

# 2026 ALLEGHENY SYNOD ASSEMBLY

June 20, 2026, Blair County Convention Center

## General Information

The 38th ASSEMBLY of the ALLEGHENY SYNOD of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA will be held in person **Saturday, June 20, 2026, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona. The theme is "God is Doing a New Thing".**

**Churchwide Representative:** We are pleased to welcome Rev. Sara Cutter as our ELCA churchwide representative. She serves as the Senior Director for Operational Effectiveness in the Christian Community and Leadership Home Area of the ELCA's churchwide organization.

**Assembly Opening:** Opening Worship for our Synod Assembly will be held the **Saturday, June 20 at 9 AM at the Blair County Convention Center. All are welcome to attend this festive worship, but if you plan to stay for the Assembly proceedings, please register as a visitor.** There is ample parking at the Convention Center.

We ask Voting Members to please arrive no later than 8:30 AM. We will observe strict time lines so we can accomplish all of our business.

**Each Voting Member must have their own personal device** such as a laptop, tablet, or smartphone and access to their individual email to participate in the voting process.

More information about voting and serving as a voting member at Synod Assembly will be reviewed at the Spring Conference meetings below. If you are unable to attend your conference meeting date, you are welcome to attend on one of the other dates.

- April 28—Nittany Conference**, 7pm, St. Paul, Pine Grove Mills
- April 29—Clearfield Conference**, 7pm, St. John, Clearfield
- April 30—Blair-Huntingdon Conference**, 7pm, Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg
- May 6—Laurel Highlands & Johnstown Conferences**, 7pm, St. David's, Davidsville
- May 7—Bedford Conference**, 7pm, St. Peter's, Osterburg

## Deadlines

Reports for the Bulletin of Reports	May 1
Resolutions/Memorials	May 15
Nominations	June 1
Partner Ministry Tables & Resource Table	June 1
Event Registration (Meal Included)	June 1

## Quick Reference Guide

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## Directions

If you need directions to the Blair County Convention Center, (1 Convention Center Drive, Altoona, PA 16602), please contact the Synod office. Parking is available in the front lot and in the parking garage.

## Voting Member Representation

The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:

**S7.21.A26** Pursuant to †S7.21. b. of the Synod Constitution, the Synod Council establishes the following formula to determine the number of lay voting members from each congregation of the Allegheny Synod on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation is as follows:

- a. Using the most current Annual Congregation Report to the ELCA for the number of baptized members per congregation:
  - a. Congregations up to 499 baptized members shall elect two voting members, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of who shall be a woman
  - b. Congregations 500-899 baptized members hall elect three voting members, typically one of whom shall be a man, one of whom shall be a woman, and one of whom may be of any gender expression
  - c. Congregations 900 or more baptized members shall elect four voting members, striving for balanced gender representation
- b. In addition, each congregation may elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or whose primary language is other than English. The term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.
- c. Each congregation is strongly encouraged to have balanced representation of gender expressions and members of historically underrepresented groups among its voting members .

## Rostered Leader Absences

Rostered leaders who are unable to attend are asked to write a letter or email requesting to be excused no later than **May 15**. Letters may be sent to Bishop Kevin Shock, Allegheny Synod, 916 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 or emailed to [Kevin.Shock@AlleghenySynod.com](mailto:Kevin.Shock@AlleghenySynod.com).

## Event Registration Information, Instructions, and Fees

Voting Members, Guests, and Visitors need to register online through this [link](#). NO ONSITE REGISTRATION.

**QUICK TIPS ...** If you are a congregation registering your voting members, each voting member must be registered separately with their individual email. Do NOT use the congregation email. Please review the directions below for information needed before beginning the registration process.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTER

1. Enter the **Registrant's email** and click Continue - **Choose Continue as a Guest if you are prompted to sign in.**
2. Choose I am registering for myself and enter the **Registrant's Name**
3. Carefully, choose your registration type (see below)

#1 Assembly Registration Fee (\$100.00) - **Most Voting Members will choose this option unless option #3 applies to you. PLEASE NOTE: If the registration fee is cost prohibitive, please contact the Synod office at either 814-942-1042 or office@alleghenysynod.com.** Pastries and coffee in the morning and lunch are included with your registration fee.

#2 Visitor Registration Fee (\$50.00) - **ALL visitors must register.** Pastries and coffee in the morning and lunch are included with your registration fee.

#3 WAIVED Assembly Registration Fee - **This registration is for Retired Rostered Leaders, Special Calls, Rostered On Leave from Call, Synod Council Members NOT attending as a Voting Member from their Congregation, Assembly Committee Members NOT attending as a Voting Member from their Congregation, and Special Guests.** Pastries and coffee in the mornings and lunch are provided

4. After choosing your registration type click Add and Next
5. Enter the number 1 in the correct meal option for you—Lunch Buffet-No Dietary Restrictions & Gluten Free, or Lunch-Diabetic, or Lunch-Vegetarian and click Next
6. **Complete the required registration questions which include the following and click Next**  
**Daytime Telephone Number**

#### Gender

**Congregation Name, City, and Conference**—*There is now a drop-down listing of Congregations by Conference. Congregation Name/City. Please choose the Congregation that applies to you. If you are a Pastor/Deacon/Vicar serving a **Multi-Point Parish**, choose Multi-Point Parish from the listing then please enter your congregation(s) name, city, and conference in the next question. If you are a **Partner Ministry**, please choose Partner Ministry from the listing and enter your Ministry Name and Title in the next question.*

**Voting Registration Type** - Pastor, Deacon, Vicar, Intern, Voting Member-Lay, Voting Member-Synod Council, Assembly Committee, Visitor, Invited Guest

**Do any of these Apply** - Retired Rostered Leader, Rostered On Leave From Call, Rostered Special Call, Youth/Young Adult (age 30 or younger), Person of Color or English Second Language

#### Reserved Handicap Seating

7. **Please do NOT enter an additional email address.** The email entered in the beginning of the registration process will be the email used for communication and Assembly voting.
8. Review the Registration Summary. If everything is correct, choose Next and if not, choose Back and update.
9. **Once your registration is complete, a confirmation email will be sent to the email used to register. This email will include a link for payment (if applicable) by credit card, ACH, or check by mail. Voting members should forward this email to their congregations to submit payment.** Checks should be made payable to Allegheny Synod and sent to 916 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

**No phone registrations will be accepted and there will be NO REFUNDS. Voting Members should register no later than June 1. If Voting Members are not registered by June 1 you may not be able to participate in the Electronic**

## Meals and Refreshments

Lunch will be provided by the Blair County Convention Center and **is included with your registration as long as you register by the June 1 deadline. Please remember to choose your meal. Retired Rostered, Special Calls, On Leave from Call, Synod Council Members NOT attending as a Voting Member, Assembly Committee members NOT attending as a Voting Member from their congregation, and Invited Guests, need to register and choose whether they need a regular adult lunch or a special diet lunch.** If a congregation has not selected voting members prior to the meal registration deadline, an online registration may be submitted with meal selection by **June 1** entering the registrant's name as "Unknown". Names may be given to the Synod office once voting members are selected. The only Special Diets accommodated will be Vegetarian, Gluten Free, and Diabetic - please be sure to register for the appropriate Special Diet meal needed. If you have not registered for meals prior to **June 1**, you will be responsible for your own meals. Our vendors set deadlines for meal counts, therefore we must set the same deadlines.

In response to rising costs and trying to keep the registration cost as low as possible, the Assembly Committee has made the decision to provide a **Coffee Station in the morning only. Pastries will be provided Saturday morning.**

### **Adult Chef's Choice Lunch with Dessert Buffet (No Dietary Restrictions/Gluten Free)**

*Tossed Salad, Oregano Chicken, Meatballs, Penne Pasta, Italian Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables, Iced Tea, Water, Dessert*

**Vegetarian** meal selection will be the same as above, but with a plant-based protein substitute provided.

**Diabetic** meal selection will be the same as above, but with a special dessert provided.

## Lodging

**Lodging is the responsibility of each individual registrant or congregation except for Retired Pastors, Special Calls, and On Leave from Call. The Synod office will NOT be taking or making lodging reservations for registrants. However, if you are in need of lodging and are one of the listed exceptions, please contact the Synod office.** Otherwise, please use the included lodging list to assist you in making your lodging reservations. A block of rooms has been set-aside for the Allegheny Synod at the Country Inn & Suites at a discounted rate of \$165.49 per night until **June 1**. If you decide to make reservations at the Country Inn & Suites, please state you are with the Allegheny Synod.

## Electronic Voting

**Voting for the Synod Assembly will be done online.** The company managing our voting is VPoll. **Each voting member will need an individual email and a personal voting device such as a smartphone, tablet, or laptop for the Assembly.** Voting Members will receive an email from VPoll with instructions on how to log into and access the voting system the week of the Electronic Voting Training. If you are not logged into the voting system at the time of voting during Assembly you will not be able to vote.

All voting members are strongly encouraged to attend the **Zoom Electronic Voting Training. The date and time of the training is to be determined.**

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## Nominations & Elections

We are sending out a call for service to congregations to nominate devoted Lutherans for election at the Assembly to serve as Synod Vice President, Synod Council Members or on Committees. Serving in one of these capacities is a great opportunity to support the Allegheny Synod and God's work in our community.

Nominees must complete and submit the included Nominations Form with a digital picture by **June 1** to Allegheny Synod ELCA, Attention: Mrs. Paula Nihoff, Nominations Chair, 916 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 or email to [lhcupaula@aol.com](mailto:lhcupaula@aol.com) with Attention: Paula Nihoff, Nominations Chair in the subject line. To have biographical information included with your nomination, it must be received **no later than June 1**. Nominations will be accepted after **June 1**, however, biographical information will not be included; only the nominee's name will be listed on the ballot. Once a Nomination is received, an email or written confirmation will be sent to the nominee stating the position(s) of interest.

**Nominations from the Assembly floor** will be required to complete the fillable online Nominations form available under the Synod Assembly information page on the Allegheny Synod website ([alleghenysynod.org](http://alleghenysynod.org)) and email to [office@alleghenysynod.com](mailto:office@alleghenysynod.com) prior to **9:30 AM on June 20**. We ask that you please acquire permission to nominate anyone.

The Nominations Form normally included with this mailing will be posted on the Synod's website and emailed at a later date.

## Resolutions & Memorials

Resolutions and Memorials should be submitted by **May 15** and must come from a voting member, a congregation, a committee, or an agency of the Synod. Included with this mailing is a sample form for Resolutions and Memorials to be presented at the Synod Assembly. Any resolution received after **May 15** will NOT be included in the Bulletin of Reports.

The Committee on Reference and Counsel will review all resolutions. The committee may consult with the maker of the resolution if changes are required. The goal of this process of review and revision is to ensure that the resolution is germane to Assembly business and that it is in the proper format for consideration by the Assembly.

**Resolutions and Memorials:** For recording and proper distribution, all resolutions and memorials are to be submitted by synods only to the secretary of this church and not directly to churchwide units.

Although both memorials and resolutions are requests by a synod for action, they are intended to address different issues and are processed differently.

In 1988, the Church Council voted that communications from synods to the churchwide organization and the Churchwide Assembly would be made pursuant to ELCA constitutional provisions and bylaws. Essentially, this action affirmed three avenues for communication:

- the Synod Assembly may address the Churchwide Assembly through memorials;
- the Synod Council may address the Church Council through resolutions; and
- the Synod Council may address churchwide units or offices through the Church Council's Executive Committee (including forwarding resolutions adopted by synod assemblies).

### **Synod assemblies may address the Churchwide Assembly through memorials.**

A memorial adopted by the Synod Assembly is submitted to the Churchwide Assembly with a recommendation for action from the Memorials Committee of the Churchwide Assembly. The "resolved" clause of a memorial could begin:

RESOLVED, that the \_\_\_\_\_ Synod Assembly memorialize the \_\_\_\_\_ Churchwide Assembly to . . .

**Memorials** address broad policy issues and are passed by synod assemblies for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly. The Synod Council is not authorized to adopt memorials for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. A responsibility of the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with provision 12.21.c, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, is to "receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies." Once received by the Office of the Secretary, memorials are referred to the Memorials Committee, which is appointed by the Church Council to review and make recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with bylaw 12.51.02. The Memorials Committee meets following the final Synod Assembly before a churchwide assembly.

### **Synod Councils may address the Church Council through resolutions.**

The Synod Council may also forward resolutions adopted by synod assemblies. The final "resolved" clause of such an assembly action should include this provision:

RESOLVED, that the \_\_\_ Synod Assembly direct the \_\_\_ Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

### **Synod Councils may address churchwide units or offices through the Church Council's Executive Committee.**

The Synod Council may also forward such resolutions adopted by synod assemblies. The final "resolved" clause of such an assembly action should include this provision:

RESOLVED, that the \_\_\_ Synod Assembly direct the \_\_\_ Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

## RESOLUTION/MEMORIAL FORM

Please use this form as a guide when submitting Resolutions or Memorials to the Assembly. Resolutions should be submitted to the Allegheny Synod, ELCA, 916 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 by **May 15**. Any resolution received after **May 15** cannot be included in the Bulletin of Reports.

Name of Proponent

Introductory Statement (Optional)

Resolved,

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City/State/Zip*

## Partner Ministry Tables

We invite our partner ministries to set up a display table in the Plenary Hall during assembly. You are welcome to bring items to display or provide giveaways to attendees throughout the day. Cost of the table is \$25; electricity is available by request for an additional fee. Please contact Andrea Paul at ????????? if you are interested in hosting a Partner Ministry Table

## Resource Table

In lieu of Assembly Packets, there will be an Resource Table with brochures and information for Assembly registrants. Any brochures or other information you would like included must be sent to the Synod office by **June 1**. Please send 50 copies of each item.

## Bulletin of Reports

All reports from Conference Deans, Officers, main Synod Committees, and Partners must be submitted to the attention of Synod Secretary, Rev. Rebecca Horn, at [SynodSecretary@AlleghenySynod.com](mailto:SynodSecretary@AlleghenySynod.com) by **May 1** to be included in the Bulletin of Reports. All reports should be submitted electronically as a word document (.doc or .docx), a basic text file (.txt) or a PDF file (.pdf).

**The Bulletin of Reports will be distributed in early June via e-mail.** It will also be available on the Synod website in PDF format. **Please print copies of the appropriate sections for your voting members and inform them to have the copies with them for Assembly. Copies will NOT be available at the event.** Those who do not have access to an electronic Bulletin of Reports, may request a printed copy by contacting the Synod office ([office@alleghenysynod.com](mailto:office@alleghenysynod.com) or 814-942-1042).

## Bible Study

There will be a Bible Study. Details will be sent at a later date.

## Social Media

Voting members and visitors attending Synod Assembly are encouraged to share what's happening during the event on social media. When posting, please use the hashtags **#AlleghenySynod** and **#8CAssembly**. There will be regular updates to the Allegheny Synod 8C Facebook page throughout the Assembly.

## Publicity

Registrants for the Allegheny Synod Assembly need to understand that publicity photographs may be taken during the event and their image/photographic likeness may appear in photographs taken during the Synod Assembly. ***By registering for the Synod Assembly, you hereby give permission that photos containing your image/likeness may be used for publicity or general information purposes including publication on the Allegheny Synod web site or within other publicity which may be seen by the general public.*** The Allegheny Synod will not seek any further permission nor provide any notification before using such photos.

## LODGING INFORMATION

**Quality Inn & Suites** is on the right behind Perkins Restaurant.

3306 Pleasant Valley Blvd.  
Altoona, PA 16602  
814-204-2618

**Super 8 by Wyndham** is a left turn off Pleasant Valley Blvd. on Union Avenue to Fairway Drive. Turn left at the traffic light at the Route 220 Interchange.

3535 Fairway Drive  
Altoona, PA 16602  
814-201-6909

**Hampton** is on the right beside Cracker Barrel restaurant at the Logan Valley Mall Intersection.

180 Charlotte Drive  
Altoona, PA 16602  
814-941-3500

**Altoona Grand Hotel** is on the right across the street from Target and Field and Stream and located behind the Outback restaurant.

1 Sheraton Drive  
Altoona, PA 16602  
814-946-1631

**Country Inn & Suites** is adjacent to the Blair County Convention Center.

2 Convention Center Blvd.  
Altoona, PA 16602  
814-312-1800

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites** is across the street from the Blair County Convention Center.

115 Convention Center Blvd.  
Altoona, PA 16602  
814-693-1004