

# SYNOD ASSEMBLY LIFE TOGETHER

SALT IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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## Rules, credentials, elections...oh, my!



### ELECTION AND CALLING OF A BISHOP

The election of a bishop is both an election and a call process. The Synod Council's Transition Task Force has provided information, materials and opportunities for thoughtful, prayerful preparation for this significant responsibility in the life of our synod.

The assembly agenda itself will also provide opportunity for careful instruction, prayerful preparation and reflection, and a Spirit-led election process. The Agenda and Program Committee is also taking great care to assure adequate time for the casting, counting, and reporting of ballots, as well as for the withdrawal of nominees, the dissemination of biographical information for persons on the third ballot, and a question-and-answer period for nominees on the fourth ballot.

The ELCA's Office of Secretary has notified all synods which will be electing a bishop in 2008 that "because only voting members may cast ballots for the election of officers, voting members must be appropriately registered and identified in advance of the balloting. It is generally not desirable to authorize seating of others with voting members. Careful preparation of registration processes and identification of voting members at the time of balloting will minimize the risk of a challenge to election results or an invalid ballot."

### WHO CAN VOTE?

Your synod constitution's Chapter 7 (the blue pages in your Directory and Minutes book) defines the voting membership of the synod assembly.

Each congregation is entitled to two voting members, and additional voting members based on congregational size. (See Continuing Resolution S7.21.A07.) Remember that each congregation is entitled to one additional lay voting member who is under the age of 30 at the time of the assembly. Also, each authorized worshipping community and each mission setting formed with the intent of becoming a chartered congregation is entitled to two lay voting members, one male and one female (see Continuing Resolution S.7.26.A06). Lay synod council members also have privilege of voice and vote.

Rostered leaders under call, as well as those who are retired, shall be voting members.

Rostered leaders on leave from call shall have voice but not vote.

(An ordained minister on leave from call but serving as interim pastor under appointment to a congregation, on the roster of this synod, who's complied with the provisions of S14.05., i.e., having submitted an annual report of his/her ministry to the bishop of this synod 90 days before the assembly, shall be a voting member.)

It is good to note that proxy and absentee voting is not permitted.

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**Here is useful information (that will appear in the Bulletin of Reports) that will give you a “heads up.”**

The registration desk will open Friday, May 16 at 10 am.

Note: the registration desk will close at 5:15 pm and re-open briefly after worship Friday night and on Saturday morning for late arrivals.

Voting members must have checked in at the registration desk and obtained a voting member’s name tag in order to cast a legal ballot during plenary sessions. Voting members are required to sit within the “bar of synod.”

Spaces dedicated for prayer during the assembly are located in the following locations:

Upper level: end of hallway near the Ballrooms

Lower level: end of hallway near “Congaree Meeting Room”

**A busy place! A busy time!**

While the plenary sessions will be in the Exhibit Hall (lower level), the Ballrooms upstairs will see lots of activity, including the service of Holy Communion on Friday evening. (The offering from this service is designated for the SC Synod’s “Growing in God’s Mission” and the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund). Also, of course, there will be a Celebration Banquet Honoring Bishop Donges on Saturday evening, sponsored in part by a generous grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

**Regarding elections, take note of these items:**

Nominations from the floor must include a completed biographical information form.

Results of the first ballot for election of Bishop and Vice President will be posted in the registration area as soon as they are available Friday night.

Forms for removing one’s own name from the second ballot for Bishop or Vice President will be available from the synod secretary Friday evening and Saturday morning in the registration area.

Deadline for removing names from second ballot for Bishop or Vice President is before the second ballot (approximately 9:20 am Saturday). Forms for removing one’s own name from the second ballot are available from the synod secretary and should be submitted to the secretary. Names cannot be removed once the second ballot is cast.

Candidates on third ballot for Bishop and Vice President must submit for duplication the form for biographical information and consent for background check by 12:15 pm on Saturday.

**Remember your voting members under 30!** By action of last year’s synod assembly, every congregation is eligible for an additional voting member if that person is under age 30.

For more information about the upcoming Synod Assembly, including downloadable registration forms, please visit [www.sclutheran.org](http://www.sclutheran.org) and click the blue “Synod Assembly” button to the left of your screen.