urge congregations to study the existing dialogues among our churches;
12. develop covenants among schools and academies for shared programs;
13. ask congregations to develop and reflect on their cooperative ministries to discover areas of convergence among our four churches;
14. sponsor shared retreats and formational events for clergy and parish leadership;
15. develop campus ministry covenants among Catholic Campus Ministry, Canterbury Association, Lutheran Student Union, and Wesley Foundation, and support covenants at existing ecumenical ministries and with college chaplains;
16. seek ways to coordinate program and planning at the district/synodical/diocesan/conference level;
17. collaborate at the judicatory level on justice issues and social concerns;
18. review and evaluate this Covenant annually at a meeting of the state LARCUM Committee representatives with Bishops;
19. establish goals annually which advance this Covenant;
20. celebrate the renewal of this Covenant annually at the statewide LARCUM conference.

May the Holy Spirit, who has brought us to this moment of covenanting, bring us to ever deepening levels of unity. To this end we affix our names and recommend it to our respective judicatories, this 1st day of December, 2006.

*(The original covenant was amended in 2006 with the addition of the United Methodist Conference.)*