



Central States Synod

January 4, 2023

To All Congregations in the Central States Synod, ELCA

The annual synod assembly will be held on June 3, 2023 online via Zoom. This adjustment to an online assembly will allow us to conduct the necessary business of the synod while being considerate of the voting members' time and travel as well as the congregations' finances. This also allows us as a synod to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in line with SA 22.05 which was passed at our 2022 assembly. The standard business of the assembly will include electing synod council members, adopting a budget, amending our constitution, and voting on resolutions.

According to our synod constitution:

- All rostered ministers, including Deacons, under call shall be voting members of the assembly.
- At least 60 percent of the voting members shall be laypersons. Each congregation shall be entitled to send two lay voting members, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman. (Congregations with baptized membership over 500 are entitled to send additional voting members. Those congregations will be listed at www.css-elca.org/assembly.) ***The synod council shall seek to ensure that at least 45% of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45% shall be men.*** This amendment allows for individuals to register without indicating a gender preference.
- If in the event that 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, 2023.** (waivers are available at www.css-elca.org/assembly.) Please note that in order 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 additional lay voting members provided that the person is a person of color or whose primary language is other than English or the person is a youth, under the age of 18 at the time of their election.

Registration will open by mid-February. Information along with technical guidelines for using Zoom and our voting platform will be shared as it becomes available on our website at www.css-elca.org/assembly.

Other deadlines to note:

Submission of Nominations – April 15, 2023

Submission of Resolutions – April 15, 2023.

Rev. Chad Langdon
Synod Secretary