



2008 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

## “A Synod at Table with the Hungry”

April 18-19, 2008 - Mayo Civic Center – Rochester, MN

### Assembly “Dictionary”

It exists in conversations, announcements, and even newsletters - it's incorrect assembly vocabulary! Some of this comes from pre-ELCA traditions, so let's get up-to-date:

**Assembly** - It's an assembly, not called a convention, meeting, conference, or gathering. The Synod Assembly is the highest legislative authority of the synod.

**Displays** - We're always excited to share information about synod and other ELCA ministries with the participants of the Synod Assembly. These are meant to be informative, not money-making. On occasion displays do provide information about materials they have available for sale, but they are still not “vendors.” The one exception is Augsburg Fortress, the publishing house of the ELCA. They are available for participants to browse their many resources for sale.

**Voting Members** - The people who have voice and vote at the Synod Assembly are “voting members,” not delegates. Voting members are not delegates, as that term is understood or used in some political contexts. The voting members come together as representatives not only of their own congregations but also serve on behalf of all the people of the synod.

These people include ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod; associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers under call on the lay rosters of this synod; two lay voting members elected/chosen by each congregation plus additional lay voting members based on baptized membership (see [www.semnsynod.org/assembly](http://www.semnsynod.org/assembly) for the detailed formula); and officers of this synod.

### Pre-Assembly Report

The Pre-Assembly Report will be available online by the end of March at [www.semnsynod.org/assembly.html](http://www.semnsynod.org/assembly.html). If a congregation and/or its voting members are not able to access it online, please contact the synod office at 507-280-9457 or

800-426-6376 in Minnesota. More details online.

No portions of the Pre-Assembly Report will be distributed at the assembly.

### Assembly Follow-Up

A follow-up report of the highlights of the Synod Assembly will be available online at [www.semnsynod.org](http://www.semnsynod.org) within hours of the closing of the assembly. Feel free to share with your congregation the next day at worship!

### Reminders

- Lodging arrangements need to be made by April 1 for the event discount. Call the Radisson Hotel in Rochester at 507-281-8000 and request a room in the block reserved for “Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA” to receive a special rebate of \$89/room plus tax.
- If your congregation sends a high school voter, tell them to fill out a rebate form when they get to assembly.
- Rostered leaders under call should notify Bishop Usgaard if they are unable to attend Assembly.
- Bring a Bible!
- Go to [www.semnsynod.org/assembly.html](http://www.semnsynod.org/assembly.html) for more information.

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