



FAQ—Frequently Asked Questions

Your guide to the EWA – ID Synod Assembly 2019

Where is the Synod Assembly being held?

The Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho, located at 2900 West Chinden Boulevard, Boise ID 83714

How do I get there?

From Interstate 84: Take Exit 49 City Center to the Interstate 184 Connector. After approximately four miles, take Exit 3 Fairview Avenue. Proceed through the traffic light and under the overpass. Take the first left on Garden Street and continue through the traffic light to the frontage drive. The Hotel will be on your right.

From the Boise airport: Complimentary airport shuttle service is available from 5:45 am to 12:00 am on request. Courtesy phone service at the airport is located to the left of the escalators adjacent to baggage claim.

Where can I park?

There is free parking at the Riverside Hotel.

When can I check into my hotel room?

Hotel rooms are available after 3:00 p.m. on Friday with a 12:00 p.m. checkout on Sunday.

What is a Synod Assembly?

The Synod Assembly is an assembly of members from the 95 congregations and related ministries of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Approximately 300 people assemble to worship, to attend hearings and workshops, to be inspired by our guest speakers, to better know our partners in ministry and to conduct the business of the synod. The assembly serves as the synod's highest legislative authority. For more information, see Chapter 7 of the Synod Constitution – available online at www.ewaidsynod.org under Resource Documents.

How can I prepare?

You can prepare by: praying; carefully reading the registration material packet along with this packet; and attending your Cluster Pre-Assembly Meeting to discuss matters coming before the assembly.

How is an assembly conducted?

Bishop Kristen Kuempel presides over the business meetings using *Robert's Rules of Order* to govern the proceedings. A parliamentarian is in attendance and minutes are taken for publication following the assembly. Voting members have the privilege to speak to an issue under consideration; they may move, second or amend any motion. Those speaking are asked to identify themselves by name and congregation before speaking from one of the microphones available on the assembly floor.

Guidebook/Notebook

Guidebook or a paper copy of a Notebook will provide all the materials needed for the Assembly. You will receive an email to locate and download Guidebook or if you signed up for a Notebook one will be available for you at the registration desk.

Who can vote?

Each congregation is invited to send all pastor(s) serving under call and all other leaders who are rostered by the church: Clergy, Associates in Ministry, Diaconal ministers, and Deaconesses. In addition, congregations send at least two lay voting members for each congregation (or more depending on numbers of baptized membership). Retired pastors and Synod Council members are also able to vote.

How is voting conducted?

This year, the assembly will be using electronic balloting. Each voting member will be issued a voting machine at registration. There will be practice before voting begins to learn how to use the device. Each voting member will also be assigned voting cards. If necessary, paper ballots may also be used. Voting cards are used to take votes and also at the microphones to indicate position (green – in favor of motion; red – opposed to the motion; white – point of order). Voting cards may also be used by the chair to get a “sense of the house.”

Assembly Orientation

There will also be an Assembly orientation for new members held on the first day. This workshop provides helpful information for those who have never attended an assembly.

What is a Table Talk?

Table talks are opportunities for conversation about a particular subject or ministry. This year, Table Talks will be held on Sunday morning with our Ministry Partners. A list of table talks will be posted on Friday of the assembly. A topic is posted on a standard at a table; participants are invited to bring their breakfast, sit at a table of their choice and join in a lively discussion.

What do I wear?

Large meeting rooms can vary in temperature. We encourage you to dress in layers so that you can stay comfortable during the assembly.

Where do I sit?

Participants will be sitting at round tables in the main ballroom during most of the scheduled sessions. There is no assigned seating and you are welcome to sit where you are comfortable in the ballroom.

What meals are provided?

Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast are included with your registration. There will be a complimentary coffee service throughout the assembly.

What if someone needs to reach me?

Our staff can be reached anytime during Synod Assembly through the hotel.

What if I need assistance during the Assembly?

The Assembly planning team wants to ensure your comfort and safety. In case of a medical emergency, please seek immediate medical attention and dial 911. For first aid or minor medical support, trained healthcare personnel are on call at the Synod Assembly Office throughout the Assembly. For spiritual comfort or prayer, our Prayer room is open and available.

What if I have further questions, needs or concerns?

Your Assembly team is here to serve you! Please feel free to contact Synod Assembly Registrar Diana Abken at registrar@ewaidssynod.org; Synod Office Manager Cathy Steiner at 509-838-9871 or office@ewaidssynod.org; or Pastor Phil Misner at 509-288-1862 or phil.misner@ewaidssynod.org