



Central States Synod



C2025 Central States Synod Assembly

June 5-7, 2025
Embassy Suites
10401 S. Ridgeview Rd,
Olathe, KS 66061

Date: January 6, 2025

Dear Central States Synod,

Our annual Synod Assembly will take place **June 5-7, 2025**. To give us time to conduct the first ballot of the bishop's election, we will begin earlier than in past years with the first session beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. Please plan accordingly. We will conclude the assembly by noon on Saturday. The assembly theme, ***Renewed by the Spirit*** reminds us that as we elect a new bishop, God's Spirit is always leading and renewing the church. Registration is \$225 for voting members.

Once again, we will be gathering at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Kansas City, 10401 S Ridgeview Rd, Olathe, KS 66061. Room options include 1 King 1 room suites, 1 King 2 room suites, and 2 queens 2 room suites all for \$162 per night. Both hotel reservation and assembly registration links will be available in early February at www.css-elca.org/assembly.

The primary focus of the assembly will be electing a new bishop, and we are pleased to have Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton joining us to guide us through the process. In preparation, the synod's discernment team has put together a profile of the Central States Synod. This profile can help inform those open to considering the call to be bishop and voting members as they consider who may have the skills to serve as bishop. The profile can be viewed at www.css-elca.org/discernment. In addition to electing a new bishop, we will be approving a budget, compensation guidelines, and resolutions, as well as electing members to the synod council, consultation, and discipline committees.

God's work. Our hands.

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Please note, according to our synod constitution:

- All rostered ministers, pastors, and deacons, under call shall be voting members of the assembly. (Rostered ministers who are retired, on leave from call, or on disability may also be voting members as long as 60 percent of the voting members are laypersons.)
- At least 60 percent of the voting members shall be laypersons. Each congregation shall be entitled to send two lay voting members, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman. (Congregations with baptized membership over 500 are entitled to send additional voting members. Those congregations are listed at www.css-elca.org/assembly.) **The synod council shall seek to ensure that at least 45% of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45% shall be men.**
- If a congregation needs to send two lay voting members who are both women or both men, **that congregation must submit a waiver to the synod office by March 1, 2025.** (waivers are available at www.css-elca.org/assembly.) Please note that to ensure that at least 45% of the lay voting members are women and at least 45% are men, the synod council may not approve all waivers.
- A congregation may send additional lay voting members provided that the person is a person of color or whose primary language is other than English or the person is a youth, under the age of 18 at the time of their election.

Notable deadlines include:

- [Voting Waivers](#) - March 1, 2025
- [Assembly Partnerships](#) - April 15, 2025
 - Congregations needing financial assistance to attend the assembly are welcome to apply.
- Resolutions - April 15, 2025
- [Nominations](#) - April 15, 2025.
 - Open positions can be found on the [assembly webpage](#). Individuals are encouraged to consider how they might serve on the synod level.
- Travel Equalization - May 15, 2025
 - We have updated our travel equalization procedure. Those congregations traveling over 100 miles can submit their request ahead of assembly.
- Assembly registration - May 15, 2025
- Hotel reservations - May 29, 2025

Updated information regarding the assembly will be included in the e-newsletter and can be found on the synod website at www.css-elca.org/assembly. We look forward to seeing you in Olathe this June as we gather to do the work of the church!

In Christ,



The. Rev. Chad Langdon, Secretary

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