

# VOTING MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL STATES SYNOD ASSEMBLY

According to chapter 7 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the *Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, 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:

## General

Except as otherwise provided in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of the a congregation of this synod.

Interns on assignment in the Central States Synod are not eligible to be voting members.

## Congregations and Synodical Authorized Worshiping Communities

**S7.21.01.a.** A minimum if two lay members elected by each congregation related to this synod, one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. Additional lay representation from congregations shall be on the basis of the number of baptized members as reported in the most recently published ELCA Yearbook. Congregations having 500-1500 baptized members shall have 4 voting members (2male, 2 female); 1501-2500 baptized member shall have 6 voting members (3 male, and 3 female); and over 2500 baptized member shall have 8 voting members (4 male, 4 female). Additional members from each congregation shall be divided between male and female except that the odd-numbered member, if any, may be either male or female.

**S7.21.01.b.** In the event that a congregation is unable to adhere to S.7.21.01.a. at their annual meeting, the congregation may request a waiver to be filed with the Synod Office by **March 1, 2012**. Such a request for wavier must state in detail the process followed to elect the voting member s and the reasons for requesting a waiver. The Synod Council shall rule upon the request at their spring meeting. The Synod Council in acting on these waiver requests shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. The Synod council will report their decision back to the congregation in a timely manner.

**S7.21.01.c.** Any congregation may elect an additional lay voting member from its membership to the synod Assembly provided that the person is a person of color or whose primary language is other than English.

**S7.21.01.d.** Any congregation may elect a youth from its voting membership as an additional lay voting member to the Synod Assembly provided that the person has not yet reached his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time of election and otherwise meets the requirements to be a voting member.

**S7.26.01.** Authorized Worshiping Communities of the Central States Synod, as reported in the most recently published ELCA Yearbook . . . shall have one lay member as their representative and voting member at the Synod Assembly.

## Rostered Persons

**S7.21.a.** All ordained minister under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at this Synod Assembly shall be voting members.

**S7.21.b.** All associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers, under call, on the official lay rosters of this synod shall have both voice and vote as lay voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item †S7.21.c.

**S7.22.01.** All retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, retired diaconal ministers, and those designated as disabled on the rosters of this synod shall serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly. All registration fees (not including housing and meals) will be waived for all retired person on the rosters of this synod. In the event at least 60 percent of the assembly membership is not lay, the retired ordained ministers together with the ordained ministers on leave from call will caucus and elect the appropriate representation.

**S7.22.02.** All ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the rosters of the synod who are on leave from call, may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. In the event at least 60 percent of the assembly membership is not lay, the retired ordained ministers together with the ordained ministers on leave from call will caucus and elect the appropriate representation.

**S7.23.01.** Those ordained ministers On Leave from Call who are serving in an interim position with a congregation by appointment of the Bishop, shall have the privilege of voice and vote.

**S7.27.01.** Consistent with the language of 8.72.14 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, an ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this synod, in accord with ELCA churchwide by-law 8.72.12.

#### Other Voting Members

**S7.24.A05.** A Parish Ministry Associate of the Central States Synod serving as interim pastoral support by authority of the Bishop of the Central States Synod shall have the privilege of voice and vote at assemblies of the Central States Synod effective with the 2005 synod assembly.

**S7.21.d.** Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.

**S7.28.** Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly †S7.21 shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.

#### Voice Only

In addition to the voting membership of the assembly, the constitution and bylaws provide for the following people to have voice but not vote:

**S7.23.** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

**S7.23.** Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

**S7.23. A06.** A pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who is rostered in a synod other than the Central States Synod who is serving as interim pastor in a congregation of the Central States Synod, shall have the privilege of voice, but not vote, at the Central States Synod Assembly. This pastor shall also have the privilege of sitting on the floor with the voting members of the congregation the pastor is serving.