

Virginia Synod, ELCA SYNOD ASSEMBLY
June 12, 2021, from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Online by Zoom



2021 ASSEMBLY THEME

Faithful + **Bold** + Serving

*We have boldness and confident access to God
by way of Christ's faithfulness.*

Ephesians 2.12 NET

God is bold – speaking creation into being. God is bold – delivering God's people from bondage into freedom. God is bold – speaking judgment and hope through the prophets. God is bold – being born of Mary to be God with us.

Jesus is bold – saving God's people. Jesus is bold – showing us plainly and clearly God's immeasurable love. Jesus is bold – encouraging us to take courage! Jesus is bold – in him, we have peace. Jesus is bold – in him, we live in the abiding presence of God. Jesus is bold – showering the needy with compassion and mercy. Jesus is bold – proclaiming good news to the poor and setting free those who are oppressed.

God is bold – gifting us each with grace and making us servants of the gospel. God is bold – calling us:

- To love God and love our neighbor (Matthew 22.34-40)
- To speak the message of the gospel with great courage (Acts 4.29)
- To make known the wisdom of God (Ephesians 3.10)
- To let our lights so shine that others see in us the unfathomable riches of Christ (Matthew 5.16; Ephesians 3.8)
- To proclaim the kingdom of God and teach about the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 28.31)
- To hold unwaveringly to the hope, we confess (Hebrews 10.23)

This year's Synod Assembly theme builds on the Virginia Synod Vision of Faithful + Bold + Serving. *Since then, we have such a hope [through Christ Jesus]; we act with great boldness* (2 Corinthians 3.12). Grounded in God's bold faithfulness to humanity and empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we respond to God's gift of grace with bold and servant faith, with faithful and servant boldness, and with faithful and bold serving.

ELCA REPRESENTATIVE

The ELCA representative is Dr. Mary J. Streufert, Director for ELCA Justice for Women.

ASSEMBLY PURPOSE

We are gathered at this assembly to experience and express what it means to be the church. Together as the Body of Christ, we care for necessary business items, participate in and experience worship, and build up the Body of Christ.

ASSEMBLY APP

Our free mobile app (ideally for tablets) replaces printed paper resources for the assembly and is the information source for assembly participants. It also allows attendees to connect and share pictures from their assembly experience. This app will be updated throughout the event as additional resources and information are available. The app is available at <https://guidebook.com/g/#/guides/2021vasynod> or by downloading the ELCA Guide and searching for the 2021 Virginia Synod Assembly.

ASSEMBLY WORSHIP

In honor of the [ELCA 50-40-10 ordination commemorations](#), all worship services will be planned and led by women, women of color, and LGBTQIA+ pastors and deacons. We give thanks to our BOLD God for calling these Faithful+Bold+Serving leaders in ministry!

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER FOR RESOLUTIONS AND LAY VOTING MEMBER CREDENTIALS

Please Note: The cut-off time for the receipt of resolutions for the consideration of the Committee on Reference and Counsel is 30 days (May 12, 2021) before the assembly's first day.

The cut-off time for lay voting member credential forms is 10 days (June 2, 2021) before the assembly's first day.

All information, forms, and online links for the 2021 Synod Assembly can be found at:

<https://www.vasynod.org/synod-assembly-2021/>

VOTING MEMBER INFORMATION

Each congregation of this synod with 400 or fewer baptized members are entitled to two [lay voting members](#) at the assembly, usually one a man and one a woman. For each additional 200 baptized members, the congregation is entitled to an additional voting member. We will hold several pre-Assembly Information Sessions; watch for more information.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE ASSEMBLY

FEE SCHEDULE

This year's Assembly registration fees reflect the unique experience of a digital Assembly. Lay Voting Members and Rostered Ministers Under Call: \$65.00. Rostered Ministers retired or on leave from call: \$20.00. [Click here](#) for the full fee schedule.

REGISTRATION

To [register online, click here](#). You will need a debit or credit card to process the registration fees. Registration will close on June 2. Remember, a [lay voting member credential form](#) will need to be submitted by their Rostered Minister or Council President.

LAY VOTING MEMBER CREDENTIAL FORM

All congregations are required to certify their lay voting members using a [voting member credential form](#). Congregations are encouraged to turn in this form by May 12, 2021. Their Rostered Minister or Council President will need to submit the form. **The cut-off time for lay voting member credential forms is 10 days (June 2, 2021) before the assembly's first day. If the credential form is not received in the Synod Office by June 2, the layperson will not be able to vote (per the Virginia Synod Constitution [S7.21.03.])**

VISITORS

Visitors will not register for the 2021 Synod Assembly. All visitors will be able to participate in the assembly by the live stream. The link will be posted on the VA Synod website.

YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Lutheran Youth of the Virginia Synod will be holding their annual assembly in mid-afternoon on June 12. All youth in grades 7-12 are eligible to attend. The Online Youth Assembly information and registration are separate from the Synod Assembly and will be available at vasynod.org/event/youth-assembly.

NOMINATIONS FOR SYNOD LEADERSHIP ROLES TO BE ELECTED AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY

For the 2021 Synod Assembly, we seek nominations to serve on Synod Council, the Committee on Discipline, and the Churchwide Assembly. Refer to [roles to be elected at the 2021 Synod Assembly](#) for more information on the positions we seek and their responsibilities. If you are interested in serving, please complete a [nomination form](#).

What is the Virginia Synod Council?

The Synod Council serves a visionary role in the Virginia Synod. In conjunction with the Office of the Bishop, the Council reviews and coordinates all planning proposals and establishes synod priorities. The Synod Council members share their various gifts for the purposes of God's mission and ministry through the Virginia Synod and through the churchwide organization of the ELCA.

The Virginia Synod Council also serves as the board of directors of the Virginia Synod and meets quarterly to supervise the Synod administration. The Synod Assembly elects these leaders. The Synod Council is composed of members from across the Virginia Synod, including rostered ministers (pastors and deacons) and laypeople (those not ordained).

Churchwide Assembly: August 8-12, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment that happens every three years. This event is invitation-only but always available via live stream for the general public.

What is the Committee on Discipline?

The Virginia Synod Committee on Discipline serves the Consultation and Discipline Process in this church. The consultation and discipline process assures due process and due protection for the accused, other parties, and this church in the discipline process, which governs officers, rostered ministers, congregations, and members of congregations.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY FORMS

[LAY VOTING CREDENTIAL FORM](#) (see above)

NOMINATION FORM

The [Nomination form](#) is used to nominate oneself or another individual for an elected position at the upcoming Synod Assembly. This form is due by May 12, 2021.

RESOLUTION FORM

The [Resolution form](#) is to propose a resolution to the Virginia Synod Assembly, which will be voted on at the Synod Assembly. The Synod Constitution states all resolution requests must be submitted thirty days in advance of the assembly. This form is due by May 12, 2021.

CONGREGATION SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FORM

The [Significant Events form](#) is used to share any significant milestones or events from your congregation to be celebrated during the Synod Assembly. This form is due by May 12, 2021.

ASSEMBLY OFFERINGS

Offerings are designated to support:

- The [ELCA International Women Leaders Fund](#). Alongside the global Lutheran community, the ELCA is engaging in a strategic emphasis on equipping women leaders in the church and society's life and development. These emerging leaders are studying at ELCA colleges, universities, seminaries, and other institutions worldwide. Since 2015, 34 scholars - representing 22 countries - have been supported by this fund.
- The [Faith + Finance + Freedom Fund](#). This fund represents an opportunity to strengthen the financial situation of rostered ministers and congregations in the Virginia Synod. Every gift received generates a matching gift from a Lilly Foundation grant and provides an opportunity to make educational debt reduction grants to rostered ministers and provide stewardship support for the congregation.
- Congregations across the Synod are encouraged to [collect feminine hygiene products for schools in your local community](#). We will share a Synod total for the number of collections, but each congregation will coordinate in their own local community. More info will come.

LIVE STREAM

The Synod Assembly will be available by live streaming on our [YouTube channel](#). Stay up to date with the assembly as it happens live, or you can also watch the videos following the Synod Assembly. All visitors will participate in the live stream for the 2021 assembly.

EVENT CHECK-IN AND INFORMATION

Event check-in will open at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 12. All voting members are required to be checked in before the assembly starting at 10:00 AM. Once checked in, you will not need to remain at your device the entire time.

TECH SUPPORT

Technology support will be available during the assembly. More information will be shared closer to the event.

PRE-ASSEMBLY INFORMATION SESSIONS

We will offer various pre-assembly information sessions that will cover topics regarding how to participate in the online assembly. These opportunities will cover how to use the zoom platform, how the voting process will work for the assembly, and more. We will also host a session that will cover the proposed changes to the constitution and will allow any questions you may have for these updates. More information will be published regarding these opportunities and will be sent to all registered attendees.

BASIC SYNOD ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY	JUNE 12, 2021	
9:00am-10:00am	Join Zoom	Event Check-in, Tech checks, etc.
10:00am-12:00pm	SESSION #1	
10:00am-12:00pm	Opening worship; Reception of New VA Synod Congregations; Organization of the Assembly; Approval of Constitutional Changes; Nominations; Bishop's Reflections; Serving Boldly Awards	
12:00pm-12:45pm	LUNCH BREAK	
12:45pm-2:10pm	SESSION #2	
	Resolutions; ELCA Representative (Dr. MaryJ. Streufert/ELCA Justice for Women); Elections (Synod Council; Committee on Discipline; 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly); Ordination and Congregation Anniversaries	
2:10pm-2:20pm	Stretch Break	
2:20pm-3:20pm	SESSION #3	
	Introduction of those new to the VA Synod; Resolutions; Honoring Retired Rostered Ministers; Report of Officers; Approval of Compensation Guidelines, Financial Audit, & Investment in Ministry Plans 2021 and 2022	
3:30pm	SENDING WORSHIP	
	Honoring the ELCA 50+40+10 Ordination Anniversaries; Installation of Pastor Colleen Montgomery; Installation of Synod Leadership; Closing of the Assembly	

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Synod Assembly.

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If you require paper forms (e.g., lay voter credential form, resolution form) provided, please call 757.622.9421.

