

**DATE:** February 2023

**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:** **2023 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly**

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Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. –2 Corinthians 12.9*

This will serve as your official notification of the 36th annual Assembly of the Delaware-Maryland Synod which will be held **Friday, June 9, through Saturday, June 10, 2023. Assembly will be held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 21 Carroll St, Westminster, MD 21157.** The assembly begins on June 9 at 10:00 a.m. and closes on June 10 at 12:30 p.m.

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

### **Assembly Theme**

With this year's assembly, we celebrate the theme, *"But for the grace of God we go!"*

### **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 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.

**Rostered Ministers who are unable to attend or congregations not able to send representatives for whatever reason must send a letter to the bishop by May 1, 2023,**

**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 Cindy VanVliet, [cvanvliet@demdsynod.org](mailto:cvanvliet@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](http://www.demdsynod.org). **In an effort to continue to become green, again this year we will not provide printed hand-outs but will leave it up to voting members to print and bring their own copies or to access documents electronically.**

Materials sent to us for inclusion in an Assembly packet will also be scanned and uploaded (by May 1, 2023) and available with all other materials.

### **Registration is open from March 1 – May 26, 2023**

Registration for the 2023 Synod Assembly opens on March 1 and closes on May 26, 2023. **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 1, 2023:** [www.demdsynod.org](http://www.demdsynod.org)
- Click on the 2023 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  
5699 Meridale Rd  
Baltimore, MD 21228**

**If you are unable to register online,** please call the synod office **before May 26, 2023,** for assistance.

## 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 February 4, 2023.

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

2023 Assembly Fees, Adopted at Synod Council Meeting, 2-4-23

<b>Rates in chart below apply to:</b> Ordained Ministers Lay Voting Members Youth/Young Adult Voting Members		
<b><u>Early Bird Rate</u></b> <b>\$135.00</b> On-line and mail-in registration must be <u>received</u> by <b>3/31/23</b> . <i>No exceptions.</i>	<b><u>Regular Rate</u></b> <b>\$150.00</b> On-line and mail-in registration must be <u>received</u> by <b>5/26/23</b> . <i>No exceptions.</i>	<b><u>On-Site Rate</u></b> <b>\$175.00</b> After <b>5/26/23</b> , you must wait to register on-site at Assembly. On-site registration attendees will be assigned overflow seating.

<b>Rates in chart below apply to:</b> Ordained Ministers on the Retired Roster Ordained Ministers on Leave from Call		
<b><u>Early Bird Rate</u></b> <b>\$100.00</b> On-line and mail-in registration must be <u>received</u> by <b>3/31/23</b> . <i>No exceptions.</i>	<b><u>Regular Rate</u></b> <b>\$125.00</b> On-line and mail-in registration must be <u>received</u> by <b>5/26/23</b> . <i>No exceptions.</i>	<b><u>On-Site Rate</u></b> <b>\$150.00</b> After <b>5/26/23</b> , you must wait to register on-site at Assembly. On-site registration attendees will be assigned overflow seating.

<b>Rates in chart below apply to:</b> Visitors, non-voting		
<b><u>Early Bird Rate</u></b> <b>\$75.00</b> On-line and mail-in registration must be <u>received</u> by <b>3/31/23</b> . <i>No exceptions.</i>	<b><u>Regular Rate</u></b> <b>\$100.00</b> On-line and mail-in registration must be <u>received</u> by <b>5/26/23</b> . <i>No exceptions.</i>	<b><u>On-Site Rate</u></b> <b>\$125.00</b> After <b>5/26/23</b> , you must wait to register on-site at Assembly.

Boxed Lunch on Friday: \$15 - must be paid for during registration.

## Help wanted... seeking Assembly volunteers!

Volunteers are needed to serve on committees, as Pages during business sessions, to assist with worship services at the Assembly, and to help with childcare in the Assembly Daycare Room. If

you are interested in serving, contact **Cindy VanVliet, Associate for Community, 410-230-2860** or [cvanvliet@demdsynod.org](mailto:cvanvliet@demdsynod.org)

### **Optional meals at Assembly**

Boxed lunch for Friday, June 9 will be available for purchase for \$15.00 **and must be ordered and paid for during registration. This will be the only opportunity to purchase them.**

Dinner Friday evening, June 9, and Breakfast Saturday morning, June 10, will be on your own. *The Westminster Conference will be preparing a list of area eateries that will accommodate your dining Friday evening and/or Saturday morning of Assembly weekend. Those will be forthcoming and listed on our synod website under the Assembly tab!*

### **Childcare at the Assembly**

Childcare will be available, free of charge, for children **ages 2-8 years** during the **business only**. Please sign up for childcare through online registration only. If you do not have access to online registration, contact **Cindy VanVliet** at **410-230-2860** or [cvanvliet@demdsynod.org](mailto:cvanvliet@demdsynod.org)

### **Worship at the Assembly**

There will be a daily service of Holy Communion at the 2023 Assembly, consistent with our Synod's continuing resolutions.

- Friday, June 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – Word and Sacrament with the Order for the Opening of the Assembly
- Saturday, June 10, 2023, 11:30 a.m. - Word and Sacrament with the Installation of Newly Elected Synod Council Members, Mission Team Leaders, and the Order for the Closing of an Assembly

In keeping with our Assembly theme, *“But for the grace of God we go!”* all offerings will be divided between relief ministries of our synod and the ELCA.

### **Hotel information**

With the wide variety of lodging options available today, to include hotels, Airbnb, Vrbo, private condominium rentals, friends' homes, etc., we have found that hotel blocks have become limiting. To make space for you to seek out the best option for your budget this year, below are several helpful links to help you find the best fit.

[www.Airbnb.com](http://www.Airbnb.com)

[www.Vrbo.com](http://www.Vrbo.com)

[www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com)

*The Westminster Conference recommends you search out chain hotels in nearby Gettysburg and Owings Mills for pleasant overnight accommodations.*

*Also, a Limited number of home-stay bed and breakfasts are being prepared by the Westminster Conference. If you would like more information about these sites, please contact Cindy VanVliet at [cvanvliet@demdsynod.org](mailto:cvanvliet@demdsynod.org).*