

Business at the Montana Synod Assembly

VOTING MEMBERS

- One lay male and one lay female from each congregation with confirmed membership under 800 shall be voting members. Congregations with confirmed membership over 800 are allowed one additional lay voting member (either male or female). Congregations are encouraged to consider youth and young adults when electing or appointing voting members to the Synod Assembly and Theological Conference.
- All ELCA pastors under call and retired pastors on the roster of this synod in attendance at the assembly shall be voting members. All active pastors are expected to attend the assembly, and should ask to be excused if they will not attend.
- All elected lay Synod Council members shall be voting members.
- All ELCA deacons under call on the word and service roster of this synod in attendance at the assembly shall be voting members.
- Ordained ministers of other churches with which the ELCA is in full communion and who are serving Montana Synod Congregations during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this church shall be voting members.
- Recent constitutional changes designed to encourage greater participation of youth and young adults (S6.04.B09)
 - Authorize up to 20 additional voting members for Montana Synod Assembly meetings, with the following provisions:
 - o These voting members shall be youth, defined as confirmed and less than 18-years-old;
 - o One youth voting membership shall be reserved for each cluster,
 - o 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.
 - o 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.
 - o Costs for youth voting membership participation in the Synod Assembly shall be borne by the member congregation.

†**S6.04.B09.** It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

ADVISORY MEMBERS WITH VOICE BUT NO VOTE

- Pastors or Deacons on the synod roster who are “On Leave From Call.”
- The churchwide bishop of the ELCA and other such official representatives of this church as may be designated by the Church Council.
- Interns serving Montana Synod congregations.

Retired Pastors: -Are voting members, - Are included in travel equalization - \$80, if pre-registered by May 15. This includes 1 banquet ticket.

Pastors and Deacons, On Leave From Call or Interns, Assignees, Friends and Spouses: Are not registered as voting members, but as visitors - Are not included in travel equalization. **Do** need to pre-register and pay for meals as a Visitor.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A complete list of the nominating committee members is provided, along with Elections Information and a Nominations form. The Assembly will elect two members to the Nominating Committee, five members to the Consultation Committee, three members to the Discipline Committee, four members to Synod Council, as well as members on the Kogodus Board.

Nominations are due April 28.

PLENARY SESSIONS

In addition to worship and reports on churchwide commitments and programs, our time together will include important decisions to further the mission of our congregations, our synod, and the ELCA. The assembly will also act on a proposed budget for 2018 for the Montana Synod, and act on constitution and bylaw amendments.