



**METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SYNOD** ELCA

November 12, 2024

From: Barbara A. Bilodeau, Secretary
The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA

To: Ministers of Word and Sacrament
Ministers of Word and Service
Congregation Presidents
Synod Council
The Rev. Alex Stall, Assembly Coordinator
The Coordinator, ELCA Region 8
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Dear Siblings in Christ,

On Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7, 2025, the 2025 Synod Assembly will be held at the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 3501 University Blvd E, Hyattsville, MD 20783. We expect this Assembly to be particularly exciting and impactful as it will include the election of a new Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod.

This is a preliminary announcement to encourage our congregations to prepare for this Assembly, especially by electing the voting members they wish to send to the Assembly.

The Model Constitution for Congregations indicates in *C5.04 that “This congregation shall elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member...” Knowing that many of our congregations have Congregation Meetings in November and December and may not have another until after the Assembly in June, I remind you that now is the time to nominate and elect your delegates. Should circumstances change such that the elected voting member is not able to attend in June, the Congregation Council has the authority to elect a replacement to fill the vacancy.

Congregations are reminded to consult their congregation constitution with reference to those sections pursuant to election or designation of lay voting members to a Synod Assembly.

Preliminary Allocation of Voting Members for each Congregation

Chapter 7 of the Synod Constitution deals with the Synod Assembly. According to that chapter, sections S7.21.c, S7.21.A92, and S7.21.02:

- A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with more than 175 baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members.

- The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men. (S7.21.c)
- For the allocation of lay members of the Synod Assembly the most current church body statistics are the basis for determining baptized members. To achieve the proper ratio, each congregation of 450 baptized members will be entitled to an additional voting member and another voting member for each full 250 members over 450. (S7.21.A92)
- Congregations with a baptized membership which consists of at least 10 percent persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English will be entitled to one additional member. That member will be a person of color or whose primary language is other than English. (S7.21.02)

While the Constitution requires a *minimum* of one voting member per congregation, †S7.21 indicates that the membership of the Synod Assembly should be composed of at least 60 percent laypersons. Towards that end, **the Synod Assembly invites a minimum of two voting members per congregation.** *Congregations are strongly encouraged to consider persons of color, youth, or young adults aged 30 and under in their voting members as well as the gender balance referred to in S7.21C (above).*

The following is a **PRELIMINARY** allocation of lay voting members of the 2025 Synod Assembly is shown below. These numbers are based on prior years (the year of congregation report submitted is in parentheses following congregation name) and assumes your congregation membership has remained relatively constant. We will receive updated congregational data early in the new year and will send final allocations at that time. The asterisk (*) indicates one additional member has been added for congregations fulfilling S7.21.02, but only if that member is a person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English).

<u>D.C. Conference</u>	Augustana (2022)	4*
	Christ (2022)	4*
	First Trinity (2022)	3*
	Georgetown (2022)	4*
	Grace (2022)	3*
	Holy Comforter (2019)	3*
	Luther Place (2022)	4*
	Oromo Evangelical Lutheran (2022)	3*
	Our Redeemer (2018)	3*
	Peace, Bermuda (2022)	3*
	Reformation (2020)	4*
	St. Matthew (2022)	3*
	St. Paul's (2022)	<u>5</u>
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<u>Fairfax Conference</u>	Abiding Presence, Burke (2019)	4
	Bethel, Manassas (2022)	4
	Bethlehem, Fairfax (2022)	3
	Christ, Fairfax (2022)	2

Covenant, Dale City (2022)	3
Epiphany, Dale City (2021)	2
Good Shepherd, Woodbridge (2022)	4
Lord of Life, Fairfax (2022)	6*
River of Grace, Manassas (2021)	3*
Shepherd of the Hills, Haymarket (2022)	4
St. Mark, Springfield (2022)	3
St. Matthew, Woodbridge (2022)	<u>4</u>
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Maryland
Conference

Abiding Presence, Beltsville (2022)	3*
All Saints, Bowie (2022)	3*
Good Samaritan, Lanham (2022)	3*
Good Samaritan, Lexington Park (2022)	2
Grace, Bowie (2022)	3
Grace, Ft. Washington (2022)	3*
Hope, Clinton (2022)	3*
Hope, College Park (2022)	3*
Peace, Waldorf (2022)	3*
St. John, Riverdale (2022)	3*
St. Michael's Truth (2022)	3*
St. Nicholas, Prince Frederick (2022)	2
Zion, Takoma Park (2021)	<u>4*</u>
	38

Montgomery
Conference

Christ, Bethesda (2021)	3*
Christ the Servant, Gaithersburg (2022)	3*
Emmanuel, Bethesda (2021)	6
Epiphany, Burtonsville (2021)	3*
Good Shepherd, Gaithersburg (2021)	7*
Living Faith, Rockville (2022)	3*
Prince of Peace, Gaithersburg (2022)	4
St. John's, Rockville (2022)	2
St. Luke, Silver Spring (2022)	9*
St. Luke's, Derwood (Redland) (2022)	3*
St. Stephen, Silver Spring (2022)	3*
Trinity, North Bethesda (2022)	<u>4*</u>
	50

Potomac
Conference

Advent, Arlington (2022)	3*
Epiphany, Alexandria (2022)	2
Faith, Arlington (2022)	3
Good Shepherd, Alexandria (2022)	3
Holy Trinity, Falls Church (2022)	4*
Hope, Annandale (2022)	3*
Nativity, Alexandria (2022)	2
Peace, Alexandria (2022)	3
Resurrection, Arlington (2022)	<u>4</u>
	27

<u>Virginia Conference</u>	Bethel, Lovettsville (2021)	2
	Christ the King, Great Falls (2022)	4
	Christ the Servant, Reston (2022)	2
	Community, Sterling (2022)	3
	Emmanuel, Vienna (2022)	5
	Holy Cross, Herndon (2022)	3
	Holy Trinity, Leesburg (2022)	4
	King of Kings, Fairfax (2022)	4
	New Jerusalem, Lovettsville (2022)	3
	Redeemer, McLean (2022)	7
	St. Andrew, Centreville (2022)	4*
Zion, Lovettsville (2022)	<u>2</u>	
	43	

<u>Voting Members Summary:</u>	Ministers of Word and Sacrament (active)	86
	Ministers of Word and Sacrament (retired)	85
	Ministers of Word and Service (active)	7
	Ministers of Word and Service (retired)	7
	Lay Members	246
	Synod Council Lay Members	11
	Total	442

Fees

Fees for attendance at the 2025 Synod Assembly are as follows:

- \$410 for rostered ministers and voting members (\$360 early bird rate)
- \$385 for voting members aged thirty and younger (\$335 early bird rate)
- \$210 for rostered ministers who are retired (\$160 early bird rate)
- \$210 for all visitors and rostered leaders on leave from call (no early bird rate)
- \$120 for vendors per table (no meals included and no early bird rate)
- \$425 for all late and on-site registrations

To support full participation in the Assembly, the Synod is offering up to two scholarships of \$100 each to congregations that may have difficulty paying the full fees. Scholarships are available only for voting members and rostered leaders and are not available for late registrations. To apply, please contact Julie Hamre, Treasurer (jhamre@metrodcelca.org) ***before*** submitting your registrations online and provide the name of your congregation and the number of scholarships requested.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Synod Assembly.
Blessings,



Barbara A. Bilodeau
Secretary of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA