

Frequently Asked Questions:

What's a synod assembly?

It's a meeting of members and rostered leaders (pastors and deacons) of all the congregations in our synod – about 105 congregations. Our constitution requires the synod to have this meeting at least tri-annually, and this body has “the highest legislative authority” of the synod. The assembly passes the synod's budget, elects officers and approves constitution changes, resolutions and memorials to go to the Churchwide Assembly.

Who attends a synod assembly? Does our congregation have to attend?

Each congregation is allowed to bring two voting members and a rostered leader. If you have additional rostered leaders they may attend for a fee. Each congregation can also send a person between the ages of 18-30 for free.

Your congregation is expected to attend the assembly, as it is part of your participation as a congregation of the ELCA.

I'm a retired deacon married to a retired pastor. Can we vote?

Our synod council has agreed retired rostered leaders are allowed to attend and vote, even if they are not currently serving a congregation. There is a special category for retired leaders to register.

My worshipping community isn't an official congregation. Is there a place for us at the assembly?

Yes! Our synod council and constitution allow Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities to participate in synod assembly. You must be a worshipping community who recognized by the synod council.

What does the registration fee pay for?

It costs a lot to put on a Synod Assembly! The registration fee pays for speakers, travel, logistics, the audio/visual equipment in person and online, voting machines and/or software, registration software and some of the administrative costs for staff time. The in-person registration is slightly higher to defray some food costs. There are no rental fees from CLU to use their buildings.

Why is the registration deadline so early? We want all voting members to be registered by May 2 to ensure credentials are in order and follow up with any missing congregations or delegates. Most congregations elect their delegates in January or February, so registration should be possible by May 2.

My congregation doesn't have a permanent pastor. Who represents us for assembly?

Your interim pastor has all the rights and responsibilities of a called pastor. They are allowed to represent you during the assembly. If your congregation is only served by a pulpit supply pastor, they are not allowed to represent you. If you are not sure of your pastor's status, please contact the synod office.

English is not my first language. Can I participate?

Yes! Your registration will ask about your language needs. All materials will be translated into Spanish, Mandarin and there will be an American Sign Language

I have some mobility issues. Can I participate?

Yes! This assembly is focused on accessibility. Your registration will ask about your mobility and accessibility needs. We are preparing for your arrival and have intentionally kept all events in an accessible part of the campus. You may also choose to participate on line. Zoom will be offered to anyone who cannot attend in person. You will be able to vote and speak from the zoom room.

I live far from Thousand Oaks. Can I spend the night near the assembly?

Yes. Housing is available in CLU dorms at a price lower than local hotels. Email Vanessa at events@clu.edu to spend the night on campus. We also have a block of rooms at the Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks. Please call (805) 716-4200 to book a room and mention the Southwest California Synod.

Is there a zoom option?

Yes. We are hoping everyone who *can* attend in person will, but for those who cannot, zoom will be available, and voting will be possible on-line. The registration fee for congregations remains almost the same, as the costs are still very real for the technology required for zoom.

I love synod worship. Will there be any chances to worship together?

Yes. Saturday morning will begin with a festival worship at Samuelson Chapel. The public is invited!