

Voting Members

Rostered Ministers Under Call

All Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service serving under call on the roster of this synod and attending the Synod Assembly shall be voting members. Note: retired rostered ministers currently serving under contract as interim ministers in congregations shall also register under this category.

Synod-Authorized Ministers (SAMs)

All Synod-Authorized Ministers under contract can be an additional lay voting member, they do not need to be an elected lay voting member, but must register as a SAM.

Lay Voting Members

Congregations with fewer than 175 baptized members shall elect **a minimum of one** lay voting member and **may elect up to two** lay voting members (a male and a female).

Congregations with 175 to 750 baptized members shall elect **two** lay voting members (one male and one female).

Congregations with 751 or more baptized members may register additional lay voting members (half male, half female) as described in the listing of congregations of the synod at: <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/synod-assembly>

Note: All congregations are expected to send voting members to the Synod Assembly, and all costs for the Synod Assembly are paid out of registration fees. *Congregations that register fewer than the required number of lay voting members will be charged \$170 per absent member.* This fee may be paid through the online registration form.

Lay Voting Members Between Ages 15 and 30

Confirmed youth who are voting members of their congregations may be elected by their congregations to serve as “regular” lay voting members of the Synod Assembly. Any congregation that has elected its minimum number of “regular” lay voting members may also elect an “additional” voting member who is a confirmed voting member of that congregation between the ages of 15 and 30 years.” (\$7.21.d). Only these additional youth voting members may register at this reduced rate.

Rostered Ministers Not Serving Under Call

Ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of the synod who are retired or disabled may register at a reduced rate and will have both voice and vote.

Note: Congregations may not elect retired Ministers of Word and Sacrament as Lay Voting Members.

Ministers of Word and Service on the roster of the synod who are retired or disabled may register at a reduced rate, with voice but not vote. Exception: retired or disabled ministers of Word and Service may be elected by congregations as Lay Voting Members, with both voice and vote. The congregation, however, must register them at the full Lay Voting Member rate.

Rostered ministers on the roster of the synod who are “on leave from call” may register at a reduced rate, with voice but not vote.

Non-voting Members and Guests

Non-voting members and guests shall attend via Livestream on Facebook free of charge, or they may register and pay to be on-site and will have a name tag indicating that they are non-voting. They may have voice to address the assembly only if provided in the agenda, invited by the chair to speak, or upon majority vote of the voting members present and voting.

Registration Fees and Rights

	Early Reg. ¹	Late Reg. ²	Voting Rights	Speaking Rights
Rostered Minister Under Call	\$200	\$230	Yes	Yes
Synod Authorized Minister	\$200	\$230	Yes	Yes
Lay Voting Member ³	\$200	\$230	Yes	Yes
Retired Pastor ⁴	\$170	\$200	Yes	Yes
Retired Deacon ⁵	\$170	\$200	No	Yes
Additional Youth Voting Member ⁶	\$170	\$200	Yes	Yes
Rostered Minister On-Leave from Call	\$170	\$200	No	Yes
On-Site Visitors	\$170	\$200	No	Yes

¹ Early registration closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2024.

² Late registration closes at 11:59 p.m. on May 3, 2024.

³ No minister of Word and Sacrament may be registered as a Lay Voting Member.

⁴ Exception: retired pastors currently serving under contract as interim pastors shall register as “Rostered Ministers Under Call.”

5 Exception: as members of the laity, retired ministers of Word and Service may be registered as Lay Voting Members, but their congregations must pay the full Lay Voting Member registration fee.

6 This applies only to additional lay voting members ages 15-30. If a confirmed youth or young adult is elected to fulfill the congregation's minimum number of lay voting members, they must be registered as Lay Voting Member.