

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER

Position Description

Qualities and Eligibility

Nominees for voting member of the Upstate New York Synod Assembly should be deeply committed to the life and ministry of Christ's Church, especially as expressed through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Upstate New York Synod, regular in their worship attendance, and charitable with their gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Each person elected to serve as a Synod Assembly voting member shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

Nomination, Election, and Term of Service

Congregations elect individuals at their annual meetings to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of this synod. Elected voting members serve in their role at the Synod Assembly next occurring following their election.

Functions

Voting members of congregations in the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather annually to serve in the Synod Assembly as representatives not only of their own congregations but on also behalf of all the people of this synod and this church. Nourished by Word and Sacrament, they are called in assembly to make decisions and seek the wellbeing of this synod and the whole Church.

Responsibility of the Assembly

The Synod Assembly is the highest legislative authority in the Upstate New York Synod. The assembly deals with the purposes, functions, and directions of synodical ministries, and addresses issues that affect the life of our church as expressed in this synod.

The Synod Assembly must:

- Review the work of the synod officers, receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.
- Review the work of synodical units, receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.

- Receive and consider proposals from congregations.
- Establish synodical policy.
- Adopt a Mission Proposal for the synodical organization.
- Elect officers, board members, and other persons as provided in the constitution and bylaws.
- Establish synodical units to carry out the functions of the synodical organization.
- Have the sole authority to amend the synod constitution and bylaws.
- Fulfill other functions as required in the constitution and bylaws.
- Conduct such other business as necessary to further the purposes and functions of the synodical organization.

Responsibilities

Voting members individual responsibilities are to:

- Represent the interests of this synod to facilitate its mission and ministry.
- Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and approach the Synod Assembly's work with reflection and prayer.
- Participate in orientation provided by congregations, conferences and the synod.
- Attend their Conference Spring Assembly to hear and discuss items that may be on the agenda of the upcoming Synod Assembly.
- Be present during the entire Synod Assembly, attending plenary sessions, worship, hearings, and other assembly-related activities.
- Study in advance the Pre-Assembly Report, particularly the reports of officers and the matters on which the Synod Assembly will take action.
- Listen to presentations and discussion and be prepared to participate responsibly.
- Exemplify servant leadership in words, life-style, and manner of leadership, recognizing accountability to the Triune God, the whole Church, each other, and to the Synod Assembly as a whole.
- Provide reports about the Synod Assembly to congregations and others within the synod.

Other

- Nominees for Synod Assembly voting member must be available to attend the scheduled Synod Assembly, typically over two days during the month of June.

- Nominees should preferably have experience functioning in board, council, or committee settings. A basic understanding of Parliamentary Procedure is helpful.
- Voting members should attend an assembly orientation workshop held at their congregation or conference.
- The officers of this synod are ex officio voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- Members of the Synod Council are ex officio voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- No elected voting member of the Synod Assembly shall receive compensation for such service.
- Expenses associated with serving as a Synod Assembly voting member are substantially covered by congregations. Voting members may be personally responsible for certain incidental expenses.