

2010 Montana Synod Assembly Youth Summit

The 2010 Montana Synod Assembly and Theological Conference is carving out a special place for young people. One of the lesser-known actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly was to encourage synods to make serious efforts to include youth (confirmation to age 18 at the time of election or appointment for service) and young adults (ages 18 to 30 at the time of election or appointment for service) as voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of the synod, with a goal of 10 percent participation.

In order to do that, the Montana Synod Council, in September, adopted a number of strategies to increase the participation of youth and young adults. Language was adopted to implement this action as follows:

- Advise all member congregations of the recent amendments to the Constitution for the Montana Synod, with an emphasis on S6.04.B09 (provisions for youth and young adults).
- Encourage member congregations to consider youth and young adults when appointing voting members to the Synod Assembly.
- Authorize up to 20 additional voting members for Montana Synod Assembly meetings, with the following provisions:
 - These voting members shall be youth, defined as confirmed and less than 18-years-old;
 - One youth voting membership shall be reserved for each cluster;
 - Reserved memberships shall be held until 30 days prior to the Synod Assembly, at which time all remaining voting memberships shall be assigned on a first-come/first-served basis.
 - The establishment of designated youth voting memberships should not discourage member congregations from otherwise appointing youth as regular voting members. Such appointments shall not be accounted in the 20 youth voting memberships.
 - Costs for youth voting membership participation in the Synod Assembly shall be borne by the member congregation.

This means that you can choose youth and young adults as your voting members. Or you can work with your cluster to send additional youth.

In order to provide hospitality to the youth who come as voting members to the Montana Synod Assembly and Theological Conference there will be a Youth Summit as a part of our event.

What is a Youth Summit?

Youth Summit is a way of giving youth voting members a chance to gather together and have time and space in fellowship with one another apart from the rest of the Assembly. It will provide an opportunity to build friendship networks across our synod.

Youth Summit participants, with adult leaders from the Montana Synod, will:

- Discover God's vision for the Youth of the Montana Synod
- Elect a member to serve on the Montana Synod Council

- Worship, pray, study scripture, and participate fully in the Montana Synod Assembly
- Participate in special Youth Summit workshop times
- Plan for future Montana Lutheran Youth Organization (MLYO) events
- Eat snacks!
- Reconnect with friends

Who should come to the Youth Summit?

- Youth (Confirmed to Age 18) Voting Members sent by their congregations
- Youth (Confirmed to Age 18) Voting Members sent by their clusters

TOP TEN Reasons for your congregation to support youth as a voting member to Synod Assembly and participant in Youth Summit:

- Most youth do not have enough caring adults in their life.
- Most adults do not have enough young people in their life.
- Young people want to make a difference and seek opportunities to listen, serve and be heard.
- Young people are the church of today, not the church of tomorrow.
- An Assembly is a glimpse of the "larger church" and it can be faith-forming and career shaping.
- Young people are some of the most articulate voting members, speaking with insight and passion on issues at hand.
- We are more fully the body of Christ when all generations and their gifts are included.
- An Assembly is an opportunity to reach out to a generation we are at risk of losing, to integrate them into the life and leadership of this church, and to tap into their talents for the sake of the gospel.
- At baptism we say, "We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share . . ."
- Because God does! Young people are part of God's Holy Story!

To support a youth in participating as a voting member:

- Fill out the registration form and check Youth voting member
- Use financial resources from your congregation to cover subsidize their expenses.
 - Youth Summit participants will stay together up to four in a hotel room. Their registration cost includes this room.
- Provide opportunities for the youth voting member to meet with and be mentored by the other voting members, lay and clergy, from your congregation.

Need more information or have questions?

Contact Pastor Andy Arnold, MLYO Adult Advisor: 406 752-0322 or andy@northridgelutheran.org