



Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## **Introduction to Synod Assembly**

### **What is a Synod Assembly?**

The Synod Assembly is an annual gathering of pastors, deacons, and lay people representing the congregations that make up the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA. Those gathered in assembly, called voting members, serve as the synod's highest legislative authority.

### **What does the assembly do?**

- receives information and reports
- elects nominees to leadership positions in the church
- reaches decisions on matters brought before the assembly
- sets priorities for the synod's ministry
- equips and educates those who attend to interpret the mission of the synod in local ministry settings

### **What is expected of me as a voting member?**

You will find that your experience as a voting member of a synod assembly can be a spiritually enriching experience. You will also find that the degree to which this is true for you will depend on your attitude, your own sense of discipleship and commitment, and the way in which you will conduct yourself before, during, and after the assembly.

### **What matters will come before the assembly?**

The agenda provides detail for each of the assembly's sessions. Elections, action on matters such as the adoption of the synod budget, changes the synod's constitution, and reports from synod committees and partners will make up a great part of the business.

### **How to get the most out attending a Synod Assembly**

Prepare – study and be familiar with all assembly materials, rules, and online processes.

Pray – ask to be open constantly to the Lord's presence and guidance and seek the prayers of the people you represent.

Listen – for the God's work in and amongst the communities in our synod, through reports, conversation, and proposed business.

Attend – share fully in the assembly's work in sessions

Act – serve the whole body by your participation.

### **What can I do after the Assembly?**

Following the assembly, you can continue the work of the synod by reporting about the assembly to the members and leaders of your congregation. Your faithful and positive witness will help your those in your congregation see where they fit in the synod and greater ELCA churchwide organization. Some ways voting members have shared with their congregations:

- A verbal report to those gathered for worship
- An adult education forum
- A bulletin article or insert
- Write a newsletter article for your congregational newsletter

Hopefully you will participate in other assemblies and gatherings of the church in the future. Do consider making yourself available for leadership positions beyond the local congregation.