

Call and Notice of Synod Assembly

In accordance with Section S7.13 of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Constitution, I hereby call and give notice of the 2022 Synod Assembly which will take place virtually via ZOOM from 8am to 4pm on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

Dennis Smith

Rev. Dennis Smith, Secretary

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“Bread for the Journey”

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

All relevant information about our Synod Assembly, can be found on the Assembly page of the Synod website. Please review the documents provided there prior to Synod Assembly:

<https://mittensynod.org/events/assembly>.

Assembly Theme

1 Kings 19:8 provides the theme of our no longer than six-hour virtual assembly. Most church leaders felt like Elijah the prophet sometime in these past two years. Elijah did as God commanded and defeated the prophets of Baal. But rather than repentance, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel sent a message to Elijah threatening to kill him by this time tomorrow. And Elijah found himself fleeing for his life. Similarly, many church leaders resisted the prophets of division, politicization, and immediate gratification to keep God’s people safe from COVID-19 and have found themselves fleeing for their spiritual, professional, and relational, if not their physical, lives. Many congregations feel their future, if not their very existence, threatened and are anxious to know where to flee for refuge and security.

“[Elijah] himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: ‘It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.’ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, ‘Get up and eat.’ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, ‘Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.’ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God” (1 Kings 19:4-8).

Patristic scholars and sacramental theologians see baptism and Eucharist in the bread and water the angel serves Elijah. Our experience of the pandemic leads many to regard the bread as God’s word. In the wilderness of temptation, Jesus responded to Satan, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4). Sitting under our solitary broom tree, we long for something more. In John’s Gospel, Jesus calls himself the bread of life and says that he will give living water (6:25–59; 7:37–39). So let the bread and water that the angel served Elijah be nothing other than Jesus himself for us.

As planners of this Assembly prayed asking Jesus to be among us so tangibly that we go from the Assembly “in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God,” we came to understand our strength comes from renewed perspective. Elijah complained to God, “The Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your

prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way... I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him” (19:14-18). Elijah thought he was alone, the last one faithful to God, and God knew of 7000 more and told Elijah to finish his work.

Like Elijah, we have become understandably focused on the struggles, difficulties, worries, and defeats that each day brings. Like Elijah, we are unquestionably overwhelmed by pandemic, division, decline, death, and now war. Like Elijah, we are exhausted from reinventing on a daily basis and from knowing that, no matter what or how much we do, it will not be right or enough and someone will be unhappy. And this is church? Like Elijah, we need a change of perspective. This is the bread that will strengthen us for the journey.

So, we will do the business of the assembly. As time permits, we will receive angels to serve up Jesus so that, in his strength and renewed perspective, we might continue our journey to the mountain of God. I am so pleased that my friend, Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin of the Northwestern Ohio Synod will begin our assembly with a homily and prayer. I am delighted to welcome Pastor Roger Willer as our Churchwide representative. I am most excited that ministries of our Synod are preparing videos so that we can experience what God has been doing among us when perhaps our attention was focused elsewhere.

Pre-Assembly Announcements

To better streamline Synod Assembly, we are including some announcements that I normally give orally here.

- **Registration:** As was the case last year, all voting members were required to register in advance of Synod Assembly. Voting members who were not registered by the registration deadline of April 20 are not able to attend or participate in the Synod Assembly meeting via Zoom. All registration information is available on the Assembly page of the Synod website: <https://www.mittensynod.org/events/assembly/>
- **Registration Fee:** The registration fee is set to cover the costs of the assembly, including production assistance and voting software.
- **Assembly Business:** The business of this year’s assembly includes electing members to the Consultation Committee and Synod Council, considering resolutions and memorials to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, and voting on the 2023 Compensation Guidelines and 2023–24 Budget.

- **Synod Offering:** In lieu of the traditional Synod Assembly offering, congregations may make a contribution to the Synod Disaster Relief Fund or any of the other funds highlighted on the Synod’s website: <https://mittensynod.org/donate>
- **Voting Members:** Voting members of the Synod Assembly are elected by their congregations. In order to receive their voting credentials, voting members must participate in a one-hour Technology Orientation. The Technology Orientations are May 10-12 and voting members were able to sign up for these sessions when they registered for Synod Assembly. On the day of Synod Assembly (May 14), voting members must be checked-in on Zoom between 8:00am to 9:00am to be eligible to participate. Voting members who do not check-in and enter the Zoom call before 9:00am will not be able to participate in the meeting. We invite these voting members to watch the livestream on the Synod’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NorthWestLowerMichiganSynod>
- **Technology:** Each voting member will need their own email address and voting device (smartphone or tablet). They will also need access to a computer to participate in the Zoom meeting. It is recommended that voting members use a computer to host the Zoom meeting and use a smartphone or tablet as their voting device.
- **Speaking During Synod Assembly:** During Synod Assembly, we ask that all voting members keep themselves on mute unless they have been recognized to speak. We will be using Zoom’s chat feature to communicate motions, seconds, speakers from the floor, and questions pertaining to the business of the meeting. Our Zoom moderators will be monitoring the chat to address these concerns. To make it easier for them, we ask that you only use the Zoom chat for “official business” and not for personal or unrelated communication.
- **Voting During Synod Assembly:** During Synod Assembly, voting will take place using Vevox voting software. Each voting member will need to enter their Voter ID and a Session ID in order to access the ballot and vote. Voter IDs will be provided to voting members prior to Synod Assembly. Session IDs will be provided to voting members during Synod Assembly. If the Voter ID is not entered correctly, if the Voter ID appears multiple times, or if the Voter ID does not match a person registered and checked in on the Synod Assembly Zoom meeting, the vote will be marked as invalid and will not be counted.
- **Additional Nominations:** All nominations and completed bio forms were to be submitted by March 31. On the day of Synod Assembly (May 14), any additional nominations for positions within the General Election must be submitted to Ann Stavros (annstavros@mittensynod.org) by 11:00am. To make a nomination, you must have the permission of the nominee and be prepared to provide an electronic background using the blank form in Section F of the Assembly Book.

Rules of Organization and Procedure

2022 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly

The Synod Council recommends adoption of the following Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2022 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly:

General Elections / Voting

- A. The 2022 Synod Assembly will take place using Zoom technology. Participants will access the meeting via a link which will be provided prior to the start of the meeting using their personal smartphone, tablet, or computer.
- B. All elections will be by ballot vote as per S9.08.

[**Synod Constitution Reference – S9.08.**: “In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot, when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.”]

- C. All voting shall be by electronic ballot using Vevox technology (once credentials are established). Voting members will access their ballots via a URL address which will be provided prior to the meeting for use on a personal smartphone, tablet, or computer. It is recommended that the device used for voting is different than the device used to access the Zoom meeting.
- D. Technology orientation sessions, including specifics on Zoom use and Vevox voting procedures, will take place by Zoom prior to the assembly to allow time for voting members to learn about how to attend, participate in, and vote during the Synod Assembly. As communicated within the registration process, each voting member is required to attend this technology orientation as part of the voting registration process.

Debate

- E. Debate is limited to two minutes per speaker. All speakers shall identify themselves by name and congregation/ministry/retired, etc.

Additional Voice & Voting Privileges

- F. Permission is granted for rostered pastors of full communion partner churches, serving ELCA ministries under contract in this Synod, full voice and vote in all Synod Assembly proceedings as per S7.27.

[Synod Constitution Reference – S7.27.: “This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister’s service in a congregation of this church.”]

- G. Permission is granted for up to two lay persons, one male, one female, from our Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (The Christ Sudanese Congregation, Wyoming) to have full voice and vote in all Synod Assembly proceedings as per S7.26.

[Synod Constitution Reference – S7.26.: “This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with *S7.21.”]

- H. Permission is granted for the Synod Attorney to have voice but not vote at the Synod Assembly to support proceedings and to provide clarification as needed relative to the governing documents and policies of the synod as requested by the Synod Assembly Chair, the Synod Bishop or Synod Vice President as per S7.23.

[Synod Constitution Reference – S7.23.: “The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.”]

Budget & Resolutions

- I. Pre-Assembly Discussion Sessions will take place by Zoom prior to the assembly to allow time for review of budget information and proposed resolutions followed by discussion and questions.
- J. As per S11.01.B22, all resolutions for consideration during the Synod Assembly were required to be submitted to the chair of the Resolutions Committee by April 8, 2022 for inclusion in the pre-Assembly packet. There will be no resolutions submitted during the 2022 Synod Assembly.

[Synod Constitution Reference - S11.01.B22: “Due to the assembly restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, protocols for the presentation and consideration of resolutions and churchwide memorials presented to the Resolutions Committee for the 2022 Synod Assembly only are:

1. All resolutions and churchwide memorials shall be submitted to the chair of the Resolutions Committee by April 8, 2022.
2. All resolutions and churchwide memorials shall be included in the pre-Assembly packet. No additional resolutions or churchwide memorials will be considered during the 2022 Synod Assembly.
3. Prior to the 2022 Synod Assembly, ZOOM meetings shall be scheduled during which resolutions and churchwide memorials, correctly submitted for consideration by the 2022 Synod Assembly, will be discussed.”]

- K. Resolutions submitted in advance of the synod assembly by the stated deadline must be supported by at least 25 Confirmed members of the synod as per S7.33.A19.

[Synod Constitution Reference – S7.33.A19: “Resolutions presented to the Reference and Resolution Committee for referral to the Synod Assembly for action shall be supported by at least 25 Confirmed members of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod whose signatures appear on the resolutions as submitted.”]

2022 Synod Assembly Committees

Synod Assembly Manager

Ms. Chelsey Satterlee, Director of Communications

Credentials Committee

Pastor Kjersten Sullivan (Trinity, Battle Creek)

Others as assigned

Elections Committee

Pastor Rachel Laughlin (Prince of Peace, Portage)

Others as assigned

Nominations Committee

Ms. Sandy Schlesinger (Trinity, Midland)

Pastor Clay Bates (Peace, Holland)

Others as assigned

Reference and Resolutions Committee

Pastor Betsy Kamphuis (St Paul, Greenville)

Others as assigned

Resolutions Committee

Pastor Justin Walker, Chair

Ms. Christine Allen

Pastor Betsy Kamphuis (St Paul, Greenville)

Ms. Sandy Schlesinger

Pastor Dennis Smith (retired)

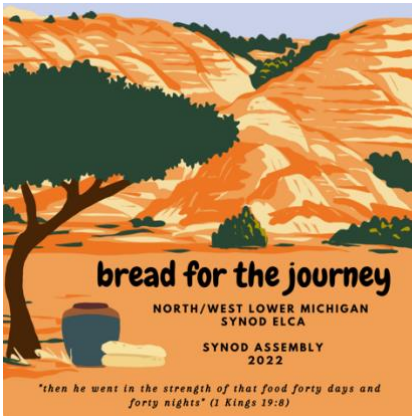
Synod Assembly Report Booklet

Pastor Rosanne Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop

Technology Team

Mr. Rich Weingartner (Faith, Okemos)

Others as assigned



North/West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA

2022 Synod Assembly Agenda

May 14, 2022

PRE-ASSEMBLY MEETINGS AND FORUMS	
May 3, 6-8pm	Resolutions Discussion Session
May 4, 6-8pm	Budget & Compensation Guidelines Discussion Session
May 10-12, 6-7pm	Technology Orientations
Date & Time TBD	Credentials Committee, Elections Committee, Reference and Resolutions Committee
May 13, 11-4pm	Assembly Rehearsal
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022	
8:00 AM	Technology Help Desks Open
8:00 AM	Zoom Call Opens - Voting Member Check-in Pre-Assembly Show
9:00 AM	Zoom Call Closes for Credentials Committee
9:15 AM	Devotion: Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin
9:30 AM	Welcome and Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of the Assembly
	General Announcements: Pastor David Sprang
	Orientation to Voting
10:15 AM	Credentials Committee Report
	Adoption of Assembly Procedures
	Adoption of Assembly Agenda

	Constitution Amendments
	Nominations Committee Report
11:15 AM	Break
11:30 AM	First Ballot for General Election
	Report of the Bishop
	Announcements: Pastor David Sprang Prayer: Pastor Rosanne Anderson
12:15 PM	Lunch Break
12:45 PM	Call to Order
	Second Ballot for General Elections
	Report of the Vice President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of 2023 Compensation Guidelines • Adoption of 2023 Compensation Guidelines
1:30 PM	ELCA Churchwide and Church Council Reports
	Report of the Treasurer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the 2023-24 Budget • Adoption of the 2023-24 Budget
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	Report of the Reference & Resolution Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution A: Living Water Ministries
3:45 PM	Break
4:00 PM	Report of the Reference & Resolution Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial A: Greenhouse Gas Emissions
	Unfinished Business Announcements: Pastor David Sprang
4:20 PM	Closing of the Assembly



2022 Churchwide Representative

Rev. Roger A. Willer, Ph.D.

Director for Theological Ethics

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Roger A. Willer, Ph.D. is an ELCA pastor serving as Director for Theological Ethics on the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. In that capacity he carries responsibilities for the development and interpretation of ELCA social teaching (social statements, messages, and policy resolutions) and for nurturing moral discernment across the church. He serves as publisher of the Journal of Lutheran Ethics, coordinator of the Lutheran Ethicists' Network, and liaison with the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science, and Technology. He has written a number of articles on ethics, theology, and science. Prior to graduate school and his service at the Churchwide Office, he served two congregations in the Cleveland area.