



Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: 2018 ELCA Southeastern Synod Assembly Evaluation

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

7/2/2018 4:36 PM EDT

TextBlock:

Thank you for your participation in the 2018 Southeastern Synod Assembly. We could not have done it without you! To complete this year's Assembly commitment, we ask that you spend a little time assessing your experience using the following evaluation. We will be collecting responses through Saturday, June 16. After that, the survey will be closed so that we can analyze the responses. There are several questions about many different aspects of the event, plus two brief demographic questions at the end. None of the questions are REQUIRED. If you do not feel comfortable answering a particular question, please skip it and go on to the next question. It is estimated that most people will complete this evaluation in about 10 minutes. Please note, you may not change a response once "continued" is selected to allow you to advance to the next page. Again, thank you for your thoughtful and honest feedback. It will be used in planning future assemblies.

Assembly Theme. This year's Assembly theme was "Reformation 500...Now What?" Choose the one statement below that best reflects your opinion about the theme.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
The theme was very helpful in focusing the business, workshops, and other activities at this Assembly.			77	48.7 %
The theme adequately reflected the content of the Assembly.			53	33.5 %
I did not find the theme helpful.			3	1.8 %
Other			3	1.8 %
No Response(s)			22	13.9 %
Totals			158	100%

Table Discussions. Table Discussions preceded by presentations were used to facilitate the discussion and discernment about the future priorities of the Southeastern Synod and the election of a new bishop in 2019 who is prepared to lead given those priorities. Please rate the following statements.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree Somewhat, 4 = Agree Somewhat, 5 = Strongly Agree

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
I felt adequately informed about what was expected of me during the process.						131	4.2
The Table Discussions were an effective tool for discernment.						127	3.9
Bishop Gordy provided materials and/or information which were appropriate and helpful for the discussion.						131	4.4
Deacon Rothmeyer provided materials and/or information which were appropriate and helpful for the discussion.						129	4.2

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Speakers/Leaders. Please indicate how interested you would be in inviting the following speakers from this year's Assembly to be presenters again at a future Assembly in this synod:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Definitely Not Interested, 3 = Somewhat Not Interested, 4 = Somewhat Interested, 5 = Strongly Interested

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Deacon Sue Rothmeyer - Churchwide Representative						130	4.0
The Rev. Karen Castillo - Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala						129	4.1
Ms. Beatriz Castillo - Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala						127	3.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Elections. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements

concerning the elections at this Assembly:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree Somewhat, 4 = Agree Somewhat, 5 = Strongly Agree

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
The election process was adequately explained.						134	4.7
I understood the main responsibilities of the positions for which elections were held.						131	4.4
The actual ballots were easy to fill out correctly.						133	4.6
The biographical materials provided were adequate for making informed decisions.						131	4.4
The Assembly rules and constitutional mandates concerning elections were applied in a clear, transparent manner.						134	4.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Plenary Hall Conditions. Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about conditions in the plenary hall:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree Somewhat, 4 = Agree Somewhat, 5 = Strongly Agree

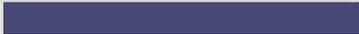
Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
I liked being able to sit anywhere, rather than assigned seats.						134	4.6
I liked the use of round tables.						132	4.5
Presenters and speakers were able to be seen and heard adequately.						132	4.6
I understood the parliamentary rules that were used during the Assembly.						134	4.6
There were an adequate number of microphones available for voting members.						133	4.8
I knew in advance that the temperature in the plenary hall would probably be cool.						134	4.4

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Captioning Service. Please choose the one statement below that best describes your opinion of the captioning service during the plenary sessions:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I rely on the captioning to understand what is happening.			10	6.3 %
I like the captioning but I don't actually use it very much during the sessions.			68	43.0 %
I never look at the captioning screen but I know others who find it helpful.			22	13.9 %
Closed captioning is a necessary offering at synod assemblies.			32	20.2 %
Other			0	0.0 %
No Response(s)			26	16.4 %
Totals			158	100%

SERVICE PROJECTS: Two service projects were offered for participation this year: MyCanvas, and Foster Care Month in May. If you did not participate in the service projects, skip to the next question.

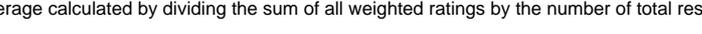
Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I participated in MyCanvas by donating art supplies.			23	51.1 %
Yes, I participated in Foster Care Month in May by writing personalized cards to LSG foster parents.			2	4.4 %
I believe service projects are a vital part of assembly.			30	66.6 %
Totals			45	100%

TextBlock:

ASSEMBLY MATERIALS. The next 3 questions address the Assembly materials. You are asked to share your thoughts on materials made available on our Assembly website and App prior to the Assembly and materials provided for purchase at the Assembly.

Assembly Materials. Please rate the usefulness of the information provided on the Assembly website and App prior to the Assembly for each of the following:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Totally Inadequate, 3 = More Information Would Have Been Helpful, 4 = Generally Adequate, 5 = Everything That Was Needed was Provided

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Information about registration and hotel reservations						130	4.4
Officer and staff reports						130	4.5
Reports by committees, task forces, conferences, & ministry partners						128	4.4
Biographical information for nominees						129	4.5
Explanation of the Ministry Funding Plan (budget) proposal						130	4.4

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Assembly Materials. Continuing our effort to care for creation and to reduce expense, printed copies of items that would be acted upon during the Assembly were provided for purchase. Please choose the one statement below that best describes your use of the items that were NOT printed:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
I read all reports and exhibits that were available online prior to the Assembly.			52	32.9 %
I printed my own copies of reports and exhibits prior to the Assembly.			20	12.6 %
I didn't read reports or exhibits prior to the Assembly, but I still plan to do so.			20	12.6 %
Other			38	24.0 %
No Response(s)			28	17.7 %
Totals			158	100%

Assembly Materials. (Skip this question if you did not use the Assembly website or App.) Please specify the extent to which you agree with the following statements about the usefulness of the Assembly website or App:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree Somewhat, 4 = Agree Somewhat, 5 = Strongly Agree

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
The Assembly website/App was a helpful tool.						124	4.4
The Assembly website/App was easy to navigate.						124	4.1
I support the use of the Assembly website/App for future Assemblies.						125	4.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

WORSHIP. Please rate the following aspects of worship opportunities at this year's assembly:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Disliked Strongly, 3 = Disliked Somewhat, 4 = Liked Somewhat, 5 = Liked a Lot

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Daily worship with Holy Communion						137	4.7
Diversity of worship styles						138	4.6
Variety of hymn selections						138	4.6
Printed worship materials provided						137	4.7

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

TextBlock:

WORKSHOPS. The next 4 questions address the workshop sessions. Please use the Comment section to state what was especially good about the workshops you attended, as well as suggestions for improvements. This information will be especially useful in planning future Assemblies.

Please rate the Pre-Assembly workshop you attended on Friday morning. NOTE: Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a Pre-Assembly workshop on Friday morning.)

1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

Answer	1	2	3	4	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Becoming the Beatitudes					14	3.6
Clergy Effectiveness in Growing Congregations					12	3.3

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Please rate the workshop that you attended on Friday afternoon. NOTE: Additional Friday afternoon workshops are listed in the next frame. Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a workshop on Friday afternoon.)

1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

Answer	1	2	3	4	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
A Voice in the Wilderness					10	3.2
An Introduction to Learning and Telling Bible Stories By Heart					9	3.3
Caring for Creation - "The Burden" Showing & Discussion					6	3.5
Circle of Welcome - How Congregations Can Embrace Refugees in Friendship and Love					6	3.7
Circles of Care: Congregations Supporting Foster Children and Families					2	3.5
Clergy Effectiveness in Growing Congregations (open to all)					16	3.6
Compensation (and Benefits) Guidelines - It's Not Just About Money! Rethinking How this Tool Can Serve Rostered Ministers and Congregations					3	3.3
Congregations - A Critical Link to Recovery in Times of Disaster					6	3.3
Gaining Resilience Through Grief and Loss					11	3.0
Gathering for Spouses of Rostered Ministers					1	3.0

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

(Continuation of previous question) Please rate the workshop you attended on Friday afternoon. Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a workshop on Friday afternoon.)

1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

Answer	1	2	3	4	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
It's the Final Countdown to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston					7	3.9
Managing Risks: Steps Towards Best Congregational Practices					10	2.9
MILAGRO: A Miracle in Guatemala					14	3.5
The Model Constitution for Congregations has been revised: Now What?					5	3.8
Resolutions and Memorial					1	3.0
Worship Lab					5	2.8
You're Invited! Learn about the ELCA Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice					16	3.5

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Please rate the workshop that you attended on Saturday morning. NOTE: Additional Saturday morning workshops are listed in the next frame. Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a workshop on Saturday morning.)

1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

Answer	1	2	3	4	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
A Mobile Application for Congregational Theological Education					6	2.7
A Place for You					4	3.2
A Voice in the Wilderness					6	3.3
Art with a Purpose: MyCanvas, a Mobile Community Art Therapy Program, Empowering At-Risk Youth to Find Their Voice and Tell Their Story					10	3.8
Caring for Creation - "The Burden" Showing & Discussion					3	3.0
Circle of Welcome - How Congregations Can Embrace Refugees in Friendship and Love					3	4.0
Compensation (and Benefits) Guidelines - It's Not Just About Money! Rethinking How this Tool Can Serve Rostered Ministers and Congregations					4	2.5
Congregations - A Critical Link to Recovery in Times of Disaster					1	4.0
The Enhancement of Intercultural Competencies in the ELCA Churches - Theological Consideration and Ecclesiastical Approaches					4	3.2
Growing Your Congregation Young					21	3.8

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(Continuation of previous question) Please rate the workshop you attended on Saturday morning. Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a workshop on Saturday morning.)

1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

Answer	1	2	3	4	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Managing Risks: Steps Towards Best Congregational Practices					6	3.7
MILAGRO: A Miracle in Guatemala					3	4.0
The Model Constitution for Congregations has been revised: Now What?					4	4.0
SEE ME, SHOW ME: Life with Chronic Illness					7	3.7

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To assist planners of future assemblies, please suggest additional workshop topics that would be useful to your congregation.

36 Response(s)

HEARING: The ELCA hosted a hearing on the text of the "Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice" on Saturday morning. Did you attend the hearing?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I attended the hearing			13	9.8 %
No, I did not attend the hearing.			119	90.1 %
Totals			132	100%

Please rate the following statement. The hearing was conducted in such a manner as to provide a special opportunity to respond to the text of the draft statement and to hear the perspectives of others.

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Somewhat Disagree, 3 = Somewhat Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
					17	3.7

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

TextBlock:

BEER & HYMNS: The Assembly offered Beer & Hymns on Friday night led by the Rev. Michael Jannett, pastor, Advent, Murfreesboro, TN. Please rate your experience at this event.

Friday. (Skip the next question if you did not attend.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I attended Beer & Hymns.			52	32.9 %
No, I did not attend Beer & Hymns.			59	37.3 %
No Response(s)			47	29.7 %
Totals			158	100%

Friday. How would you rate your Beer & Hymns experience?

1 = No Opiniion, 2 = Disliked Stronglty, 3 = Disliked Somewhat, 4 = Liked Somewhat, 5 = Liked a Lot

	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
						55	3.9

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

TextBlock:

AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH CHRIS CLAY: The Assembly offered An Evening of Music with Chris Clay, Ministry Coordinator, St. John, Knoxville, TN. Please rate your experience at this event.

Saturday. (Skip the next questions if you did not attend.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I attended An Evening of Music with Chris Clay.			16	10.1 %
No, I did not attend An Evening of Music with Chris Clay.			86	54.4 %
No Response(s)			56	35.4 %
Totals			158	100%

Saturday. How would you rate your experience with An Evening of Music with Chris Clay?

1 = No Opiniion, 2 = Disliked Stronglty, 3 = Disliked Somewhat, 4 = Liked Somewhat, 5 = Liked a Lot

	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
						23	3.7

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

TextBlock:

LUNCH & CONVERSATION. This year we offered two learning opportunities during lunch. You are asked to share your thoughts on the session that you attended. Please use the Comment section to state what was especially good about the session you attended, as well as what could have been better. This information will be especially useful in planning future Assemblies.

Lunch & Conversation. (Skip the next two questions if you did not attend a Lunch & Conversation session.) Please rate the following aspects of these sessions:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Disliked Strongly, 3 = Disliked Somewhat, 4 = Liked Somewhat, 5 = Liked a Lot

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Council Presidents						26	3.8
Help! I need ideas!						4	1.8

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Lunch & Conversation. Please specify the extent to which you agree with the following statement about these sessions at future assemblies:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree Somewhat, 4 = Agree Somewhat, 5 = Strongly Agree

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
I would like to have Lunch & Conversation sessions at future Assemblies.						45	4.5

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

TextBlock:

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS. We have returned to Chattanooga and will hold our Synod Assemblies here through 2021. Please rate your experience and use the comment section to state what was especially good, as well as what could have been better. This information will be especially useful in planning future Assemblies.

Assembly Registration. Please rate the following aspects of this year's Assembly registration process:

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Poor, 3 = Fair, 4 = Good, 5 = Excellent

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Pre-Assembly online registration						126	4.1
Ease of payment of registration fee						122	3.9
Ease of process to volunteer for Assembly committees						110	2.5
Ease of process to volunteer for non-committee positions (door monitor, plenary page, etc.)						110	2.4
Process for checking in and picking up materials at the Assembly if pre-registered						125	4.5
On-site registration process if NOT pre-registered						85	1.9

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Hotel. Please rate your satisfaction with the Chattanooga Marriott Downtown. Use the Comment box to alert Assembly planners to any hotel-related issues or problems.

1 = Did Not Stay Here, 2 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Dissatisfied, 4 = Satisfied, 5 = Very Satisfied

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Chattanooga Marriott Downtwon						131	4.2

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Assembly Facility. Please rate your satisfaction with the Chattanooga Convention Center. Use the Comment box to alert Assembly planners to any hotel-related issues or problems.

1 = Did Not Stay Here, 2 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Dissatisfied, 4 = Satisfied, 5 = Very Satisfied

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Chattanooga Marriott Downtwon						133	4.4

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Food at the Assembly. Please rate your satisfaction with the food and beverage options which were available at the Assembly:

1 = Did Not Utilize, 2 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Dissatisfied, 4 = Satisfied, 5 = Very Satisfied

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Breakfast concession in the Chattanooga Convention Center (Saturday)						121	2.4
Breakfast options near the Chattanooga Convention Center						113	2.5
Global Mission Breakfast (Saturday)						113	2.0
Lunch concessions in the Chattanooga Convention Center (Friday and Saturday)						121	3.1
Breakfast concession in the Chattanooga Convention Center (Sunday)						115	2.2
Lunch options near the Chattanooga Convention Center						118	3.1
Dinner options near the Chattanooga Convention Center						125	4.3

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Please provide any other comments or suggestions that would be helpful to the planners of future Assemblies.

40 Response(s)

What was your primary role at this year's Synod Assembly?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Voting Member			112	70.8 %
Volunteer			5	3.1 %
Visitor, but not a volunteer			6	3.7 %
Workshop Leader			3	1.8 %
Plenary Session Presenter / Speaker			2	1.2 %
Synod Staff			2	1.2 %
Exhibitor			3	1.8 %
Other			4	2.5 %
No Response(s)			21	13.2 %
Totals			158	100%

Please select all of the following that apply to you.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Pastor			46	33.5 %
Deacon			2	1.4 %
Lay person			80	58.3 %
Youth (under age 18)			1	<1 %
Young adult (ages 18 to 30)			5	3.6 %
Adult age 31 or older			87	63.5 %
Attended Assembly for the first time			36	26.2 %
Totals			137	100%



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Comment(s) for:

1

Assembly Theme. This year's Assembly theme was "Reformation 500...Now What?" Choose the one statement below that best reflects your opinion about the theme.

20 Responses

50 per page



Answer	Respondent
Christians should always be forward and other directed.	Anonymous
Excellent sermons at worship services.	Anonymous
This theme is applicable to every aspect of ministry!	Anonymous
I was a volunteer, not a voting member. I did not participate in the business proceedings of the assembly.	Anonymous
Given the high percentage of "at risk" congregations (by way of weekly attendance), regardless of discomfort we must push forward with what is next.	Anonymous
Homilists did a fine job of relating the theme both to the scriptures and making their message relevant to current conditions.	Anonymous
Everyone was on board in putting the theme forward which I think was most helpful.	
Great way to frame the session and point to the fact that we have a lot to address	
I kept wanting to say, "Maybe we should check whether the Pope will have us back?" (as a joke)	
The theme was consistent throughout the assembly	
More reference to the importance of Reformation 500 Es necessary.	
The proposed theme of "so what" would have been better.	
A CALL TO ACTION WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERRED.AS I GET OLDER I FIND IT VERY FRUSTRATING THAT WE TALK A LOT BUT DO NOT RECOMMEND ACTION.NOW WHAT IMPLIES ACTION,BUT I THINK WE COULD HAVE SAID NOW WE ACT,AND HOW	
Much more time was allocated to keeping the institutional beast functioning exactly as it is rather than visioning / discerning about what the future calls us to... Even when we allocated time for those important discussions ... they were rushed and hardly scratched the surface. When will the Synod have an opportunity to discuss/dream/discern its future together if not when at Assembly? With the exception of Pastor Tiffany's powerful message our future mission was not the focus	
I liked the way the staff, preachers, and several presenters, including the churchwide representative were able to use the theme in their presentations.	
The theme was prevalent particularly in the sermons.	
Appreciated that several preaenters weaved the theme into thier presentations and comments	

I thought how the theme was weaved into all of the programming was very good.	
I especially enjoyed the sermons at worship services.	
Asking "now what" to a crowd of 500 will generate 500 different answers.	
Themes should focus on what God has done, is doing, and will do. Not on what we have done, should be doing, or would like to do.	
In this way, we can built unity, focus, and vision.	

50 per page



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Comment(s) for:

2

Table Discussions. Table Discussions preceded by presentations were used to facilitate the discussion and discernment about the future priorities of the Southeastern Synod and the election of a new bishop in 2019 who is prepared to lead given those priorities. Please rate the following statements.

47 Responses

50 per page



Answer	Respondent
There were too many discussion points for the tables to cover adequately. Also, dominant talkers got in the way of good discussion.	Anonymous
The topics were very important and yet 5 minutes among 5- 6 people meant nothing of substance was accomplished. Suggestion: Carve out 15 minutes for each "important" topic, perhaps before the lunch or ending breaks so members wishing to continue discussing can do so on their own break time.	Anonymous
Not enough time.	Anonymous
We actually copy-catted this approach in our church since and it really engaged our congregation.	Anonymous
I wish there had been more time for this conversation -- perhaps a Bible study on the texts from Scripture.	Anonymous
It was a bit difficult getting some of my "table mates " to participate.	Anonymous
While extroverts can speak quickly on any topic, and then think later, extroverts need time to think...which is better done when extroverts aren't talking, or when the room is quieted. So, I'm not sure there was much thinking or discernment that went on that was of good value. More time was needed. It may be helpful in these exercises to have two reflection times, one prior to the presentations that helps participants orient to the topic, and one that follows, for discernment.	Anonymous
As a visitor, there were times that we did not have the questions that were at the table. I attempted to engage in discussion with others but for the most part, without the same questions as for the voting members it. Visitors come to assembly to learn and understand. Most are highly involved in the local and/or greater church. Even though we don't have a vote, the conversations are important to help spread the message to others not only in SES but in other parts of the country.	Anonymous
The first table discussion went better - more information was given ahead of time and the task was more clear.	Anonymous
Time Time Time. Not enough time spent on this and a ton of time patting ourselves on the back.	Anonymous
Speaking in Table Discussions is very difficult for me. It would be nice if there were things to read and respond to in writing, or if I had time to think before conversation.	Anonymous
There was no opportunity to discuss different viewpoints with other people. This is not completely useful because members of the same congregations sat together	Anonymous

I was a "visitor" and was not allowed to participate in the table discussions.	Anonymous
The disagreement rests in the amount of time allotted for table discussion, which was more than frustrating as the time was completely insufficient to arrive at any resolve.	Anonymous
I firmly believe that congregation vitality and growth need to be our focus in the future. Too much time is spent focusing on the synod, churchwide or global expressions and on political causes -- they are important, but congregations are floundering and they are the place where people connect spiritually week in and week out.	
In a group of the size of the assembly it's very difficult to do this kind of exercise. Even though there were only 6 at a table it wasn't enough time to really delve into the questions. It did get us to thinking about things though!	
1. More time for discussion would have been helpful. 2. Somehow, get the copies of the comments to the Synod Office. Steve Hilgeman	Anonymous
discussion times at the tables were too short. it was difficult for each person to respond, much less to discuss the comments.	Anonymous
I was an exhibitor only and did not participate in discussions.	Anonymous
since tables had multiple members from same church, it might help to combine tables for discussion topics	
Too brief a time to discover or discern much, if anything, of great import	
Visitors should have attended	
This was a good attempt. The discussion was helpful, but so short on time it was hard to get to any dept.	
while the table discussions were an effective tool for discernment, there was not enough time. Especially if you were intentional in sitting with folks you didn't know, it would have been a good way to get to know them	
More time to understand the question and formulate an answer was needed.	
More time for table discussion would have been helpful.	
I just think we need to leave this in God's hands.	
I know it wasn't possible but more time for discussion would've allowed us to get deeper.	
Process got rushed. Felt we needed more time to discuss.	
Not nearly enough time allocated for such deep and significant conversations. It could have, and should have, been a much more important part of this gathering	
Exhibitor only; did not participate.	
In this large of a setting, it was tough for this sort of exercise to be effective. I'm also unsure of its ultimate helpfulness for our discernment process, as a Synod, since no records were kept of our responses. Additionally, the way our polity is structured means that many of the laypeople present this year will not be present at next year's assembly, and have little defined responsibility and accountability for continuing these conversations in our congregations.	
We could have used more time for the discussions, although I see how that would be difficult with the time constraints of an assembly.	
I think the intent was good, but the setting and limited time didn't lead to particularly insightful conversation. Each table also tended to be from one congregation, so we were talking to ourselves rather than getting fresh perspectives.	
It would have been helpful to have the visitors from our congregation join us at the voting member tables for the discussions. I realized later that I should have gone to a mic to suggest this.	
Tables were somewhat homogeneous, made up of one or two congregations.	
thanks for starting this discussion early!	
Table Discussions were of limited usefulness for three reasons: short time for discussion, limited number of people involved at each table, very little sharing of ideas beyond each table.	

really not enough time to discuss issues. It would have also been helpful if ideas had been shared with the larger group. And, our time was so packed, not sure where the time would have come from!	
needed more time to discuss the issues	
The slides were impossible to read...the entire projection system was very poor	
The link to the materials would not load, always got an error message.	
I was primarily manning a booth, but my hallway discussions were rich!	
helpful, and interesting!	
Table discussion about the Bishop a year ahead might be helpful to clergy, but for laity who by and large will not be at next year's assembly, and will have no voice in the discussion, it was a waste of time.	
Other than bringing attention to the topics, the discussions did not lead anywhere.	
I think it was good to start the conversations, but the short time allotted didn't really allow for any meaningful depth in the discussions.	

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Comment(s) for:

3

Speakers/Leaders. Please indicate how interested you would be in inviting the following speakers from this year's Assembly to be presenters again at a future Assembly in this synod:

15 Responses

20 per page



Answer	Respondent
Beatriz was not involved in any meeting that I attended.	Anonymous
Ms Beatriz did not speak	Anonymous
Core Bible study and congregational empowerment would be my interests.	
I did not really hear much from Beatriz but I'm sure she has a lot to offer also. Their mission is a good one.	
I thought Rev. Castillo did not speak during plenary but I loved her sermon. I would like to see the progress they make at milagro over the next few years and see how it evolves. Basic education is important but I wonder if they are considering adding vocational training as the girls get older?	
so all of these speakers did a great job, but the issue is when you see the disparity in the quality of presentations. The nice glossy presentations from Churchwide grabs your attention, but people lost interest in parts of the Guatemalan presentations because in part of quality. Perhaps a team can work with them and their presentations prior to	
Why was the gospel read in Spanish? Also, the sermon was difficult to understand. I was surprised at this as less than 2% of the assembly was Hispanic. I understand the need for diversity, but it would be good to look at this.	
No need to repeat. All were good.	
Exhibitor only; did not attend plenary sessions.	
Had trouble understanding with accent.	
It would be nice to have an outside speaker, such as Rachel Held Evans.	
I am respectful of the reason for the invitation.	
Nice people, but there is a language barrier. Also, the material was very interesting, but I don't think we need lots of time devoted to them each meeting. Updates are welcome.	
Prayers for their return to Guatemala in the wake of the volcano there.	
Unfortunately, the speakers were not all on in the room where we had the "global" mission breakfast until about half way through. So, it was difficult to hear everything said. Also, I would have liked to have had an overview of ELCA missions.	

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Comment(s) for:

4

Elections. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the elections at this Assembly:

22 Responses

50 per page



Answer	Respondent
I was running for the churchwide assembly rep and learned after the election that I should have had a ribbon on my name tag identifying me as a candidate. That should have been taken care of at registration. Yes, I did not win.	Anonymous
Electronic voting is not implemented because of cost????	Anonymous
As a visitor I did not see the ballots nor did I see the biographical material. However, if it was on the guide book, as a non voting member I had no reason to actually read the biographies. From my perspective the process was fair.	Anonymous
I still feel as though we spend a lot of time electing people to positions which most congregations will ignore, and whose actions will not really impact many of us in day to day ministry. So at the end of the day I wonder why we spend a lot of time electing people when their work (while important work) has little effect on the ground. Can we give their positions more consequence in local congregations?	Anonymous
I was not a voting member	Anonymous
Electronic info is great. Calling out lettered and numbered areas from the dais was distracting, and the accessibility of these items from the Guidebook was confusing, and at times buggy on both iOS and Android devices.	Anonymous
Regarding the answer given to the individual who asked about ecclesiastical voting process to discern a Bishop. Was it thought her pastor would explain the process? Maybe it didn't seem to be the place to explain it, but I disagree. It seemed a good teaching moment, missed.	Anonymous
I chaired elections so I think it was all perfectly clear!	
So you are dealing with a lot of old people in this assembly and it is not as easy for us to follow along on a laptop or phone.	
I would suggest that the biographical materials be available in printed form for those who are not so tech savvy. Just the info about the candidates, not everything.	
Since we ask for nominations from the floor. And there was a Youth willing to run for churchwide at the assembly, is there a way to have the plan in place but not vote on it, until nominations are made from the floor?	Anonymous
the constitutional mandates having to be applied indicates that we are still light years from being intuitively and spiritually inclusive but it does make our balloting interesting and somewhat comical even though it is a very serious matter	
The process for nominations has so early in the event that it's difficult to know what's going on.	

While I think the election process was fine, however, the process of having the candidates speak the day before the elections is not supportive of the candidates. In this case, there were almost 100 more people in the Plenary 2 session to vote than in the Plenary 1 session for the speeches. That means, that 100 people did not have the benefit of the personal interaction with those candidates - which we should always try to create. People vote for people with whom can make a personal connection	
The election process was organized and efficient to the point that, as a lay voting member, I would not want us to rush into the expense of electronic voting!	
Would prefer having these well in advance of the conference.	
It could be useful to provide nominee photos with their biographical information. Also, it would be useful for floor nominees' information to be uploaded to the Guidebook app during the assembly. Finally, it would be helpful to have some sort of "nominee meet-and-greet" or forum where voting members could interact with nominees and ask any questions they might have.	
The short speeches by the four candidates were very helpful.	
If you go to electronic, don't use Quizdom.	
I attended as a visitor and did not vote	
All were OK.	
A video showing the various combinations and permutations would be nice, if possible.	
It would be helpful to request photographs of nominees to assist voting members in identifying them for introductions/discussions. The ribbons were a good idea but they were not always easily visible.	

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Comment(s) for:

5

◆ **Plenary Hall Conditions.** Please indicate the extent that you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about conditions in the plenary hall:

32 Responses

50 per page



Answer	Respondent
I knew it would be cool, but it was ridiculously cold. I was shivering most of the time I was in the Plenary Hall.	Anonymous
If table discussions are to occur round tables are almost madatory.	Anonymous
Cold, not cool.	Anonymous
Love the cool room!	Anonymous
The audio difficulties were distracting.	Anonymous
Issues with sound the first day, but I'm sure you all remember that...	Anonymous
I had no choice but to be segregated from the assembly. Since I had no cards etc I could not have voted yet I would have gained information had I had the chance to sit at a table during the discussions.	Anonymous
I was not a voting member	Anonymous
I was a visitor and was not allowed to "sit anywhere". I was only allowed to sit in the back of the hall.	Anonymous
The temperature in the convention center was so very cold. Made it uncomfortable to sit for a length of time.	
Dais microphone coverage was poor. Speakers were not coached on proper microphone usage - such as not standing to the side of or more than 8" from the microphone. The first day's issues aside, the overall quality and volume of spoken words was poor. FYI - I don't have a hearing issue and I have done A/V work in and out of church settings for years. The sound was poor.	Anonymous
Crazy cold -- even with hot flashes!	
It's not easy to make that many people happy so I think it was an admirable job all around!	
Plenary Hall was too cool on Friday. Steve Hilgeman	Anonymous
not sure I thought it would be as super cold as it was. the last morning, it was so much better, why couldn't it have started like that. i'm sure there are some sick people this week because of it	Anonymous
The room was too cold	
Can lighting in plenaries be brighter?	Anonymous
make sure mikes working and available before starting temp was good	
Glad I had my UGA blanket in my car! I would suggest giving folks 2 minute breaks to get our blood circulating during the marathon plenary sessions.	

It did not appear the audio/visual equipment was not provided a dry run prior to usage. Very, very important as sometimes we are what we appear to be.	
It was actually very cold the first day. Should have coffee available.	
Mic problems at the beginning were disappointing and distracting.	
Way,way,way,too,too,COLD! People were freezing!	
I asked my conference voting members to sit together as an easy opportunity to better know one another.	
Sound was wacky this year, but realize that was not a fault of those planning the assembly.	
Round tables meant that some people faced away from either the stage or the table.	
Speakers were hard to hear at the beginning of the first plenary session, but after the technical glitch was corrected the sound system was excellent.	
I did bring a blanket, because I read the warning. However, the "warning/notice" needs to be in bold extra large font - and suggest that snow suits would be appropriate. Really, find an engineer that can adjust the temperature to be bearable. Several of us nearly got sick.	
Again, the projection of information was poor, the words projected did not correspond often with what the speaker was saying....	
Too cold	
On Friday, the speakers would cut out intermittently, but after that, it was perfectly done.	
Once the sound was fixed, the presenters and speakers were able to be heard adequately.	

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Comment(s) for:

6

Captioning Service. Please choose the one statement below that best describes your opinion of the captioning service during the plenary sessions:

20 Responses

20 per page



Answer	Respondent
Was not in a location for all to utilize.	Anonymous
Often when I looked to the captioning for clarification it was less clear than my misunderstanding. I feel for the caption workers, it is a difficult task. Perhaps some orientation as to concepts and names would assist them.	Anonymous
This helps for speakers with English as a second language. This would have helped me understand Pr. Castillo at Sunday worship or a handout of her printed sermon.	Anonymous
The captioning is great if you missed something.	Anonymous
Not sure if the transcription is done via software or a person, but the lag and the frequent inaccuracies are problematic.	Anonymous
I'll glance at it occasionally when I miss something that was said.	Anonymous
Caption does help when words might be missed.	Anonymous
The interpretations are not always accurate but in general it's helpful	
Please make the tables near the closed caption available for those that use it.	
Often provided some amusing interpretations	
I could not always understanding what was said.	
Good for names and numbers	
I have difficulty hearing some things in settings like the plenary hall, so the captioning is often VERY helpful to me.	
Though not hearing impaired, I used the CC periodically to catch-up on the discussion.	
need to assure it is functioning in needed manner prior to beginning of assembly.	
Closed captioning was poor	
Captioning was handy if I didn't hear something just right, or if I needed to review a name, etc.	
Thankful for this!	
Even if we have no one using the screen at a particular assembly, the presence of the service demonstrates our work to be inclusive in the same way as providing handicapped access venues.	
It might be helpful to include captions or subtitles in the video productions. I glanced at the captions during one of them and noticed that the narrative was not being transcribed. I don't know if that's a function of the sound system and an off-site transcriptionist, or if there is another issue that prevented captioning.	



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Comment(s) for:

7

SERVICE PROJECTS: Two service projects were offered for participation this year: MyCanvas, and Foster Care Month in May. If you did not participate in the service projects, skip to the next question.

9 Responses

10 per page



Answer	Respondent
I am encouraged and inspired to see the service projects, yet find myself needing to step away from the crowd for a little while, and unfortunately use these times to do so.	Anonymous
I forgot that the Foster Care cards were an option. I was confused with what was in the hallways and what was in a room. better signage perhaps???	Anonymous
It would have been neat to find out in some quantifiable manner how well we did during the last plenary session.	
I did not participate	
I participated in the MyCanvas workshop, but didn't really realize the I should have/could have brought & donated supplies. I only heard about the Foster Care cards by LSG because an announcement was made during the MyCanvas workshop. An announcement should have been made during one of the early Plenary Sessions and the cards made available at the LSG table instead of in the workshop space so far down the hall.	
Enjoyed the MyCanvas presentation.	
I will endeavor to support future service projects. this was my first assembly meeting.	
I was not aware of these projects until right before I left for Assembly.	
None.	

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Comment(s) for:

8

◆ **Assembly Materials. Please rate the usefulness of the information provided on the Assembly website and App prior to the Assembly for each of the following:** ◆

22 Responses

50 per page



Answer	Respondent
I still like a hard copy and will probably never use the materials electronically.	Anonymous
Certainly met expectations. Thanks. Website was easy to navigate.	Anonymous
We should take care of synod staff better. My congregation's mission support was missing from the financial report.	Anonymous
Love the app ◆ "very effective and no paper!!	Anonymous
Assembly Registration and Hotel reservations need to each be on their own heading instead of being lumped together on the synod website.	Anonymous
It is all very well done, assembled, and presented.	Anonymous
All paying members of the assembly should be given all materials considering the cost of attending.	Anonymous
I was not aware of all that was available on the website prior to attending. Partly my fault and partly the fault of my congregational people. It was not made clear to me that I needed to go over everything ahead of time and I was not aware that I could ask to have a printed copy of everything for a \$10 fee. Again, I would remind you that a lot of attendees are older and not as tech savvy as some of the younger ones.	
I spoke to this issue: on the congregational giving report, please add a column for restricted giving; congregations should be given "credit" for total giving. Add a column for projected percentage of the congregation's tithe. We are up to 11.5% and are moving to 15%. This will be difficult for those congregations that give a flat amount vs. percentage giving. Steve Hilgeman	Anonymous
prefer a common bio format so it's easier to compare candidates. some were long, some short--please provide a template to complete.	Anonymous
negotiated rates at nearby hotels would be helpful	Anonymous
Should have been available the week before.	
Everything I needed was provided!	
Need biographical well in advance of the meeting.inorder to safe funds have them supply copies and have available on Tables outside the door. Request one per couple or family.	
HONESTLY DID NOT USE APP OR WEBSITE MUCH	
Need to include information about restricted funds.	
Pastor got all the information, as a Lay person, I did not.	

For some reason, the app was slower and less user-friendly this year. Still grateful for the app.	
I was overwhelmed by the amount of information that was available. I started to try and download and print everything, but then realized the sheer volume of the information would take too much paper, especially since there were reports online that were not mentioned in a plenary session. When I was at the assembly, there were times that I wished I did have the printed materials, as it would have been easier to read on paper than on my phone.	
I DO NOT USE A SMART PHONE	
Every year, the explanations for the Ministry Funding Plan get better! Thank you.	
Budget information should include complete line item breakdowns.	
The narrative lectionary is very misleading, and seems more an attempt to deceive than to inform.	

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Other answer(s) for:

9

Assembly Materials. Continuing our effort to care for creation and to reduce expense, printed copies of items that would be acted upon during the Assembly were provided for purchase. Please choose the one statement below that best describes your use of the items that were NOT printed:

38 Responses

50 per page



Answer	Respondent
If I make my own copies of reports how is this caring for creation?	Anonymous
read everything on line but printed agendas	Anonymous
I printed some items and used the app for oth	Anonymous
I read most of the report sand exhibits.	Anonymous
didn't read, don't plan to	Anonymous
I read reports with which I was unfamiliar.	Anonymous
I read most of the reports prior to Assembly	Anonymous
I didn't read many of the reports or exhibits. I only read a few day of.	Anonymous
we all should be provided with materials at registration	Anonymous
I read many of them online before assembly	Anonymous
I read most of reports online before assembly	Anonymous
I read some reports & exhibits that were available online prior to the Assembly.	Anonymous
Printed some materials, read others online	
other	Anonymous
Difficult to resource agenda	Anonymous
Read what I wanted to read.	
I did a little of both - on-line and printed	
read some before hand and some after	
read some but not all ahead of time	
I read parts before and during.	
Read some	
GOT COPIES BY PAYING	
IPad user	
read some scanned others	
I utilized the guidebook app during the assembly when I needed to	
Pastor printed a copy	
I read MOST reports online	

I browsed through the info before Assembly, & referred to some as we met	
I read some of the reports.	
I hit the high points.	
I read some materials	
I read MOST of the reports and exhibits that were available online.	
I read on-line	
I read MOST reports prior to or during Assembly	
I read MOST of the eports and exhibits prior to the Assembly	
I read most of the reports and exhibits prior to Assembly, printed my own Tab A	
Read most of the reports prior to Assembly.	
I did not read, but will. And I hope to do better next year! Mea Culpa!	

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Comment(s) for:

10

Assembly Materials. (Skip this question if you did not use the Assembly website or App.) Please specify the extent to which you agree with the following statements about the usefulness of the Assembly website or App:

19 Responses

20 per page



Answer	Respondent
Better explanation of how to use these materials is strogly needed! Those who do not normally use drop box, guidebook, etc. Were often lost in process.	Anonymous
The app is helpful, but there is too much material to view easily on a phone. Also, using an electronic copy is difficult when there is no convenient and reliable way to charge a cell phone, tablet, or computer in the plenary hall.	Anonymous
Needs to be more user friendly for phones	Anonymous
As we evolve to all using the app, I found that viewing online data (as opposed to downloaded data) suffered because of limited wifi resources. As we move forward, I think we need to provide better connectivity.	Anonymous
Loved loved loved having everything on my iPad. So very convenient and easy.	Anonymous
The Assembly website was difficult to navigate quickly and we were often asked to do so during the assembly	
Navigation was unclear, and there were too many levels, links to "tab" and reports. I spent much of the time cycling through the areas over and over, very distracting. I love the idea of an online tool for this - I just didn't love the end-product of this year's attempt at it.	Anonymous
With improved maneuverability.	Anonymous
I had trouble going back and forth from one page to another - probably more user lack of knowledge than the materials themselves. My husband however, who was also a voting delegate, is even less tech savvy than me - and he was totally dependent on looking at whatever I showed him.	
The app has to many clicks to get to the topics. Is there another way to organize it?	Anonymous
Should be agenda based with all materials linked directly to the agenda. Too Many tabs to negotiate	
Too many taps through redundant links to get to the PDFs The search feature was great when I had no clue where to start looking for something despite how logical it was set up	
Easy to navigate, understand, and use; well done!	
Difficult to use and figure out.	
Navigation among tabs could be improved	
As mentioned above, the app was more cumbersome this year. Sometimes work-arounds were needed to open a link.	
I should have used something other than my iPhone to rely on reading the materials I had	

to (budget, bios, etc.) Screen was way too small!! I only read what I needed to read online and will go back in the next week or so to read what I haven't already read. Instead of offering the entire "set of papers" for purchase, It may be beneficial to offer certain sections to purchase i.e. budget, bios, etc.

The app was a little confusing and difficult to navigate at first, but the more I used it, the easier it became.

Its not really an app, its a wrapper for the website, with PDF download links of the documents on the website. This generates confusion around opening and viewing the actual information nested in the site (I had to explain to someone at my table that the link they had clicked in the app wasn't opening the budget - just downloading it to their phone).

While being paperless is a good option, we could make a better effort. Creating a true app would be a good step forward.

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Comment(s) for:

11 **WORSHIP. Please rate the following aspects of worship opportunities at this year's assembly:**

45 Responses

50 per page



Answer	Respondent
My first assembly. Impressive. However, if sermons contain political material, facts need to be checked. During a sermon, it was mentioned that a picture showed children in cages at the border. That picture was from 2014. I understand our congregations are both liberal and conservative. We should continue to bring people together with ideas that can help problems of this world, not incite division.	Anonymous
Synod assembly is not the place to introduce hymns not readily familiar.	Anonymous
The worship variety speaks loudly to who we are as a Synod. Good job!	Anonymous
We always have international worship but hardly ever have contemporary worship. There is a continued bias against contemporary worship shown in assembly worship.	Anonymous
Worship is always awesome. Thanks to all who plan and lead.	Anonymous
While it was great to see the dinner church example and many enjoyed it, I am concerned with the amount of food waste it generated. A lot of crackers, cheese, fruit, bread, and wine ended up in the trash. From both an environmental and sacramental perspective, this is troubling.	Anonymous
I think it would be better to have closed Saturday with worship, especially since the service went a little long.	Anonymous
Great!	Anonymous
Worship materials can be published as a pdf and one could use an iPad or other device, though not a lap top. This would allow a lower consumption of paper and copy time.	Anonymous
Loved the diversity of worship. My only observation were those who lead each of the worship styles being inclusive. I would expect that as the SES we would want to show that using another form of worship is for all our members not just what those who led the worship service looked like.	Anonymous
I'm getting to be more of a homebody and find it challenging to be away from home for longer than necessary. I love worshipping with people from across the synod. I'm ok if we pack more into two days, only have one big worship service, and send everyone home (or into local congregations) for Sunday worship.	Anonymous
Saturday worship "the one led by the African Descent group" was my favorite by far. I loved it. I found the others fairly boring, with the exception of the sermon on Sunday.	Anonymous
Three services is too many; two would be more appropriate. When worship services are held within the schedule of the assembly they should be planned to begin and end on time. None of them started on time and the first two extended beyond their scheduled time--the second one well beyond. If you are going to have a worship service with no control on its time, then it should be held in the evening with nothing scheduled after it.	

I cringe when I think how much of our assembly budget was spent on the fruit and cheese platters. While it was "nice", if people realized how costly it was, I think they would not have appreciated it.	
For a number of reasons, I believe it is time for a new set of worship leaders. The same group/cliq ue has been running it for too many years.	
All the worship services were fabulous - it was evident that a lot of thought and planning went into each one.	
The printed music scores on Friday and Saturday were not always what was sung and I found that very frustrating.	Anonymous
Some of the music providers did not follow the printed materials. The last time I attended an assembly, there was an early morning brief worship opportunity. Although it was not highly attended, I found it was a wonderful way to start the day.	Anonymous
I'd like to see more Jesus and less ideology	
Did not know words to all songs/hymns used. Needed printed words in hand or on screen.	Anonymous
diversity in worship services appreciated and great way to let assembly know about various services	
I thought the effort to be non-traditional was pushed a bit too much this year. I generally like variety and diversity, but I also want to see my own traditions represented at the assembly.	
It's healthy and important to be exposed to the variety of styles of worship. I felt it was enriching. It would be cool to share snippets of them on the ses-ELCA site and Facebook page with the rest of the synod.	
Our Synod cover four states, that have a rich African American history that impacts all races. Including praise and worship/African Descent style of worship should not be a special event or where we feel that we need to alternate to something else in another year. It should be seamlessly incorporated so that everyone sees themselves each day as part of the body of Christ	
Suggest all speakers use English or have command of the English language. Spanish is difficult to understand and especially for those with hearing limitations.	
make available for use with home congregation.	
All music needs to be printed in the worship material. The service on the second day had typical praise songs that many were not familiar with and were sung several times,	
WOULD HAVE PREFERRED LESS TRADITION ON SUNDAY	
Awesome worship services	
Just for fun could we have a non-Lutheran group from the town where we are meeting come in and lead a service? Learn from another tradition that has been successful with their worship and ministry. Maybe a full communion partner or a growing independent congregation.	
Worship is important, but we all worship regularly. Too much of agenda time is focused on worship. People, congregations and Synod invest incredible resources of time, energy and money to gather at Assembly. More priority should be given to focus on those things we need to do together: conversion to develop vision/mission/direction for our ministry, resourcing and sharing best practices and building community, (all things we can not do well except in each other's presence) Missed opportunity	
I liked the music and the service on Sunday. I was not able to understand the preacher. I liked the service on Saturday, the preacher was outstanding. I liked the diversity of that service. I loved to worship with such a large group.	
I LOVED the song choices. I wish the Lutheran church would use them all the time. I was attending Lutheran contemporary services 50 years ago.	
Good Worship is so needful. Thanks for all the hard work.	
The worship on Saturday was particularly meaningful to me, but all the services were well done.	
WONDERFUL WORSHIP SERVICES!!! I really liked Friday's service and communing each other at our table. I enjoyed sitting with different people than we sat with at the earlier	

<p>plenary session, but would have been nice to communion with the people I sat with at each plenary session. Saturday's service was nice, but went WAY too long, which ended up making for a very long Saturday and by the time we had our last plenary session, I was exhausted & overwhelmed.</p>	
<p>The small bulletin for Friday worship was very difficult to read - hymns in particular, especially with poor lighting the assembly hall.</p>	
<p>One of the highlights of Synod Assembly.</p>	
<p>Diversity of worship STYLES is refreshing. The format for Friday's worship was complicated and confusing. Probably not well suited for the Assembly. Perhaps some more explanation and instruction (of the logistics of serving at the tables, e.g.) would have helped.</p>	
<p>Liked that each service was different. Would have liked to have seen one that was a combo of various diversities intermingled.</p>	
<p>The chairs in the Worship space need to be disconnected from each other to provide a little space to sit, so one is not on top of one's neighbor.</p>	
<p>While I enjoyed Saturday's service very much, I thought it was needlessly long. It could have been cut drastically and still maintain the tone and feel of the service. Otherwise, it should have been offered at a different time, without constraints around it.</p>	
<p>Amazing worships and sermons!</p>	
<p>I thoroughly enjoyed all of the worship experiences in this year's Assembly.</p>	
<p>No need for 90+ minute worship services all three days. No need for communion all three days.</p> <p>One of our questions at the table worship was about making worship more inviting, and the best way to do that is to keep it simple. We seem hell-bent on making assembly worship as complex as possible.</p>	
<p>When we have music that may be new to many, it would be helpful to have a leading cantor to follow...to hear her/his voice would help us with new melodies. Also, some of the hymns with an abundance of rapidly sung words might be taken at just a bit slower cadence...especially when we are singing new melodies with new words. And if I never sing Beethoven's 5th as a Sanctus, that would be dandy! Feels trite, not the least be majestic.</p>	



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Comment(s) for:

12

Please rate the Pre-Assembly workshop you attended on Friday morning. NOTE: Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a Pre-Assembly workshop on Friday morning.)

13 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Avoided the workshop advertised clergy only and later learned that several, not even rostered, were allowed to attend. Huh? Went to the open session, for all, which was severely truncated it was painful. With nko resolutions or memorials how was time management so bad.	Anonymous
Enjoyed this greatly	Anonymous
I couldn't find it when I tried to.	Anonymous
This was formational for me. Actually I attended the Friday afternoon version.	Anonymous
I am a fan of Richard Rohr.	
I led clergy effectiveness and was not able to attend other workshops.	
Sadly, it turned out that this presentation was geared for medium to large churches. When I questioned the presenter about asking toxic people to find another congregation (as she suggested, and I agree), she said my congregation was too small, and could not afford to lose anyone. That comment negated much of her presentation for all of us from small congregations. Steve Hilgeman	Anonymous
Didn't get to convention till after the am workshop	
Telling Bible stories. Very informative and interesting.	
I didn't attend any as I didn't arrive in Chattanooga until 11am on Friday.	
I was ill for much of the Synod Assembly and did not attend	
I attended the workshop on the Social Statement on Women. It was well done - very informative!	
Did not attend morning workshop on Friday. There were many good options on both Friday afternoon and Saturday. It would be great to offer more workshops on Friday morning if there is sufficient interest among voting members to justify it.	

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Comment(s) for:

13

Please rate the workshop that you attended on Friday afternoon. NOTE: Additional Friday afternoon workshops are listed in the next frame. Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a workshop on Friday afternoon.)

27 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Info interesting, what we got in the limited. Time. Like putting 50 pounds of potatoes in a 5 lb bag. Clergy effectiveness.	Anonymous
Presenter needed technical assistance but otherwise was awesome	Anonymous
LSG has activity very near our congregation and it was great to make this connection also. Very compelling material presented most effectively by Jennell Moore local PM and Susan from the national organization	Anonymous
Lots of AV issues, didn't really go into what I expected.	Anonymous
Found the information in this Clergy Effectiveness session insightful. The most surprising element was that the length of the sermon for these growing congregations was 25-45 minutes. That was a surprise for me. Yet, I can see how this could be effective when used as also a "teaching" tool.	Anonymous
The Caring for Creation workshop had excellent resources for congregations, especially the video presentation of "The Burden." The presenter and others on the Green Team are very helpful in offering follow-up assistance to congregations. Very few people attended. Maybe there are too many workshop choices.	
Pastor Shaw did a good job of presenting her material on grief support. It would have been nice to have a handout to take home.	
A Voice in the Wilderness: The presenters sometimes disagreed with each other in front of the group. The presentation was less about sex trafficking than the seminar description led us to believe, but the handout made up for that. Steve Hilgeman	Anonymous
Loved, loved, loved this session and wish it could have been longer.	Anonymous
Pastor Terry was thorough and informative	
INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING & TELLING BIBLE STORIES: I've participated in "story telling" programs previously in our Church and was anxious to get suggestions and ideas from the workshop. I was completely charmed and informed and am so glad I choose this workshop. I'm looking forward to using my new information at our Church.	Anonymous
Pertinent. Became more of a conversation as the session progressed. Enjoyed the real life stories they shared.	
Presenters were very knowledgeable and competent and provided an outstanding handout! topic was a Voice in the Wilderness.	
VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS WAS GOOD,EYE OPENING AND PUT IN PERSPECTIVE	

HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO RE CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION POVERTY	
MyCanvas is not a selection above. I attended MyCanvas.	
Although some points made sense, I had a difficulty in grasping hold of all the findings presented regarding growing congregations to those clergy I know who are serving growing Lutheran congregations And what they are actually doing.	
excellent material and conversation	
I love to hear her demonstrate the Bible verses told in story form. In the future I would like to be a part of this in my own congregation.	
Not a lot of choices for a Lay person from a small church. Growing the Church was OUTSTANDING. Very, very helpful. The BEST!	
I would like Pastor Stagner-Collier's research to be more widely available.	
I really wanted to attend the "An Introduction to Learning and Telling Bible Stories By Heart" workshop, but I couldn't muster the strength, because of my handicap, to walk all the way down the hall and to the Marriott Plaza Room C.	
By mistake	
Speaker was not familiar with technology being used & had a lot of problems with it. Was expecting tools/strategies/resources for ministering to those who are grieving but got very little of that.	
Presenters were unable to show "The Burden" due to technical reasons.	
I was ill for much of the Synod Assembly and did not attend	
Resource was very helpful and the workshop was hands-on.	
The workshop got my wheels turning about some things we can do!	

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Comment(s) for:

14

(Continuation of previous question) Please rate the workshop you attended on Friday afternoon. Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a workshop on Friday afternoon.)

17 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Questions were answered effectively	Anonymous
Model constitution...Could have gone on longer but I have no solution for that. Lots of info that was familiar to some and not to others. Many different situations people wanted clarified. Deacon was knowledgeable.	Anonymous
Too much material was covered in too short a time period.	Anonymous
Charles Bridget's had much useful practical content in the presentation effectively bundled in a takeaway document. Got council governance notes that are topics we are beginning to need to address in our tiny congregation	Anonymous
Choir Rehearsal for Sunday morning worship should be workshop so choir participants can have dinner with others.	Anonymous
MILAGRO: A Miracle in Guatemala is what I attended. I got confused.	Anonymous
The Model Constitution workshop answered important basic questions for me. Including why and how the model Constitution is created and why the revision every 3 years. Other people in Church leadership may have know all this, but I didn't - and found it most helpful.	
Material provided was inconsistent with that advertised. Excessive material for time allowed, Presenter kept apologizing for excessive material. The presenter was a very nice person, but someone should review his material and time available neither him. Topic was Managing Risk.	
Description of resources for preview worship service. Also gave other ideas for worship and time for discussion. I was looking for more in the ideas of actual resources for a variety of variety of worship settings.	
A little too much info for the time allowed.	
Limited choices. The Risks Workshop was mainly Legal information.	
Facilitator was excellent at explaining the process to develop Social Statement and the purpose of the sessions at assembly. Very informative as well as an excellent opportunity to think and discuss critically with others regarding specific aspects of the proposed statement.	
I was ill for much of the Synod Assembly and did not attend	
Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice: As a woman holding a Master's in Mechanical Engineering, issues concerning women have always interested and concerned me. I found the facilitator, Bethany Fayard, an excellent and passionate communicator. She	

was clear and concise in her explanations of the document. And I am so pleased that the ELCA moves into issues that are difficult and creates a path of reason and love.	
MILAGRO-good information; speaker difficult to understand at times, but got accustomed to it.	
Final Countdown - Rachel did a fantastic job with sharing Gathering information and answering all our questions.	
The workshop on the Draft Social Statement was very informative. The Social Statement was presented clearly and well and questions were answered. I also appreciated having us put into groups to discuss the issues further.	

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Comment(s) for:

15

Please rate the workshop that you attended on Saturday morning. NOTE: Additional Saturday morning workshops are listed in the next frame. Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a workshop on Saturday morning.)

26 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Informative	Anonymous
Standing room only. Obviously a perceived need in our synod for continued discussions within conferences???	Anonymous
As workshop leader, the workshop didn't work out exactly as I had wanted because most of the expected panel members weren't there. However, I still feel that we helped the few participants with questions that they had.	Anonymous
Growing Your Congregation Young was a packed overflowing room. The comments made by the participants both youth and more mature members were outstanding. It is not a "we" "they" as all of us are "the church" but how all of us can learn to listen to each other to form better worship experiences in our everyday lives.	Anonymous
I attended the hearing on the draft social statement on women and justice, but I don't see that on this list. I would rate it as excellent.	Anonymous
We were a bit confused by the title of the mobile application for Cogregational Theology workshop. We thought it would be discussing an electronic application (i.e. phone or tablet app). The workshop was still interesting but, not what we expected.	
Circle of Welcome: Very good material presented and discussion by participants. Not many people in attendance.	
I attended Clergy Effectiveness in Growing Congregations. It was excellent, but we definitely could have used more time for discussion.	Anonymous
Louise Iconis did a good job of presenting her material about WELCA. She had a very small group in attendance which made it difficult to have a lot of discussion but she was very flexible and really made it interesting for those who were there.	
Didn't need to spend time here as there wasn't any real content other than to read the document. I enjoyed talking with one of the other participants after we left the session. Thought I would have learned something. Didn't	Anonymous
Appreciate the information and discussion. Was looking for a little more guidance and options (tools, processes, etc). Would have been nice to have access to presentation during the workshop	
Engaging and interactive Gave me a greater appreciation for the potential of art in transforming the attitudes and self perception of the kids LeeAnn works with in Nashville.	
Suggest renaming it, but the content fits perfectly with the theme "Now What"	

We should build on this throughout the year	
Very organized, great ideas	
IN AN AGING CONGREGATION LOSING ITS YOUTH HOW CAN WE RETAIN THEM?	
Rachel always does a fantastic job!	
Highly energetic speaker. Very applied approach. Provided concepts and tools for a ministry that were helpful to understand.	
Great workshop. I liked the hands on aspect of it as it gave me a "break" from thinking and listening during the plenary sessions. It ended up being relaxing to attend, except for the long walk to the room it was held in.	
Speaker presenting some thoughtful ideas and concepts and participants shared some of their efforts. However, it was billed as focusing on teens & young adults, and it seemed a lot of the actual focus was on children's ministry.	
MYART-Great explanation of program was concise. Speaker was vibrant. LIKED hands on project to demonstrate program.	
Growing Your Congregation Young - Wonderful information and good conversation	
no opinion...	
I attended the hearing for the new Social Statement, which I do not see listed here. It was conducted well. I appreciated Bethany's delivery.	
A very good workshop on being a more welcoming congregation for youth and young adults. Lots of good information and presented well.	
The advertisement about Voice in the Wilderness was not quite clear....I thought it would be more than about human/sex trafficking. That said, the workshop was valuable. D	
The "mobile application" title was a little misleading given what that term connotes in our technological age. Information was still very good and well presented.	

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Comment(s) for:

16

(Continuation of previous question) Please rate the workshop you attended on Saturday morning. Use the Comment section to explain why you chose a particular rating. Please include the name of the workshop in your comments. (Skip this question if you did not attend a workshop on Saturday morning.)

12 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Very well done, easy to listen to.	Anonymous
We attended the Women and Justice	Anonymous
I attended the hearing on the Social Statement, and it was excellent	
I don't know if I can say enough good about this presentation. The information was important and well presented. The direction on where to find more thorough information after the workshop was very helpful.	
Presenter was outstanding. Please schedule him for the next assembly.	
I have a chronic illness	
I attended Clergy Effectiveness in Growing Congregations - Excellent Helpful information that I will utilize in self assessment as well as sharing with Mutual Ministry and Performance evaluation.	
I attended part of one of Rachel Alley's presentations on congregational youth ministry but I do not see description of it anywhere.	
The Model Constitution for Congregations workshop very informative. The facilitator, Sue Rothmeyer, was clear and concise and informative! I chose it as our congregational constitution has not been updated for several years. I was to do it last year, and it seemed overwhelming. I am pleased that this workshop was offered, as I now think I can do it!!!	
no opinion,,,	
I have several chronic health problems so See Me, Show me was excellent.	
I attended the discussion group for Presidents. I rate it good.	

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Text answer(s) for:

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To assist planners of future assemblies, please suggest additional workshop topics that would be useful to your congregation.

36 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Effective ideas for growing congregations. Especially with small budgets. How to get more involvement from congregation.	Anonymous
What are the essentials in Christian Worship? Why my congregation is not growing? Caring for Pastors What happens after the benediction/Sending	Anonymous
Community organizing for mission and evangelism.	Anonymous
Moving away from vision/mission statements to creating measurable, obtainable goals/objectives without a bunch of churchy mumbo jumbo	Anonymous
Equality/Diversity how to help our women, LGBTQIA and minority leaders of the SES be compensated appropriately and to not settle.	Anonymous
Ways to increase the diversity of a congregation and be welcoming to all Ways to be more active in the community rather than mainly organizing things for current church members	Anonymous
How to attract active member with children and teens	Anonymous
Continue discussion on racism	Anonymous
If there are any online learning resources for Congregations (especially for adults) provided by the SE Synod or ELCA, I'd love to know about them.	
1) Technology in ministry; 2) Helping the needy at our doorstep without contributing to a cycle of poverty; 3) Breaking down institutional barriers to ministry and community.	Anonymous
Something on caring for or providing support for aging and/or disabled members of congregations.	
Something on the opioid crisis would be great - I'm sure it will not be solved by next year. So there's a whole year to get ready and fine the right presenters.	
Building Positive and Effective Congregational Council Relationships (I'll be glad to do this). Steve Hilgeman	Anonymous
Best practices of growing congregations. Best practices of call committees	Anonymous
Confirmation, faith formation, young adults Creative ways to staff your congregation	Anonymous
A bible study workshop	
- focus on youth is important - how to maintain/support existing congregation	

- outreach and how to engage congregation	
Violence during service, security during services and weekly meetings, and developing church policies and procedures.	
1. Fundraisers. 2. Fun crafts. 3. Successful planning VBS 4. How to grow your choir. 5. Effective council meetings. 6. How to capture youth in the aging church. 7. How to start a grief share program.	
A calendar of ELCA resources for events that are available to congregations and how to use them.	
THE CHURCH AND RACE	
Workshop on, How to move congregations to accept varied styles of worship and music in the church.	
I would be willing to lead one on creating a worshipping community that welcomes special needs individuals and their families. We have 5-10 special needs families in our congregation and they are vital members of our community. -Chris Hermansen	
More worship planning classes.	
Christian Education resources	
Community organizing/engagement Cross Cultural Evangelism Emerging Paradigms for ministry not based on a "congregational" model Witnessing in public spaces How what we measure determines priorities Keeping the most important thing the most important thing How cultural experience determines who we welcome Speaking the language of outsider	
The church's role in society.	
Effective communication in congregations Intergenerational ministry Catechmenatal ministry Evangelism How to train and equip leaders Congregational council best practices Lectionary preaching workshops	
Please consider offering choir practice for Sunday service during a workshop.	
Outreach strategies that work.	
advertising your congregation/PR of your congregation in the community (how to "get your name out there"), especially best practices of the use of modern advertising like social media. I think it is something that especially lay voting members and lay leader in the congregations need to hear and see value in!	
There were several I wanted to attend, but was unable due to time. Not sure how to re-structure so attendees can take advantage of more of the offerings.	
Connecting Arts and Faith, Moving Away from Sunday School, Cross-Generational Faith Formation, Prayer shawl/quilt ministries, Liturgical Arts - Waking up our worship spaces, Using Prayer stations during/for worship, Offering a space for contemplation and prayer -Candle lighting, Labyrinth..., Bible discussions... Lectio Divina	

Please plan assembly choir rehearsal for a workshop time slot.

Also, I would be interested in more offerings on social justice issues.

1. Outreach in urban centers
2. Integrative mindfulness into spiritual formation
3. Promoting and explicating the connection between paschal mystery (death/resurrection in one's life) and care of our bodies. Ask Brian Hooper to work on this one.

I know it's difficult to schedule, but an additional workshop session on Saturday afternoon (or expanded offerings on Friday morning) would be welcome. I had 4 on my short list for Saturday, but we can only spread out the two voting members from our congregation to as many sessions.

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Comment(s) for:

18

HEARING: The ELCA hosted a hearing on the text of the "Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice" on Saturday morning. Did you attend the hearing?

10 Responses

10 per page



Answer	Respondent
Had done study wiith one of the creators of the statement.	Anonymous
Too much covered in too short a time period. Perhaps it would work better if chunks were assigned to different persons who would use creative stratagies for unpacking so much information.	Anonymous
My congregation has held extensive discussion groups on this an submitted comments to churchwide.	Anonymous
Very interesting and glad I participated in the process	Anonymous
Sorta was tired of hearing about race and gender issues in excess at the meeting.	
Scheduling conflict.	
Very informative.	
Ahh, here it is! (See my comment under workshops!)	
I am hoping that a recording or a written summary of the hearing is available.	
I would have liked to have attended - too many sessions, not enough time!	

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Comment(s) for:

19 Please rate the following statement. ⚡The hearing was conducted in such a manner as to provide a special opportunity to respond to the text of the draft statement and to hear the perspectives of others.

6 Responses

10 per page



Answer	Respondent
This was more of an editing session. It was "wordsmothing." There was little or no discussion of the document. Participants pretty much already agreed with the content.	Anonymous
There were a little too many "this is wonderful" comments and fewer constructive suggestions for improvement. The statement needs a lot of work....too much repetition, inconsistent writing style, etc. I'm not sure this was adequately addressed in this hearing.	Anonymous
I was glad to be able to attend the hearing. It moved very fast, though, and we ran out of time. Not much time for thinking and responding unless people were well prepared ahead of time.	Anonymous
While I did not attend the hearing, I think its existence was very very important, and I commend the synod for organizing it.	
did not attend	
no opinion.	

10 per page



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Comment(s) for:

20

Friday. (Skip the next question if you did not attend.)

17 Responses

20 per page



Answer	Respondent
Entertainment!	Anonymous
It was pleasant to sign the "old, old hymns" but not an event that would attract seekers, "nones" etc.	Anonymous
Would have been nice to have beers from the 4 states of our synod...	Anonymous
I walked by while beer and hymns was going on. It was balm for my soul to hear the songs of faith, and to be able to participate in them as I walked by.	Anonymous
Lots of fun. Good fellowship and Lutherans sure love to sing!	Anonymous
As a recovering Alcoholic, I was not able to participate.	Anonymous
It was fun. Not much interaction between participants though - it was just people yelling out hymn choices. Maybe some kind of mixer activity would be good.	
Enjoyable atmosphere. Great opportunity to meet and mingle	
Had planned to do so but after conference caucuses and a need to go out to have dinner it was over	
Wish we could have sung two verses instead of one ❖~❖	
Went to dinner and simply did not have time to attend. Really wanted to attend but schedule ran late. Should add wine to beverage selection.	t
[Personal opinion/preference]: I would have very much preferred having music available for the hymns - not just text. (I love singing 4-part harmony when possible, and this "beer & hymns" was not really conducive for that.)	
I loved the different hymns. It was fun. I do not participate in Beer drinking.	
OUTSTANDING, THE BEST, LOVED IT, WHY CAN'T OUR CHURCHES SING LIKE THAT?	
I enjoyed it very much.	
Lots of fun. Please do again.	
Missed it...keep it though and will try to get to it again in the future.	

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Comment(s) for:

21

Friday. How would you rate your Beer & Hymns experience?

13 Responses



10 per page



Answer	Respondent
Participation was uninspired	Anonymous
I attended briefly. It wasn't very exciting, since everyone was sitting down and there was no mingling etc.	Anonymous
The chosen songs were boring and slow. Previous Beer & Hymns have been lively. I missed the enthusiasm and the better variety of music. The attendees overall seemed pretty white and older.	Anonymous
The energy was very low. A few years ago a different Beer and hymns group did it and it was incredible. So cool to experience their different worship style, especially coming from a congregation where we would not experience something like that. Would love love love if they did it again.	Anonymous
See #20 above	
I enjoyed it very much - love singing hymns!	
The BEST I ever attended.	
The beer was good.	
did not attend	j
I only attended briefly, since only lyrics were provided. I like to see the music.	



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Comment(s) for:

22

Saturday. (Skip the next questions if you did not attend.)

9 Responses

10 per page



Answer	Respondent
I loved his music. Just too tired to stay very long.	Anonymous
Fatigue overtook us. Heard many positive comments.	Anonymous
Chris interacts with his audience a lot. A local joined the evening adding a contextual coloring. I enjoyed this very much. Invite him back. Where was the beer?	Anonymous
Great selection of Music - great experience	
GREAT	
Too early. Did not get back from dinner in time.	
Beautiful music from Chris Clay was enjoyed at the service. Wasn't able to return for evening program.	
He's simply amazing. Talented, engaging, wow!	
Chris Clay was a nice choice. His musical gift is exceptional.	

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Comment(s) for:

23

Saturday. How would you rate your experience with An Evening of Music with Chris Clay?

7 Responses

10 per page



Answer	Respondent
It was a nice time to relax, to listen and to enjoy music.	Anonymous
He was amazing! Better than beer and hymns. Would have loved if the bar was offered during Chris' performance like it was for beer and hymns.	
The seivice that Clay played was fabulous!	
did not attend	
Chris is talented, but jazz is not my preferred type of music.	
Chris Clay = amazing! People unaffiliated with the Assembly stopped and danced!!	
Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the entire performance, but what I did, I liked a lot.	

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Comment(s) for:

24 **Lunch & Conversation. (Skip the next two questions if you did not attend a Lunch & Conversation session.) Please rate the following aspects of these sessions:**

13 Responses

15 per page



Answer	Respondent
A lot of the Council Presidents seemed very unhappy with the Synod and did not know of many resources available to them. I was aware of what were most of their concerns, so I really could not understand why they really seemed so out of touch.	Anonymous
I had trouble finding the room and arrived a little late. The group seemed to be concerned with how synod office is sharing info with individual churches. I think Synod Office is doing a great job through emails and what's available on website.	Anonymous
It was good discussion. Something to take home with us (printed handout) would be helpful - by this time on Saturday people were beginning to burn out.	
Difficult to hear as the musicians were warming up for the worship service. I was hoping to learn best practices from other congregations. Instead when a recommendation was made, the common reply was why it couldn't be done at the synod level as there had been staff reductions and no pay increases for the last several years. I was hoping for more and the sound situation made it even less effective. it was an opportunity to energize the council presidents and I didn't see that happening.	Anonymous
was at a LSG lunch	
The synod VP needs to be commended for the patience with which she led the meeting.	
Doris handled the group very well. I think it clarified a need to orient new presidents of church councils to the synod Office staff and officers initially to make them aware of the synod as a resource and transform the perception of it as just an ecclesiastical headmaster and bureaucratic entity to a resource run by some really awesome people that can help us to connect to one another as churches to do more good work-smarter. There's lots of experience expertise within	
Leader was skillful in responding to questions and moving the discussion along. No one person dominated the discussion and each voice was heard.	
did not attend	
Great topic, as I am president for the first time this year! No information provided from the facilitator to support presidents. The best ideas came from the audience.	
Council Presidents-was an informative and eye-opening session. Many churches have same difficulties. Good to be able to connect with others. Good for Synod staff to see what is lacking in communications between congregations and synod.	
It resulted in a "gripe session" about the the synod communication style to the congregations. Not convinced that the Presidents and other leaders understand how communication flows to individual congregants.	

It was interesting to hear how other congregations handle things and their thoughts about the Synod.

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Comment(s) for:

25 **Lunch & Conversation.** Please specify the extent to which you agree with the following statement about these sessions at future assemblies:



8 Responses

10 per page



Answer	Respondent
Given how tight the schedule already is, these lunches seem like a great way to add in extra workshops.	Anonymous
There are already so many overlapping things, I few moments to eat and let my brain catch up was a must.	Anonymous
Perhaps it is time to gather the women pastors for a luncheon -- support, networking, relationship building.	
I would like to see the President forum re-worked into something energizing and enlightening.	Anonymous
From listening to the conversations and comments made it was apparent there is a big disconnect, lack of understanding among several, ok, a lot of them, of what synod does, etc. conversations via Skype or something similar throughout the year maybe once a quarter or around six months after synod assembly ? Maintaining the connections is important. this is coming from a baby whose pastor encouraged me to attend even though I am neither on our council or president	
Attended Mutual a ministry	
did not attend	
I recommend that the discussion topic(s) be identified in advance and questions proposed for discussion.	

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Comment(s) for:

26

Assembly Registration. Please rate the following aspects of this year's Assembly registration process:

18 Responses

20 per page



Answer	Respondent
Our son was a minor and we could not sign for his name tag as a visitor. I'm not sure why it was set up that way but it was disappointing that we could not pick it up ourselves.	Anonymous
the starting point for online registration was hard to find on the website, because it was grouped together with other stuff. It needs it's on heading.	Anonymous
Help was offered with my problems, but the help was not welcoming or friendly	Anonymous
Church office handled registration, so I wasn't personally involved.	Anonymous
Payment was easy because Carolyn fixed my error in the system. She then had to help me figure out where to go to pay. It was easy for me, but took up a bunch of her time.	Anonymous
Had trouble downloading the Guide.	Anonymous
The payment process was a little difficult to follow and it was unclear as to whether my payment was received or not.	
The people in the registration area were very friendly and helpful.	
I will withhold comments, as my online registration was never received. I found this out upon arrival. Steve Hilgeman	Anonymous
no comments	Anonymous
I was pre registered by our church Secretary.	
Did have some issues accessing information for registration online	
Pastor did it all.	
was there an extra fee charged for the use of a credit card if someone pre-registered?	
Registered by my church staff	
Senior Pastor took care of registration for our group so I have no knowledge of the process.	
Our church secretary registered me. That was super. I did not know I could volunteer for Assembly in any way. (this was my very first assembly). Check-in was amazingly easy! thanks!	
Online registration closes far too early. There is no reason to close it any more than a day or two prior to the assembly.	

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Comment(s) for:

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Hotel. Please rate your satisfaction with the Chattanooga Marriott Downtown. Use the Comment box to alert Assembly planners to any hotel-related issues or problems.

19 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Love the fact that food is available in the restaurant that is good and affordable.	Anonymous
I hope in the future we can negotiate a lower group rate -- or at least one that includes parking.	Anonymous
I loved that we had inside access from the hotel to the conventions center makes for a safer environment.	Anonymous
Great place for assembly lodging. Very convenient.	
A working pool would have been nice. Maybe next year??	
great accommodations. loved it being right at the convention area.	Anonymous
Parking should be included	
I had to call the front desk 3 times to correct an issue. Saturday evening I returned to my room and the electrical sockets were not working next to the bed. I did not call because I did not want to wait hours for them to correct the situation.	Anonymous
They must fix the coordination between the parking garage and hotel! This is the 4th time I have stayed at that hotel for a synod assembly, and I have never to be able to get in and out of the parking garage with my room key!	
Adjacency to the Convention Center was perfect! Entire staff went out of their way to accommodate.	t
Had difficult time checking in and another difficult time checking out. They are not flexible with their issues. Was on 16th floor and room A/C did not cool room very well. Shower had no place but on the floor for soap and shampoo. (Small shelf was broken and never repaired.) Restaurant food was excellent!	
Both swimming pools were not in service. Very disappointed for family members who were guest.	
Restaurant and bar were under staffed.	
Remodel rooms were very nice.	
Coffee shop closed too early in the day	
Great	
Friendly and helpful staff	

<p>Stayed at the Staybridge, which was a little more convenient than the Marriott. Staybridge was a great hotel to stay in with added benefit of receiving a free breakfast each morning. Since we didn't stay at Marriott I don't know if they had free breakfast or not.</p>	
<p>My room was not ready upon arrival at 11:00 am. I was informed that I would receive a phone call when my room was available. I received no phone call, but told that my room was ready when I checked during the dinner break.</p>	
<p>We paid for all of our participants with one church credit card. Some of our people had difficulty checking in/out.</p>	
<p>The front desk staff seemed flummoxed by my congregation's use of one credit card to reserve and pay for all of our rooms.</p>	
<p>Unfortunately we had enough things go wrong during our first day (sending us to an occupied room at first check-in, lost checked luggage) that I think the entire staff knew who we were - but, they were so kind and professional, remained calm, went out of their way to make things right, and continued to check on us for the remainder of our stay.</p>	

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Comment(s) for:

28

Assembly Facility. Please rate your satisfaction with the Chattanooga Convention Center. Use the Comment box to alert Assembly planners to any hotel-related issues or problems.

22 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Too cold!!	Anonymous
They have an excellent staff. They are all very friendly and welcoming and the place was super clean. It was Apsley wonderful to be there and we look forward to coming next year to	Anonymous
Perfect size and we had the run of the place	Anonymous
LOVE the Chattanooga Convention Center	Anonymous
Wifi could be better.	Anonymous
Cold. Confusing signage.	Anonymous
A/C in room was defective. They tried to fix the problem the whole time we were there, but could not. Ultimately, at check out they did make a slight adjustment to the bill.	Anonymous
The free shuttle was very convenient.	
COLD!!!!	Anonymous
The convention staff was especially attentive to the ladies bathrooms. SO CLEAN! Much appreciated!	
Thanks be to the Lord they have Starbucks there! It would be good to add an extra barista to help with the glut of us needing to get our caffeine infusions. The salad bar offering was really nice. I could see folks wanted to recycle trash but some of the bins were not clearly labeled what goes where. I know it's a little thing but we are trying to be stewards of creation, are we not?	
Microphones were intermittent, but eventually corrected.	
nice facility	
The facility was Great, but the temperature was unbearable. The temperature was 90 outside. Do we bring clothes for summer or winter?	
The Chattanooga Convention Center was good. I liked that it was right across a small street from our hotel. Sunday morning, we decided to walk a little bit and not use doors to convention center directly across from Staybridge, but found that the doors facing Carter Street were locked so we were forced to walk the entire length of convention center outside in the muggy air!	
Was difficult to read much of what was displayed on slides used in presentations.	
Temperature an issue	
Liked the free wifi at the Convention Center. Don't like that you have to pay for it in hotels. Great accommodations and the Conv Center staff seemed to have done their job.	

See comment above. Hotel workers should be more prepared for multiple rooms on a single credit card, and should not harass those who are not in possession of the card when they are checking in/out.	
Cold in plenary sessions. Other than that, enjoyed the Convention Center.	
Excellent signage in the convention center. Well done, Chattanooga.	
Broken faucets and toilets, most soap dispensers were empty.	
A good facility normally, they were off their game this weekend.	

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Comment(s) for:

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Food at the Assembly. Please rate your satisfaction with the food and beverage options which were available at the Assembly:

31 Responses

50 per page



Answer	Respondent
Lunch concession far superior to Birmingham.	Anonymous
Walking to get food was enjoyable after sitting for long periods. Chattanooga is loaded with food spots.	Anonymous
food at the convention center were pricey	Anonymous
Could we not add \$5 per registration and have free coffee available in the mornings?	Anonymous
I used the Marriott dining room for Breakfast and Lunch. Dinner options were great especially once I found that the "trolley" could drop us off close to restaurant as I am limited in the amount of walking I can handle.	Anonymous
The free trolley that stops at the convention center and goes downtown is great.	Anonymous
Difficult to attend some the activities, especially some of the early morning ones. They were scheduled very early and filled up quickly (seats).	
Vegan options lacking. A salad bar with the only protein option being fried chicken tenders is a bit odd. No coffee near the convention center, and only in the hotel coffee bar until 2 pm.	Anonymous
Concession breakfast options were convenient but over-priced.	
Hotel restaurant was excellent.	Anonymous
A non-salad option for lunch at the Convention Center would be helpful.	
Great location. Missed worship in a church. Loved going to one of the biggies when the assembly was downtown Atlanta. Liked the ease of getting to Chattanooga so much better.	Anonymous
Sandwich choices would have be appreciated in addition to the salad in the lunch concession.	Anonymous
I would have liked more choices of rolls and breakfast breads.	
Love the City Cafe	
Having some kind of tray provided as we made purchases at the Convention Center would have been helpful.	
FYI People who stay at the days inn rivergate across the street get a discount at the awesome 24 hour diner!	
I would like that free coffee & tea was available at the assembly meetings.	
High priced for the products.	
It would have been nice if coffee, tea, and hot water had been provided throughout the meeting.	

Imthinkmthe salad bar should have been pay by the lb. not \$12' for any amount mmm	
Food at the convention center was way too expensive. I heard a lot of people saying the same thing also.	
The lunch salad bar before assembly and during registration is very helpful and good food.	
Used Hotel restaurant for breakfast and dinner, excellent food and a reasonable price.	
I felt lunch was very pricy (\$10 for a salad & \$2 for bottle of water). Didn't like Friday's salad as there was only 1 choice of dressing (Italian) and the meat they had to add looked pink and I didn't want to risk getting sick. Saturday's salad better with 3 dressing choices. Still pricy, but better than leaving convention center as there wasn't anything really close to walk too. Same for dinner, had to drive Saturday night to get different options.	
There are some good restaurants within walking distance.	
Downtown Chattanooga has many fine restaurants within a convenient distance of the convention center.	
Lunch salad bar was amazingly wonderful on Saturday!!!	
Would liked to have seen maybe some hard boiled eggs or yogurt selections made available for breakfast. Loved the Saturday salad bar and felt \$10.00 was reasonable-- good price point for what you got. Convenient to have there as not much time was given to venture out to forage.	
Grab and go lunch/snack should be provide on Friday as well since the first plenary starts at lunch time.	
There wasn't enough protein offered for breakfast options and there was far too much sugar.	
More time for lunch (an additional 30m probably) would be welcome.	

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Text answer(s) for:

30

Please provide any other comments or suggestions that would be helpful to the planners of future Assemblies.

40 Responses

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Answer	Respondent
Why no Bible study leader? I've attended assemblies in which an experienced leader took the theme and led the members through 3 sessions to a Sunday conclusion. For me and others it was the absolute highlight of the weekend. Surely we can find, make or squeeze 60 minutes or so over 3 days to nourish ourselves in the Word. Fri afternoon at 4:45 p.m., then Sat and Sun mornings at 7:45 a.m. with coffee, fruit, cereal, rolls and Jesus!	Anonymous
List congregations who support the synod. Check that you listed all.	Anonymous
Great experience! Specially loved Saturday's service!	Anonymous
I know putting these together is an expensive endeavor, but there has got to be a cheaper way. It costs over a thousand dollars to send three people and put them up in a hotel -- before feeding them! That's a lot of money for congregations facing declining numbers and shrinking budgets.	Anonymous
I think the years of experience that the staff has in working together and organizing this event is what may make it all work out so well.	Anonymous
Knowing that the trolley was free and you could catch it right outside the door of Marriott would have saved my knees and hips the first evening I went out to eat. I ended up walking way to far and had issues with my knees the rest of the weekend.	Anonymous
Well done to the team. I appreciate your overall hard work, I also appreciate your support for ILAG and the visit from Pr. Karen and Beatriz. Thank you for going out of your way to accommodate and feature this partnership.	Anonymous
I'd like the assembly to have more teeth so that what we do really has an impact in our day to day work of ministry.	
I liked stats and stories from Bishop Julian and Deacon Michelle. These help me to get a sense of the bigger picture of our Synod.	
I expected more conversations about the next bishop. Granted my focus was almost exclusively on ILAG while at the Assembly, the conversation about the next bishop did not get as much air time as I had anticipated.	
Is there a way to get our healthy/growing/giving congregations together for networking?	
Can we cut the work our Synod staff is doing to the level at which we pay them?	Anonymous
More food choices inside Offer all materials to visitors since we pay so much to attend.	

<p>Like to have more time to discuss with follow representatives. Do more of the synod work. Felt a lot of priority on back patting.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I am president of our church's council and I attended as a non-voting attendee because I wanted other members of our church to attend the Assembly and have the opportunity to vote. Consequently, I was designated a "visitor" and only allowed to sit in the back of the hall, away from my fellow members. This sitting arrangement is ridiculous!! Visitors should be allowed to sit in the front of the hall with everyone else! If your concern is that visitors might vote illegally, just remind everyone that only people designated as "voting" can vote. I doubt that there will be cheating.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Thanks for all you do to keep our synod running and all the work you do to organize synod assembly meetings.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Some video kiosks displaying the agenda and events in the exhibit hall would be great. Projecting agenda and events on the Plenary Hall screen when the session isn't active would have been good also.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Although I enjoyed our table discussions related to the election of a bishop at the 2019 assembly, I don't think it was a very good use of time. The information didn't seem to go anywhere and many of this year's voting members will not be voting members next year. Such conversations are better suited for conferences and congregations.</p> <p>The assembly could be streamlined into one overnight for voting members, saving congregations and individuals money. Having one worship service instead of three and doing away with many or all the presentations that are already covered in the exhibits or workshops would make this possible.</p> <p>I really missed the Bible studies this year. If the assembly is not going to be streamlined it would be good to return to having them.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Food was extremely expensive and very low quality at the "Grab and GO" offering.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Where did the Bible Study go? It seemed the prayers were lacking and a sad replacement for the central reason that brings us together, as a church body. As one pastor commented when asked by the council why there would be a brief Bible Study before each business responded: "Exactly who's business would you suppose we are about, anyway?"</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Thank you for all of the hard work you put into planning and implementing the assembly. Generally speaking, I think that it was a very positive one.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>You need to be live streaming this event - especially next year when we will be electing a new bishop!</p> <p>And live streaming the worship services would be great for people in our home congregations.</p> <p>So many church members do not understand what the synod does or what it's functions are. Congregations need to do a better job of communicating this to members.</p> <p>And those 22 congregations who give \$0.00 in offerings to the synod should be ashamed of themselves!! I'm sure they would be first in line demanding help if they needed something. It is very difficult to be benevolent to people like that!</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Great job. Lots of hard work! Steve Hilgeman</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I missed the morning worship opportunities that I had in Atlanta.---I know less staff.</p> <p>You didn't ask about the other sessions we attended. My favorite and the one I was able to bring ideas back to our congregation was the research on growing congregations. We learned many things that we'll use.</p> <p>I attended the compensation session The only thing I learned was that if I read the printed material, I would have everything I needed. A session I did not need to attend.</p> <p>I would have liked to attend another session or two, but there wasn't time. Why only a few times to catch something????</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>

<p>Worship was great, but did we need three long services? See first comment.</p> <p>Did not think signage was as good as it could have been. I saw the hallway vendors, but didn't realize there was more in some of the rooms.</p> <p>I came back from assembly with a few new ideas and know there could have been more if....</p>	
<p>Didn't seem like everyone could get to the Assembly by noon. A later start time and go later into the evenings. Is it possible to make it into a 2 day event? Priorities and time limits for speakers are a must!</p>	Anonymous
<p>Reduce to a one day event, except when electing a bishop.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PLEASE let the choir and musicians practice during the day like during a breakout session as opposed to end of the day when we're tired, a little cranky and really hungry. 2. Y'all did good to alert us about this survey before the end of the last plenary. Thank you for giving us this outlet to provide feedback 3. Highlights on website yet? Encourage at end of assembly to have folks tell their congregations about what we did and refer to the website. And that the synod has a website. And all the resources available through the website. A PowerPoint slide about the website. Have a social media table for the synod at convention. Just like in the advertising business, repetition is key. ~ it's not that we don't know but it's that we forget easily and need constant reminding. 	
<p>This was most definitely one of the better ones over the past 5 years. Thanks to the staff for all that you do.</p> <p>Blessings</p>	
<p>Overall, well done. A great atmosphere for learning and group interactions. Met a lot of new friends and feel very comfortable in sharing my experiences with our congregation. Thanks!</p>	
<p>I was a first time in attendance lay person and found the plenary sessions somewhat boring and lengthy with little time between sessions, only 15 minutes! Since we did not have biographies some voting was simply guesses. VP speeches were very useful. Most lay persons had no idea what some of the topics were about. After a while the excessive graphics, numbers, and percentages become excessive.</p> <p>Really enjoyed the assembly worships, especially Friday and Sunday. Music at Saturday worship was a bit much for me but sermon was fantastic.</p> <p>Very little time to visit exhibits.</p> <p>It would really be neat if each church donated something and have a large room with a silent auction and all funds raised will go to (you choose). You probably would be shocked at the amount of money that you could raise with little prep.</p> <p>How about a Bingo evening?</p>	
<p>Final Sunday worship was well written and the musicians were wonderful. Those of us in the choir didn't have the music ahead of time and sight read some of it. I don't want the choir rehearsal to be a workshop option, but if the music had been available ahead of time, or even for the choir rehearsal, we would have been able to give more to God's glory.</p>	
<p>MORE YOUTH</p>	
<p>Time allotted to each session should be carefully examined to prevent "rushed feeling."</p>	
<p>I enjoyed it.</p>	
<p>I understand that we have a lot of global problems and world hunger in our time. But I was highly disappointed that we don't have an extensive program for our veterans. I guess a lot of people don't realize that there are 50,000 homeless women vets in the US. I feel us as Lutherans should put some concentration on our extreme veteran problem in our own country. As a Christian I'm all for giving, but I think we should start at home first. Because this would not be the land of the free and brave without our vets. If such a program is deemed possible I would very much be interested in being a part of it.</p>	

God bless	
Darlene Lemaster Our Savior Conf. 6	
I would like to have more time to get to know other participants of the convention from all over the Southeast synod. Everything was really scheduled and there was not much time to visit except with those sitting immediately around where I was.	
A few more food options!	
Hurray for Chattanooga. Easy to navigate, easy to find workshops and registration, good room for exhibits, Cokes nearby.	
Positive experience 1st time attending as a voting member. I'm going to ask for my church council to consider letting me attend next year as it will sort of be like a continuation of what discussion was started this year and voting on our new Bishop.	
Regarding workshops I'm not sure if it was submitted or not, but here my comments are again to the best of of recollection: Friday workshop, I wanted to attend the "An Introduction to Learning and Telling Bible Stories By Heart" one but couldn't muster the strength to get to Marriott Plaza Room C because of my disability (too far walk). I loved Saturday's workshop "Art with a Purpose: MyCanvas, a Mobile Community Art Therapy Program, Empowering At-Risk Youth to Find Their Voice and Tell Their Story", but again walk was far. Liked that it was "hands on".	
I felt that there were WAY TOO MANY workshop choices!! I would have liked to have attending several others, but didn't have chance to since there were only 2 times for workshops	
It would be nice to schedule the choir rehearsal during one of the breakout sessions instead of at dinner time. I had to wait until 7:30 to eat, which is very late.	
This was my first Assembly, so it seemed to have gone very well. I've organized things on a much lesser level than this event & I know the difficulties that can arise. BIG thanks to the support volunteers!	
Coffee should be provided in plenary at least on Saturday morning. Thank you for the water station!	
Trash cans should be in plenary hall	
Offer pre-plenary live music while folks are gathering	
Have a theme Bible verse, liked the discussion time around the theme but would like a focus Bible verse	
1. Suggest Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian organizations within the Southeastern US be contacted to find out how they deal with female clergy salary unfairness.	
2. During the final moments to future Synod Assemblies, play the hymn "God Be With You Til We Meet Again".	
Loved being able to focus on theme (through worship and workshops) and not on resolutions!	
Thanks to the Synod officers, staff, and volunteers for all their hard work. Thanks to the Bishop for his leadership.	
I would like to see an effort by the Synod office to advertise for and invite additional workshop leaders and topics.	

