



UPDATE FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL:

- Synod Assembly
- Bishop Election Process
- Other Synod Events in 2020

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and associated social distancing orders, these are the decisions that the Council made on Saturday, March 21st, regarding the 2020 Assembly, the Bishop Election Process and other Synod events in 2020.

- The council cancelled the May 1-2 Synod Assembly. Arrangements will be made to refund registration fees that have been paid. At this time, Synod Assembly registration is closed. At such time that the new date is scheduled, a new fee will be applied to those registrations which can be paid when registration re-opens. Those who have registered as voting members will be considered the voting members at such time as an assembly is held.
- The Bishop Call Committee expects to be able to continue its work on its current timetable, which leads to a May 1 posting of 4-6 nominees for the synod's consideration. Subsequent forums may be held virtually instead of in-person.
- We will look at rearranging the June 20th Assembly to include essential business from the May Assembly. This includes things like election of council members, task forces and committees; and passage of the 2021 – 22 Budget, although, the ability to hold a one-day assembly on June 20 is questionable. The Council anticipates holding a one-day assembly as soon as it becomes possible for a large group to gather; we will work on combining the election of a bishop with the several other business items necessary to pass at an assembly.
- We expect that any events going forward for the remainder of 2020 will be one-day events, possibly including in addition to a one-day assembly, a one-day Bishop's Convocation and a rescheduled LEAD event. Multi-day events do not seem prudent given the expectation that both congregational and synodical budgets will experience strain in the coming months.

The Bishop Call Committee, the Council and the Synod Staff have discussed how to keep the Call process moving forward on schedule. The assessment of those involved feel that with the use of telephones, electronic meetings, interviews and forums; the process will be able to stay on schedule.

From March 10 to April 24th, the Bishop Call Committee receives and researches the names coming from the Conference Nomination Caucuses. It will receive information, conduct interviews, and do background and reference checks. It is charged with bringing forward 4-6 nominees for consideration by the synod for election of a bishop.

May 1- Announcement of 4-6 Nominees

May 2- June 30 – 4 Forums are held involving nominees. All voting members are encouraged to attend at least one of these. Alternative formats are being discussed.

Between May 2 and June 20, **four Nominee forums** will be held. The Bishop Election Task Force will determine the format for these forums.

Everything related to the Bishop Election process can be found on the synod website. Click below for information about the process, nominating forms, Initial Consideration of Call, Bishop Candidacy Profile, Bishop Call Committee Members & Photo. <https://scsw-elca.org/2020bishopelection/>