



Who can register as a voting member?

Congregations – The number of lay voting members is determined by the number of baptized members your congregation indicated on your 2023 parochial report to the ELCA and the congregation elects their representatives accordingly.

Rostered Leaders - All rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members. Rostered leaders from a full communion partner serving one of our congregations may also be a voting member. All rostered ministers of this synod who are not active, i.e. Retired, On Leave from Call, or Disabled may serve as a voting member of the Synod Assembly if they provide prior notice to the Bishop by **February 8, 2025**, of their desire to register as a voting member. The Synod constitution calls for the Assembly to be comprised of 60% lay and 40% rostered voting members. If the number of non-active rostered leaders tips the registration balance to more than 40% rostered, these leaders will not be registered as voting members.

Synod Council - All members of the Synod Council are voting members.

How Many Lay Voting Members Does My Congregation Get?

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|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Up to 500 baptized members | 2 lay voting members | (different gender identities) |
| ▪ 501 – 750 baptized members | 3 lay voting members | (mix of gender identities) |
| ▪ 751 – 1000 baptized members | 4 lay voting members | (mix of gender identities) |
| ▪ 1001 – 1250 baptized members | 5 lay voting members | (mix of gender identities) |
| ▪ 1251 – 1500 baptized members | 6 lay voting members | (mix of gender identities) |
| ▪ 1501 – 1750 baptized members | 7 lay voting members | (mix of gender identities) |

You may wish to consider sending a confirmed youth or young adult, who is a congregational voting member, as one of your representatives.

Each congregation shall be entitled to elect one additional lay voting member from among its members who are persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English.

We strive to have a balance of at least **60% voting LAY MEMBERS** (at least 45% women and 45% men) and **40% voting ROSTERED CLERGY AND DEACONS**. The Credentials Committee may approve the seating of only 1 voting member if a congregation's registered lay representation to Synod Assembly includes only 2 of one gender identity.

Please note that the Credentials Committee is only able to seat voting members who meet ELCA constitutional requirements.

We ask you to respect the firm **online registration deadline of April 8, 2025**. It provides time for the work of the Synod office with the Registration and Credentials Committees, so that your voting members may get information in a timely manner.

Please reach out to the Synod Office at (253) 535-8300 or swwsynod@plu.edu with any questions or comments.