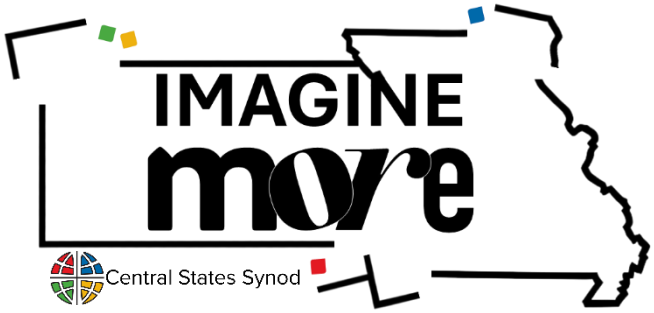


2027 Central States Synod Assembly

May 20-22, 2027

www.css-elca.org/assembly

Resurrection, A United Methodist Church

13720 Roe Avenue

Leawood, KS 66224

November 18, 2026

Dear Central States Synod,

The Central States Synod Assembly will take place **May 20-22, 2027**. Our theme, "Imagine More," is borrowed with permission of the ELCA Youth Gathering and invites us to break free from the limits of convention and routine. This year we are doing precisely that as we gather in a new location, Resurrection United Methodist Church in Leawood Kansas. Their facilities provide us with ample space to conduct the assembly business, host display tables, engage in workshops and gather for worship in a space designed for worship.

Registration is $250 for voting members and will open in January. There are multiple hotels nearby including the major chains: Marriott, Hilton, and Holiday Inn. Pricing ranges from $139 - $154 per night. Complete information, registration, and booking links will be available at www.css-elca.org/assembly.

In addition to the standard business of the assembly, electing synod council members, adopting a budget, and voting on resolutions, we will be electing voting members to the Churchwide Assembly in 2028. We also have a number of constitution amendments to approve. You can find a detailed explanation of the proposed changes at www.css-elca.org/assembly.

Please note the amendment to provision ***C5.04.** in the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 2025. If your congregation has adopted the required changes to your constitution, it allows your lay voting members to be elected by the congregation **or by the Congregation Council.** If your congregation has not yet adopted the required changes from the latest model constitution, I encourage you to speak with your congregation leaders to initiate the steps to update your constitution.

Assembly voting membership

Please note, according to our synod constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions:

- All rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod, all synod-authorized ministers serving under a covenant by authority of the bishop of this synod, all ordained ministers from church bodies in full communion agreements with the ELCA who are serving a congregation of this synod, and all synod council members not otherwise voting members shall have the privilege to be voting members of the assembly.

- Every congregation shall be entitled to send two lay voting members. Congregations with baptized membership over 500 are entitled to send additional voting members. . At least 60 percent of the voting members shall be laypersons.

- ***The synod council shall seek to ensure as nearly as possible that at least 45% of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45% shall be men.*** If a congregation needs to send two lay voting members who are both women or both men, **that congregation must submit a waiver to the synod office by March 1, 2027.** Please note that to ensure that at least 45% of the lay voting members are women and at least 45% are men, the synod council may not approve all waivers.

- A congregation may send an additional lay voting member provided that the person is a person of color or whose primary language is other than English.

- A congregation may send yet another lay voting member provided that the person is a youth who is under the age of 18 at the time of their election.

- Synod-authorized worshipping communities and outreach ministries are allowed to elect two confirmed lay members of their community to be voting members at Synod Assembly.

- Congregations can confirm their number of lay voting members by referencing the table at www.css-elca.org/assembly

Additional information regarding the assembly will be included in the e-newsletter and on the synod website as it becomes available. We look forward to being together in May as we do the work of the church!

In Christ,

Alesia Roccia

Ms. Alesia Roccia,
Central States Synod Council Secretary