

Highlights from the 2021 Virginia Synod Digital Assembly



For the first time, the Virginia Synod met in a digital Assembly on Saturday, June 12. Over 350 people gathered online to worship, to conduct the business of the Synod, and to celebrate the bold ways in which we are church together.

Worship

The Assembly's Opening Worship Service commemorated the ELCA 50+40+10 Ordination Anniversaries remembering the ordination of women in the ELCA, the ordination of women of color in the ELCA, and the ordination of LGBTQIA+ individuals in committed relationships. The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick served as the Presiding Minister, the Rev. Adam Schultz preached a powerful sermon on Mark 5:21-43, and leaders from around the Synod contributed to our digital worship experience.

At the end of the Assembly, the Youth Assembly joined the Zoom for a combined worship experience. Worship included songs led by Rev. Dave Delaney, the installation of those newly elected and Pastor Colleen Montgomery as Virginia Synod Director of Digital Ministry, the closing of the Assembly, and the opening of the Youth Assembly.

Offerings for the Assembly were split between the ELCA International Women's Leaders Fund and the Virginia Synod Faith, Finances, and Freedom Fund. To donate go to: [vasynod.org/give](https://www.vasynod.org/give).

Recommendations Approved

The Assembly approved several recommendations from the Synod Council including:

- Updates to the Synod Constitution
- Revised Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders
- Investment in Ministry Plans for 2021 and 2022

To learn more about these recommendations, go to:

<https://www.vasynod.org/watch-the-2021-va-assembly/> and check out the Bulletin of Reports and the Synod Constitution tab.

Elections

The Virginia Synod gives thanks for everyone who stood for election this year. Individuals were elected to represent the Virginia Synod at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the Virginia Synod Council, and the Committee on Discipline.

Ministry Stories

Throughout the day, videos shared the ways we are living boldly as God's people in the world. Together we celebrated:

- The Serving Boldly Lay Leadership Award Winners
- George Kegley's 60 years as editor of the Virginia Lutheran
- Ordination and Congregational Anniversaries
- New Rostered Leaders joining the Virginia Synod.

We had the opportunity to hear from the Bishop Eaton and from our mission partners.

You can see those videos at: <https://vimeo.com/vasynod>

You can watch the whole Assembly at:

<https://www.vasynod.org/watch-the-2021-va-assembly/>