

DATE: March 2021

TO: Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service, Members of the Order of St. Stephen Deacon, Congregations and Visitors

FROM: Nancy L. Gordon, Secretary, Delaware-Maryland Synod

SUBJECT: **2021 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly**

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. – 1 Timothy 2:1-2

This will serve as your official notification of the 34th annual Assembly of the Delaware-Maryland Synod which will be held **Friday, June 4 through Saturday, June 5, 2021. Synod Assembly will be held virtually this year**, beginning on June 4 at 6:30 p.m. and closing on June 5 at 12:30 p.m.

This letter provides detailed information on the assembly program, registration procedures, cost and related items. Please read it carefully and proceed accordingly.

Assembly Theme

With this year's assembly, we celebrate the theme, "**Lord, Teach Us to Pray...**" Brief faith practices will be included around that theme – and our Lutheran Youth Organization will lead us in worship with prayer at the heart of our time together.

Representation at Synod Assembly

Each congregation of the Delaware-Maryland Synod will be represented by two or more lay persons, normally one male and one female, up to the first 185 reported baptized members. For each additional reported 185 baptized members, or major fraction thereof, a congregation will be entitled to one more lay representative, male or female. In addition, each congregation is entitled to send one youth/young adult voting member. **The number of voting members to which your congregation is entitled is now posted on the synod website under the "Assembly" tab.**

All Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service who are on the roster of this synod, all retired ministers rostered in this synod and the lay members of the Synod Council are voting members.

Under our church's constitution and by-laws, leaders on the roster of this church are **required** to attend.

Those who are unable to attend for whatever reason must send a letter to the bishop by April 15, 2021, explaining the circumstances and asking to be excused. Those letters may be sent by US Mail or by email to Bishop Gohl, in the care of Justina Sergeant, jsergeon@demdsynod.org.

The 2010 Synod Assembly passed a resolution to allow each congregation to send one additional voting member, either male or female, who is a youth or a young adult. The term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not yet 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.

All materials are on the website

All materials for the business sessions of the Synod Assembly will be posted on the synod's website, www.demdsynod.org under the "Assembly" tab.

Materials sent to us for inclusion in our online Assembly packet will also be scanned and uploaded (by May 15, 2021) and available with all other materials.

Registration is open from March 22 – May 15, 2021

Registration for the 2021 Synod Assembly opens on March 22 and closes on May 15, 2021. **The primary mode for registration will be ONLINE through the synod website.** Please note that your email address will be automatically added to our weekly E-letter distribution list so that we can keep you informed of synod events and happenings. If you do not wish to receive the E-letter, you may unsubscribe at any time. **To register:**

- Go to the Delaware-Maryland Synod website on or after **March 22, 2021:** www.demdsynod.org
- Click on the 2021 Synod Assembly link under the Synod Assembly tab; you will see a registration button to click.
- Online payments are to be made by credit card. This is a secure site for registration.
- Multiple registrations may be completed by one person. No password is needed. Please enter individual email addresses for each registrant.
- If you prefer to pay by check, **please print out a copy of your online registration and send with the check to:**

**Cindy VanVliet, Associate for Community
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA
575 South Charles Street, Suite 202
Baltimore, MD 21201-2482**

If you are unable to register online, please call the synod office **before May 15, 2021** for assistance.

If you are a volunteer and/or your registration is paid by the synod, please contact Cindy VanVliet, after March 22, 2021, for a code that links to your on-line registration: cvanvliet@demdsynod.org or 410-230-2860.

Registration fees

The 2000 Synod Assembly approved a resolution to make the Synod Assembly self-sustaining. The registration fees were set by the Synod Council at its meeting on March 20, 2021.

The Synod Council includes an incentive for early registration again this year, so register early and be charged the lowest available registration fee!

Rates in chart below apply to: Minister of Word and Sacrament Minister of Word and Service Lay Voting Members Youth/Young Adult Voting Members		
Early Bird Rate: \$50.00 Online registration must be completed by 4/30/21 . <i>No exceptions.</i>	Regular Rate: \$75.00 Online registration must be completed by 5/30/21 <i>No exceptions.</i>	Late Rate: \$99.00 After May 30, 2021, but by June 3, 2021 at 12 noon. <i>There is no registration available after June 3rd at 12 noon.</i>

Rates in chart below apply to: Retired Minister of Word and Sacrament Retired Minister of Word and Service Ministers of Word and Sacrament on Leave from Call Ministers of Word and Service on Leave from Call		
Early Bird Rate: \$25.00 Online registration must be completed by 4/30/21 . <i>No exceptions.</i>	Regular Rate: \$50.00 Online registration must be completed by 5/30/21 <i>No exceptions.</i>	Late Rate: \$99.00 After May 30, 2021, but by June 3, 2021 at 12 noon. <i>There is no registration available after June 3rd at 12 noon.</i>

Worship

Worship will be offered, online, during our 2021 Synod Assembly. Led by the Lutheran Youth Organization, we invite you to join us:

- Friday, June 4, 2021 at 9:15 p.m. – Compline, online
- Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer, online

Offering

Congregations will have the opportunity during Synod Assembly to report their giving to the annual Noisy Offering for the Hunger Task Force; and Assembly members will be invited to make an offering to the Synod Annual Ministry Fund, to extend our synod's ministry locally for global impact.