

Guidelines for Representation at Southeastern Iowa Synod Assemblies

The Annual Synod Assembly is an opportunity to gather for worship, faith formation, synod governance, and fellowship. The Office of the Bishop and Synod Council encourage congregations to invite baptized members to prayerfully consider attending, lifting up, and inviting a variety of ages, genders, experiences in your congregation, the synod, and in the ELCA.

Here is a guide for consideration and the number of voting members for each congregation:

Congregations with less than 1250 baptized members = 2 lay voting members plus rostered leaders

Congregations with more than 1250 baptized members = 3 lay voting members plus rostered leaders
+ 1 additional lay voting member for each 500 baptized members above 1750

Congregations should strive for gender and age representation of lay members.

Congregations are encouraged to send at least one youth or young adult as a lay voting member. It is our hope and goal that at least 10% of the voting members be 30 years old or younger. Congregations are also encouraged to send adult voting members who may not have had the opportunity to attend a synod assembly.

All pastors and deacons serving under call are expected to attend and participate. Bishop Current, current@seiasynod.org, should be contacted directly about any absence that is impossible to avoid.

Pastors and Deacons in congregational ministry are to assist the congregation council in identifying and electing voting members, and you are to support and encourage voting members as they become familiar with the work the assembly will undertake. Please help them understand their role as voting members and encourage them to share the experience with others following the meeting. [A guide on what a synod assembly is and voting member expectations.](#)