

DISTRIBUTION OF VOTING MEMBERS

2008 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly

According to our constitution (!S7.21), the members of the Synod Assembly must be composed of at least 60% lay voting members. Of the lay voting members, there should be 50% male and 50% female. All congregations may send two voting members to the assembly (one male, one female). Congregations of fewer than 175 baptized members may elect to send one lay voting member rather than two. The Synod Council has established a policy whereby congregations of 400 or more baptized members may send three lay voting members.

To accomplish these goals, our congregations are to follow these guidelines. (Please refer to the number of baptized members reported on your congregation's Parochial Report for the calendar year 2007, or contact the synod office.)

Congregations of Fewer Than 175 Baptized Members

- † May send two lay voting members (one male, one female)
- † May elect to send only one lay voting member, and if so:
 - ◆ Austin, Hill Country, and Victoria conference congregations will send a male voting member
 - ◆ Coastal Bend, Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio conference congregations will send a female voting member.
 - ◆ (At subsequent assemblies this pattern will switch.)

Congregations of 176-399 Baptized Members

- † Should send two lay voting members (one male, one female)

Congregations of 400 or more Baptized Members

- † Should send two lay voting members (one male, one female)
- † May send one additional lay voting member, and if so:
 - ◆ Austin, Coastal Bend, Victoria conference congregations will send a female as the additional voting member
 - ◆ Hill Country, Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio conference congregations will send a male as the additional voting member.
 - ◆ (At subsequent assemblies this pattern will switch.)

In addition, the Synod Council adopted the following at its meeting on September 11, 2004:

Procedure for Selection of Retired Rostered Persons and Synodically Authorized Ministers to Serve as Voting Members of the Synod Assembly

PURPOSE: Section S7.22 of the Synod Constitution, as amended by the Synod Assembly on May 14, 2004, provides:

S7.22

The synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod; and

Synodically authorized ministers, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with S7.21.c. above.

This document sets out the processes adopted by the Synod Council for the selection of such persons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly.

Retired Rostered Persons

Up to 10 percent of the total number of retired ordained ministers, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses on the rosters of the synod will be selected to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, with voice and vote. The persons to serve in that capacity will be selected as follows:

- 1) All retired rostered persons will be contacted by mail on or about February 1 of that assembly year to determine their willingness to serve as voting members, and advising them of the process of selection, including the deadline for responses.
- 2) Any retired ordained minister serving under at least a one-year contract with a congregation, agency or institution recognized by this synod who desires to serve will automatically be included in the total number of retired rostered persons serving as voting members. If the number of such persons who desire to serve as voting members exceeds the 10 percent limit, the persons selected to serve will be chosen from among those persons desiring to serve by random drawing conducted by the Executive Committee or at its direction.
- 3) If the number of persons selected under the paragraph above is less than the total number of retired rostered persons authorized to serve as voting members for the assembly, the remaining positions will be filled from among those who indicated their desire to serve by random drawing conducted by the Executive Committee or at its direction.
- 4) The retired rostered persons chosen to serve as voting members will be notified of their selection as soon as practicable before the assembly.
- 5) In the event a voting member selected under this process is unable to attend the assembly, the Executive Committee may appoint a substitute to serve in his place from among those who previously indicated their desire to serve but were not selected.
- 6) Retired ordained ministers serving as voting members under this process will be counted as clergy, and retired associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses will be counted as lay persons, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of S7.21.
- 7) Registration fees for the assembly will be waived for retired rostered persons serving as voting members under this process. Any travel, housing, meal or other expenses incurred are the responsibility of the retired rostered person.

Synodically Authorized Ministers

- 1) A Synodically Authorized Minister in attendance at the Synod Assembly who is serving within a congregation under an authorization of at least one year in duration shall be a voting member of the Synod Assembly, with voice and vote.
- 2) Synodically Authorized Ministers serving as voting members under this process will be counted as lay persons for purposes of satisfying the requirements of S7.21.
- 3) Synodically Authorized Ministers serving as voting members under this process will not be counted as a lay voting member from the congregation they serve for purposes of determining the number of lay voting members to be elected by the congregation.
- 4) Registration fees, travel, housing, meal and other expenses incurred in attending the Synod Assembly are the responsibility of the congregation served by the Synodically Authorized Minister.

General

If the selection of voting members of the Synod Assembly under the processes above results in additional lay voting members being needed to meet the requirement that at least 60% of voting members of the assembly be lay persons, additional lay voting members from congregations will be selected in accordance with the process adopted by the Synod Council under S7.21(c).