

# 2026 Synod Assembly General Rules

## S7.01A24. Synod Assembly General Rules

- a. Prior to the opening session of the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall disseminate to all member congregations an assembly agenda and these General Rules.
- b. These General Rules shall govern the functions of the Assembly unless amended in accordance with †S18.31.
- c. The determination by the Chairperson and Assembly Manager as to voting membership shall be final.
- d. Non-voting officials, visitors, and alternate voting members may be seated with voting members unless the Assembly votes to separate the voting and nonvoting attendees.
- e. Unless otherwise determined by a majority of the Assembly voting members, all speeches on business matters before the Assembly may not exceed two minutes and no voting member shall speak more than twice on the same subject.
- f. Except for positions that require special procedures pursuant to the ELCA or Synod Constitution, the following election process will be followed:
  1. The Nominating Committee will normally nominate one person for each office to be filled by election.
  2. Any voting member of the Assembly may nominate in writing a member in good standing of a congregation within the Synod. Such written nomination must be given to the assembly manager by 3:30 PM on the first full day of the Assembly. The nomination shall include the name of the person nominated, the name of the nominee's home congregation, a statement that the nominee agrees to serve in the position if elected, and the office the nominee is seeking.
  3. All elections must be by red or green cards unless the Assembly votes to conduct an election by written ballot. Except as otherwise provided by a majority vote of the voting members of the Assembly or the Synod Constitution, a majority of the votes cast is required for election. If more than two persons are nominated and none receive a majority, the two receiving the highest vote are the candidates on the next vote.
  4. The results of each vote in every election will be announced in detail to the Assembly.
- g. Except for announcements and comments by the chairperson or other person designated by the chairperson, only motions, resolutions, or discussion which relate to pending business, or pursuant to the agenda, shall be presented to the Assembly.
- h. The agenda for the Assembly and the considerations by the Reference and Counsel Committee shall assign priority for consideration and action to all resolutions, motions, and proposals on the following basis:
  1. First priority shall be given to written resolutions received by the Synod Council, which have been adopted by a majority vote at a congregational meeting of a member congregation and signed by the President or Secretary of that congregation.

2. Second priority shall be given to written resolutions received by the Synod Council, which have been adopted by any standing or temporary committee of the Synod.
  3. Third priority shall be given to a written resolution initiated by the Synod Council or any officer of the Synod.
  4. If time permits, the Reference and Counsel Committee shall present to the Assembly for consideration any written proposal signed (in writing or by digital means) by twenty-five voting members of the Assembly, which is germane to any items on the agenda or of significant concern to the Synod, if electronically submitted (e.g., email or flash drive) to the Reference and Counsel Committee by 3:30 p.m. on the first full day of the Assembly.
- i. Resolutions should be prepared in accordance with the Synod Assembly Resolution Guidelines at <https://www.wndsynod.org/synod-assembly-resolution-guidelines>.
  - j. The Reference and Counsel Committee shall review all resolutions offered and shall submit each to the Assembly with its recommendation that:
    1. the resolution be adopted,
    2. the resolution be rejected,
    3. the resolution be amended and thereafter adopted,
    4. the resolution may be submitted without a recommendation, or
    5. If, in the opinion of the Reference and Counsel Committee, time will not permit the consideration of the resolution by the Assembly, the resolution will be returned to the sponsor or referred to the Synod Council for further consideration.
  - k. The Reference and Counsel Committee may at any time:
    1. grant or deny anyone permission to distribute printed matter to the voting members, or
    2. give assistance to the Assembly Chairperson as may be required.
  - l. Action recommended by the Reference and Counsel Committee may be rejected by a majority of the Assembly.
  - m. Any voting member may, after receiving recognition by the Chairperson, make a germane motion orally or in writing relating to the business of the Assembly.

On October 5, 2024, the Synod Council updated the Synod Assembly General Rules, renumbered as S7.01A24.