



Who votes at assembly?

WHO VOTES AT ASSEMBLY?

- Lay voting members from congregations of the synod
 - Active Rostered Ministers
 - All deacons
 - All pastors
 - Synod Officers
 - Synod Council
 - Retired Rostered Ministers (Pastors and Deacons) have the choice to be voting or non-voting to reduce costs.
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LAY VOTING MEMBERS

How many lay voting members does my congregation send to assembly?

- **Congregations of up to 750 baptized members:** Send two lay voting members, one female and one male.
- **Congregations with over 750 baptized members:** May send two additional voting members, one male and one female, for each 750 additional members. (See section below.)
- **Persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English:** Congregations with members in either category may send one additional lay voting member from those categories.
- **Youth/Young Adult Voting Members*:** Congregations may elect one additional voting member who is a youth (confirmed to age 17) or young adult (between 18 and 30).

** Help develop and support our younger leaders. Consider asking responsible youth or young adults to serve.*

How are lay voting members chosen from my congregation?

In most congregations, the congregation constitution specifies how voting members are chosen. Whether they volunteer or are elected, most require approval of the Congregation Council.

Why are they called “voting members” and not “delegates?”

Voting members are not delegates as that term is understood or used in some political contexts. The voting members come together as representatives not only of their own congregations and synod but also serve on behalf of all the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF VOTING MEMBERS

What are the responsibilities of voting members?

Voting members should:

- study the issues
 - read the information provided
 - listen attentively to discussions, debates and amendments
 - learn about those nominated for election
 - prayerfully seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit
 - act conscientiously for the sake of the unity and well-being of the whole church
 - attend all assembly sessions
 - report back to the congregation (The assembly summary distributed by the synod office is a helpful tool. The summaries will be available online by Wednesday, June 7.)
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INFORMATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS

Where will I get the information about the assembly and decisions to be made there?

Information will be available for download on the [synod assembly website \(NEED NEW LINK\)](https://nclutheran.org/event/2017-synod-assembly/) (<https://nclutheran.org/event/2017-synod-assembly/>) prior to assembly.

ELECTIONS: The nominees for all elections, submitted by the Nominating Committee along with their bios, will be posted online by April 15. Floor nominations are due by **1:30 p.m. on June 2**. Floor nomination bios are distributed with the ballot.

RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS: Resolutions and memorials submitted to the synod by the deadline (April 11) will be posted on the [assembly webpage](#) after review by the Reference & Counsel Committee.

SPRING CONFERENCE MEETINGS: All voting members are asked to attend Spring Conference Meetings where assembly information is shared. Find out about the date and location of the conference meeting near you here: <https://nclutheran.org/event/2017-synod-assembly/>

How will the voting take place on the floor of the assembly?

In order to take part in the voting process, voting members must be seated in the "bar" of the assembly. The bar is the designated seating reserved for voting members only. Because of limited space, visitors are asked to sit in the sections designated for them. The person presiding will inform the assembly of the sections designated as the bar.

Voting members are asked to vote on resolutions, budgets, bylaw changes and other items considered by the assembly. For some votes, we will use electronic voting machines.

CONGREGATIONS ALLOWED ADDITIONAL LAY VOTING MEMBERS--2019

These are the congregations eligible to bring more than the standard number of lay voting members to our 2019 synod assembly using baptized-member numbers submitted to the ELCA churchwide offices from 2017 parochial reports. The information in parentheses indicates the number of additional lay voting members eligible from each congregation.

Cary, Christ the King (one male, one female)	Mt. Pisgah, Hickory (one male, one female)
Charlotte, Christ (3 male, 3 female)	Mooresville, St. Mark's (one male, one female)
Greensboro, First (one male, one female)	Raleigh, Good Shepherd (one male, one female)
Hendersonville, Grace (one male, one female)	Salisbury, St. John's (one male, one female)
Hickory, Holy Trinity (one male, one female)	Taylorsville, Friendship (one male, one female)

LAY VOTING MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE...

Synod Council members
Retired rostered ministers
Active rostered ministers

Lay people serving on Synod Council have voting privileges by virtue of their election. Rostered ministers, both active and retired, have voting privileges by virtue of their roster but can choose to be non-voting to reduce costs. Do not use someone in these categories as one of your congregation's Lay Voting Members.

60% LAY PEOPLE -- 40% CLERGY

The synod constitution mandates that lay people in attendance at assembly be at least 60% of the total voting membership. In order to ensure that percentage, each congregation must send their allowed number. Please make certain that those elected from your congregation are able to be at assembly from Friday at 10:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Our assembly will benefit by this representation of lay people from across our synod.