

Frequently Asked Questions

Bishop's Election

Who can vote?

All Rostered Ministers of the Allegheny Synod, retired Rostered Ministers of the Allegheny Synod, Synod Council Members, and voting members of the Assembly will vote in the election. Voting members must be registered and present to take part in the vote. There is no absentee voting in this process.

Who is eligible for the call of Bishop?

All ELCA Rostered Ministers of Word and Sacrament in good standing can be nominated to serve as Bishop whether they be On Leave from Call, Part-time, Retired or a pastor in another Synod.

How are persons nominated?

Nominations are made by the voting members on the first ballot which will be Friday morning. Should you choose to nominate someone who is not attending the Assembly, please contact them beforehand to be certain they are open to the call of Bishop.

How do I remove my name from the balloting process?

Persons nominated have the option to remove their name one time only after the first ballot. Otherwise, their name will be on the ballot through the conclusion of the election.

What happens when the candidates for Bishop are narrowed down?

After the fourth ballot, the top 3 candidates will be required to be present at the Allegheny Synod office the morning of Saturday, September 19.

General Synod Assembly Questions

When is Synod Assembly?

The Allegheny Synod Assembly will be held Friday, September 18, 2020, through Saturday, September 19, 2020. *For All The Faithful Women* is the theme.

What is the format of Synod Assembly this year?

The Allegheny Synod Assembly is being held digitally with multiple sites this year due to CDC guidelines. The following is a list of the host site for each conference.

Blair-Huntingdon Conference: Evangelical Lutheran, 1200 Fourth Ave., Duncansville, PA 16635

Bedford Conference: Zion Lutheran, 110 W. Main St., Everett, PA 15537

Clearfield Conference: St. John Lutheran, 217 E. Pine St., Clearfield, PA 16830

Johnstown Conference: Mt. Calvary Lutheran, 1000 Scalp Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15904

Laurel Highlands Conference: Friedens Lutheran, 131 S. Main St., Friedens, PA 15541

Nittany Conference: Trinity Lutheran, 2221 N. Oak Lane, State College, PA 16803

How do I register for Synod Assembly?

Please complete one registration form (included in previous mailing and on the Synod website) per person and return to the Synod Office by **August 14**. No phone registrations will be

accepted. Registration will close August 14. No registrations will be accepted after August 14 and there will be no onsite registration.

The registration fee is \$25.00. The registration fee is waived for Retired Rostered Ministers, Rostered Ministers with Specialized Calls, and Rostered Ministers On Leave from Call. There will be no refunds.

Will there be child care at the sites?

There will be no child care at host sites.

What about meals?

Meals will not be available on site; instead we will break for lunch. Please plan to either bring a bagged lunch or go out for lunch. Coffee and beverages will be provided by each individual site as well as a list of nearby restaurants.

How do nominations work?

We are sending out a call for service to congregations to nominate persons for election at the Assembly to serve as Officers, Council Members or Committees. Serving in one of these capacities is a great opportunity to support the Allegheny Synod and God's work in our community. In order to serve in any of these capacities, one must be a member in good standing of an ELCA congregation in this Synod.

Nominees must complete and submit the included Nominations Form with a digital picture by September 1 to Allegheny Synod, ELCA, Attention: Rev. Drew McCaffery, Nominations Chair, 701 Quail Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 or email to blcpastor@atlanticbb.net with Attention: Rev. Drew McCaffery, Nominations Chair in the subject line.

To have biographical information included with your nomination, it must be received **no later than September 1**. Nominations will be accepted after September 1, however, biographical information will not be included; only the nominee's name will be listed on the ballot. Once a Nomination is received, an email or written confirmation will be sent stating the position(s) of interest.

Nominations from the Assembly floor will be required to complete the fillable online Nominations form available under the Synod Assembly information page on the Allegheny Synod website and email to office@alleghenysnod.com. DUE TO THE ASSEMBLY FORMAT THIS YEAR, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO DISSEMINATE FORMS.THEREFORE, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO MEET THE SEPTEMBER 1 DEADLINE.

How can I post on social media or follow Synod Assembly on social media?

Voting members attending Synod Assembly are encouraged to share what's happening during the Assembly on social media. When posting, please use the two hashtags **#AlleghenySynod** and **#8CAssembly**. There will be regular updates to the Allegheny Synod 8C Facebook page throughout the Assembly.

Can visitors attend Synod Assembly?

There will be no visitors at the designated sites as we are observing the guidelines for social distancing and capacity at each site. Visitors who wish to follow along with Assembly will be able to access it via the Livestream.