

Bulletin of Reports
for the
Thirty-fourth Annual Assembly
of the
NEW JERSEY SYNOD, ELCA

May 6-7, 2022



Virtual Assembly



New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Thirty-fourth New Jersey Synod Assembly. Please read this Bulletin of Reports so you may be an informed Voting Member.

Assembly Vocabulary No Accident

It is important to note and remember that no delegates will be present for the assembly. “Voting members” are not delegates!

- The terminology related to the legislative process of this church is no accident.
- The words “Synod Assembly,” rather than convention, and “Voting Members,” rather than delegates, were deliberately chosen for our governing documents.

These words not only fulfill certain legal requirements, but also reflect that the ecclesial understanding of the three primary expressions of this church—congregations, synod, and church-wide organization—exist and serve within this *one church*.

The people of this synod are not sent as delegates; they are *not* gathered to act as some politicized delegates to a regional party convention. Rather, they *assemble* as duly selected members of this church with *voting* responsibilities for governance and elections on behalf of the synod. The Synod Assembly is just that, an assembly of the people of this church, some of whom have been granted the responsibility of being *Voting Members* of the *Synod Assembly*.

The people of this church, when gathered as *Voting Members* of the Synod Assembly, have the responsibility of electing the voting members of the *Church-wide Assembly*. Persons so chosen are given the responsibility of doing the work of the Church-wide Assembly on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

They are *not* sent to participate as politicized delegates from some regional or agenda-specific caucus at some national party convention.

The vocabulary that we use both shapes and reflects our understanding of this church.

We need to (a) understand more clearly, and (b) embrace more completely the conviction that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America “shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the church-wide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and, therefore, lives in a partnership relationship with the others.” (ELCA Church-wide Constitutional Provision 8.11.)

Indeed, we together affirm and declare the primary principle of organization of our church, namely: “The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be one church.” (ELCA Church-wide Constitutional Provision 5.01)

Within this one church, we, as voting members, advisory members, non-voting members, visitors, and staff will gather to carry out the work of this Synod Assembly.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*“And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation”
(Mark 16:15).*

Dear siblings in Christ,

When I talk about our goal of engaging a million new, young, diverse people I get asked a lot, “I’m not new, young, or diverse. Am I not important to the church anymore?” My answer is always the same, “You’ve never been more important.”

When we committed to our new goal, we identified our purpose as “Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.” This goal does not happen without the people who are already part of this church. Theresa of Avila talked about the church as the hands and feet of Christ in the world, the very way God will work to engage new people.

Those aren’t easy things to do and certainly not ones that only a few of us can do alone. God has blessed us with so many resources to do this work: nearly 3.6 million people, 65 synods, and 350 CWO staff, plus colleges, universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, and other affiliated organizations, and our separately incorporated ministries. We truly are a church of abundance.

So, what can you do right now?

- Pray. For our church. For one another. For those whom we have yet to meet.
- Find time to listen to people who are new to the ELCA, young, and/or diverse. Share the story of Jesus with them.

Along the way, don’t forget: You are important.

Grace and peace,



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*“[Jesús] les dijo: ‘Vayan por todo el mundo y anuncien las buenas nuevas a toda criatura’”
(Marcos 16:15).*

Estimados hermanos en Cristo:

Cuando hablo de nuestra meta de atraer a un millón de personas nuevas, jóvenes y diversas, me preguntan mucho: —No soy nuevo(a), joven ni diverso(a). ¿Ya no soy importante para la iglesia?— Mi respuesta siempre es la misma: —Nunca has sido más importante.

Cuando nos comprometimos con nuestra nueva meta, identificamos nuestro propósito como “Activar a cada uno de nosotros para que más personas conozcan el camino de Jesús y descubran la comunidad, la justicia y el amor”. Esta meta no se alcanza sin las personas que ya son parte de esta iglesia. Teresa de Ávila habló de la iglesia como las manos y los pies de Cristo en el mundo, la misma forma en que Dios trabajará para atraer a nuevas personas.

Esas no son cosas fáciles de hacer, y ciertamente no son cosas que unos cuantos de nosotros podemos hacer solos. Dios nos ha bendecido con tantos recursos para hacer esta obra: casi 3.6 millones de personas, 65 sínodos y 350 miembros del personal de la Oficina Nacional de la Iglesia, además de universidades, seminarios, organizaciones de ministerio social y otras organizaciones afiliadas, y nuestros ministerios incorporados por separado. Realmente somos una iglesia de abundancia.

Entonces, ¿qué puede hacer usted ahora mismo?

- Orar. Por nuestra iglesia. El uno por el otro. Por aquellos que aún tenemos que conocer.
- Saque tiempo para escuchar a las personas que son nuevas en la ELCA, jóvenes y/o diversas. Comparta con ellas la historia de Jesús.

A lo largo del camino no olvide esto: Usted es importante.

Gracia y paz,

Meet our ELCA Churchwide Representative

Nick Kiger
Director for Mission Support



Nick Kiger is the Director for Mission Support with the ELCA churchwide expression. Nick lives and works from Columbus, OH, where he is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. He is married to Misty and they have a six year old daughter, Kara and a two year old son, Cameron.

Nick received his Bachelor of Arts in religious studies from Otterbein University and his Master of Theological Studies degree from Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

Nick feels blessed to get to experience many different settings of the church. His work has taken him to oil fields, prisons, Native American reservations, storefront churches, Latine congregations in the deep south and rural congregations in the Midwest. In all these places he has experienced the love of God and how we are truly church together for the sake of the world and has learned how the generosity of all three expressions of the ELCA, through Mission Support, makes our ministries possible.

**NEW JERSEY SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
May 6-7, 2022**

**VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY
GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. LOGIN TO ZOOM

Voting members are encouraged to log into the “zoom room” early, beginning Friday at 6:00 PM. The zoom link will be emailed to all voting members prior to the assembly.

Prompt check-in is requested as a quorum is needed to open the Assembly. The “zoom room” will open on Saturday by 8:30 AM.

Visitors may view the entire assembly livestream via our YouTube page.
(youtube.com/NJSynodELCA)

2. VOTING & CHECK-IN:

Voting will be done through VPOLL, an online voting/check-in system. You will need a smartphone, tablet or computer with an internet connection (or data plan) in order to cast your vote. A smartphone is highly recommended. Voting prompts will appear on your screen at the appropriate times. Direct links to the VPOLL website will also be posted in the zoom room.

Voting Members will receive an email (prior to assembly) with your individual login credentials. These credentials are unique to each voting member.

PLEASE NOTE: Whatever device you first login from is the device you must use to vote with throughout the assembly. Smartphones are recommended.

3. GERMANE MOTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

When a Voting Member makes a motion “from the floor”, the Voting Member must present the motion using the raise hand feature of zoom.



**THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
NEW JERSEY SYNOD
May 6 & 7, 2022
Together We Are God's Tapestry of Love**

Friday, May 6

2:00-3:15 pm Pre-Assembly Workshops
3:30-4:45 pm Pre-Assembly Workshops

6:00 pm Zoom room opens

6:30 pm **Opening Prayer/Devotions**

6:45 pm **Session One**

Welcome and Introduction to Assembly

Orientation to zoom etiquette and voting

Establish quorum

Consent Agenda

Rules of Procedure, Minutes, Assembly Committees

Report of Nominating Committee

Rostered Ministers New to the Synod

Report of Synod Council

Spending Plan Presentation

Celebration and Thank You for Cassandra Mack

Congregational Anniversaries

8:15 pm **Closing Prayer**

8:30 pm Assembly in Recess

Saturday, May 7

8:30 am Zoom room opens

9:00 am **Dwelling in the Word**

“I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God’s great mystery.” Colossians 2:2 (The Message)

9:30 am **Session Two**

Bishop’s Report

Bishop’s Challenge Team report and celebration

Ballot 1 – Synod Council

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **Session Three**

Churchwide Report

Report of the Treasurer

Report of Synod Council

Adoption of Spending Plan

Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center report

Ballot 2 – Synod Council

Rostered Leaders Anniversaries and Retirements

Synod Council Report

Dates for 2023 Assembly

12:15 pm **Closing Prayer and Commissioning for Mission**

12:30 pm Adjournment



THIRTY-FOURTH NEW JERSEY SYNOD ASSEMBLY FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery."

Colossians 2:2 (The Message)

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022

Session 1 - 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

*2023 Spending Plan Workshop
Advocacy Ministry in New Jersey
Being Woven into God's Tapestry of Love
How to Grow your Money Tree through Planned Giving
In the Bulletin: Expectations for Communication
Weaving the Tapestry: Addressing Structural Racism in NJ
Welcoming the Stranger: Heritage and Commitment*

Session 2 - 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

*2023 Spending Plan Workshop
Bishop's Challenge
How to Grow your Money Tree through Planned Giving
In the Bulletin: Expectations for Communication
The Reconciling Journey
Welcoming the Stranger: Heritage and Commitment
Youth Ministry in a Post-Pandemic World*

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

❖ *2023 Spending Plan Workshop . . . an open forum to learn about the Synod's generosity*

Learn more about Synod Council's 2023 proposed spending plan to support our ministries - from our individual congregations to worldwide through ELCA. More than just the numbers. Come prepared with your questions.
Leaders: Synod Treasurer Jim Harris with support and input of the Financial Management, Admin. and Property Committee

❖ *Advocacy Ministry in New Jersey*

Join the conversation as the Justice and Peace ministries in our Synod are being redeveloped. How can you, your youth group, your neighbors, and your congregation get involved to engage your faith in Love!
Leader: The Rev. Sara Lilja, Assistant to the Bishop for Justice and Advocacy

❖ *Being Woven into God's Tapestry of Love*

This workshop will share glimpses of the wonderful tapestry of diverse ministries led by our passionate mission developers and redevelopers. Our mission starts and strategic ministries are joining what God is doing in neighborhoods and communities by weaving people into a tapestry of love, hope, justice, abundance, and possibilities.
Leaders: Mission Re-Developers and Pastor Maristela Freiberg, Assistant to the Bishop and Dir. Evangelical Mission

❖ *Bishop's Challenge*

Through our yearlong conversations regarding race, we learned of the untold histories of racial discrimination. Many of us have come to understand that generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for African Americans to work their way out of the lower class. Join us as we go deeper into these realities, and explore with us solutions to repair this breach.
Leaders: Bishop's Challenge Team

❖ **How to Grow your Money Tree through Planned Giving**

Money doesn't grow on trees...or does it? Rooted together in God, our faith communities provide a rich soil of relationships and values that bear fruit through generous giving to sustain ministry now and later. Growing these gifts means cultivating relationships, tapping into shared values and providing a road map and structure to steward gifts at every stage of life. Join us to talk about:

- exciting and hopeful news about abundant generosity opportunities now available for your congregation
- a strategy to connect with people who want to support your congregation with large gifts
- help for you to create a structure to handle large gifts

Leaders: Yvonne Jones Lembo, Regional Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation, and Pastor Dean Brown, Assistant to the Bishop

❖ **It was in the Bulletin: Expectations for Communication**

Join the conversation that will cover some basics, discuss things learned in the livestream world, and provide resources for participants to copy and utilize.

Leader: Pastor Marc Stutzel, Christ, Woodcliff Lake, and Communication Team Leader

❖ **The Reconciling Journey: Becoming a Welcoming Congregation for your LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ**

Hear how other congregations have journeyed to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation and what it could mean for you. Learn how you can do the same.

Leaders: Pastors Dámaris Ortega, St. Luke, Dunellen and Ascension, New Brunswick; Serena Rice, Abiding Peace, Budd Lake; Matthew Cimorelli, Reformation, West Long Branch, and Pam Werner, St. James, Folsom.

❖ **Weaving the Tapestry: Addressing Structural Racism in NJ**

Join Dr. Dianne Browne and others to hear how the NJ Synod is taking steps to eradicate structural racism in our state, our synod, and our congregations. We will explore ways you can become a part of the effort.

Leaders: Dr. Dianne Browne, Anti-Racism Task Force chair and friends.

❖ **Welcoming the Stranger: Our Lutheran Heritage and Commitment to Welcome**

Join Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) to learn more about how refugee resettlement and immigration are ingrained in our Lutheran heritage, and how Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is leading the work of welcome across the nation. Leaders will provide updates on the work of LIRS and ways you and your congregation can join this holy work of welcome.

Leaders: Elizabeth Wagner, Board Chair, Prince of Peace, Princeton Junction, and Andrew Steele, VP for Development and Outreach

❖ **Youth Ministry in a Post-Pandemic World**

What are your dreams for youth ministry post pandemic? What challenges are you facing? Come meet with youth leaders from around the synod to dream of what comes next and how to make it happen. We will talk about upcoming planned events such as Opening Day at Cross Roads in May, Our Gathering at Cross Roads in July, the Synod Youth Retreat in November, and the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Leaders: Youth Ministry Mission Team

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER MOTIONS CHART
Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (1990 Edition)

The motions below are listed in order of precedence.
A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

YOU WANT:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Take break	I move to recess for...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to a committee	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that (or "to)...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Motions that bring a question again before the assembly - no order of precedence.
Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

YOU WANT:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Take matter from table	I move to take from the table...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Cancel previous action	I move to rescind...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority with notice
Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

Incidental Motions - no order of precedence.
Arises incidentally and are decided immediately.

YOU WANT:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Demand a rising vote	I call for a division	Yes	No	No	No	None
Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

NEW JERSEY SYNOD, ELCA
RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SYNOD ASSEMBLY

1. Fifty percent (50%) of voting members who have confirmed registration upon the beginning of the assembly shall constitute a quorum as required by constitution (S7.14.). Registered Voting Members will receive the access link for Zoom participation. Visitors may view via livestream on the New Jersey Synod website. Microphones should be muted unless a person is recognized by the chair.
2. In order to vote, Voting Members must be registered and logged into the virtual Assembly.
3. Each attendee is responsible for their own connection to the internet and the meeting room; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented them from participating in the meeting.
4. Two (2) lay representatives of Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities of the New Jersey Synod shall be given voice and vote during the Assembly.
5. Persons who are on the roster of the New Jersey Synod, ELCA, On Leave From Call or Retired, Living Out-of-State, but who are serving New Jersey Synod congregations/worshiping communities by special appointment, and those Retired Pastors Living Out-of-State who are actively engaged in the life and ministry of the New Jersey Synod shall be given voice and vote during the Assembly.
6. Persons on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in a Synod other than the New Jersey Synod, but who are serving New Jersey Synod congregations by special appointment, shall be given voice, not vote, during the Assembly.
7. Persons who are not on the roster of the ELCA, but who are serving New Jersey Synod congregations/worshiping communities by special appointment, shall be given voice, not vote, during the Assembly.
8. Persons who are not on the roster of the ELCA, but who are serving New Jersey Synod congregations/worshiping communities by special appointment and are ordained ministers of another Lutheran church body that is a member of the Lutheran World Federation or of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA shall be given voice and vote during the Assembly.
9. Chairs of Mission Teams and Committees listed by the Synod Council shall be given voice, not vote, on matters pertaining to their work during the Assembly.
10. Voting will take place in a variety of ways throughout the assembly. These may include various ways using electronic platforms. To have an abstention recorded, notify the secretary via the chat function. Abstentions do not count in the vote totals.
11. A voting member wishing to make a motion must first be recognized by the chair and then post the motion in the chat box to the secretary before speaking to it.
12. When an item of business is opened by the chair for discussion, those voting members wishing to speak shall do so as instructed. Before speaking, each person must indicate their name and

congregation name and location. Members must specify if they are speaking for or against the item under consideration.

13. Debate shall be limited to two minutes per person per issue. Time will be kept by the Secretary. Debate will terminate when three speakers have been heard on each side, unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting of the assembly.
14. The deadline for submitting resolutions was March 7, 2022. Late resolutions will not be accepted; any resolutions received after the deadline will be considered by the Synod Council at its next meeting. The Synod Council and/or Executive Committee may submit resolutions directly to the Assembly.
15. All resolutions shall be reviewed by the Committee of Reference and Counsel, which, when reporting to the Assembly, may:
 1. recommend approval;
 2. recommend disapproval;
 3. recommend referral to the Synod Council; or
 4. recommend a substitute motion to the Assembly
16. Due to the online nature of the assembly, nominations from the floor will not be accepted.
17. All reports published in the Bulletin of Reports shall be received by the Assembly by virtue of that fact without vote.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION OF THE 2023 SPENDING PLAN

1. At the time of the introduction of the Spending Plan, discussion shall be limited to questions for clarification and information and the serving of notices of intent to move an amendment to the Spending Plan.
2. Voting Members desiring to present motions germane to the Spending Plan shall be given until **8:00pm, Friday, May 6** to submit written notice of such intent to the Treasurer, James Harris, using the chat function of the meeting platform.
3. The Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Committee shall meet with voting members proposing an amendment.
4. At the time appointed for the adoption of the Spending Plan, the Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Committee shall report to the Assembly all proposed amendments, with the Committee's recommendations.
5. When motions germane to the Spending Plan are presented on the Floor of the Assembly, the Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Committee shall have an opportunity to respond to the recommendations. Any Voting Member wishing to increase a line item in any area of the Spending Plan shall propose a source of funding.