

WHO VOTES AT ASSEMBLY?

Who votes at assembly?

- Lay voting members from congregations of the synod
- Rostered ministers—all deacons and all pastors
- Synod officers
- Synod council
- Retired rostered ministers (pastors and deacons) have the choice to be voting (see bullet 2 above) or register as non-voting to reduce costs.

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 lay voting members*, one male and one female, for each 750 additional members. [See listing below of allowed congregations.]
- 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 one of those categories.
- Youth/Young Adult Voting Members: Congregations may elect *one additional voting member* who is a youth (confirmed to 17) or young adult (between 18 and 30).

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. Voting members engage and come prepared. Using careful and prayerful consideration, their votes are their own even as they serve on behalf of their congregation and the ELCA Lutherans across the NC Synod.

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 this whole church
- Attend all assembly sessions
- Report back to the congregation (the assembly summary distributed by the synod office is a helpful tool. The summary will be available online by June 6.)

INFORMATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS

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

Information will be available for perusal and/or download from the synod assembly website prior to assembly. <https://nclutheran.org/event/synod-assembly-2023/>

- ELECTIONS: Floor nominations will be done ahead of the assembly. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to serve as synod secretary, a member of synod council or as a churchwide assembly voting member, please use this nomination form by March 22. The Nominations Committee will compile nominees and their biographical information will be posted by May 15. All voting members must be present onsite at Koury Convention Center in order to place their vote.
- RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS: Resolution and memorials submitted by the deadline—April 15—will be posted on the assembly webpage after review by the Reference and Counsel Committee.
- SPRING CONFERENCE CLUSTER MEETINGS: All voting members are asked to attend a Spring Conference Cluster Meeting where assembly information will be shared. Find out the dates and locations of the meeting near you here: <https://nclutheran.org/event/synod-assembly-2023/#assembly-general>

How will 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. We will be using either electronic voting or show of hands for all votes

CONGREGATIONS ALLOWED ADDITIONAL LAY VOTING MEMBERS—2023

These are the congregations eligible to bring more than the standard number of lay voting members to our 2023 synod assembly using baptized-member numbers submitted to the ELCA churchwide office from 2021 parochial reports. The information in parentheses indicates the number of *additional* lay voting members eligible from each congregation.

Augsburg, Winston Salem (1 female, 1 male)	Grace, Hendersonville (1 female, 1 male)
Christ, Charlotte (3 females, 3 males)	Hickory, Mt. Pisgah (1 female, 1 male)
Christ the King, Cary (1 female, 1 male)	Holy Trinity, Hickory (1 female, 1 male)
First, Greensboro (1 female, 1 male)	St. John's, Salisbury (1 female, 1 male)
Good Shepherd, Raleigh (1 female, 1 male)	St. Mark's, Mooresville (1 female, 1 male)

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 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Saturday. This year's synod assembly will benefit by this representation of lay people from across the synod.