



The Rev. Beth A. Schlegel  
Synod Secretary

bschlegel@lss-elca.org

## OFFICIAL STATUS OF THE 2020 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

**To:** The congregations and the rostered ministers of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

**From:** Beth A. Schlegel, synod secretary

**Date:** July 23, 2020

**Re:** Official Notice of the 2020 Synod Assembly Adjournment

Grace and peace to you in our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

On June 6, 2020, Bishop James S. Dunlop called the 2020 Synod Assembly to order. Secretary Beth Schlegel certified 288 registered voting members, of whom 22 were present. There being no quorum to conduct business, the assembly was adjourned to the call of the chair.

In consultation with the Synod Council at a special meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, July 1, 2020, the assembly chair, Bishop James S. Dunlop, determined that he will not call the assembly to order until 2021.

This difficult decision was made with the guidance of available coronavirus data, the guidelines established by public health authorities, concern for the vulnerable population represented by many of our synod voting members, the logistical challenges of using technology for a fall assembly, the compressed timeline for conference assemblies, and the commitment to including all voting members in the proceedings of the assembly. We pray that by next year, God will grant us the ability to convene.

We have a record of congregations who registered and paid for their voting members. It is our intention to recommend to the Synod Council at their regular meeting in September that they take action to credit those fees toward next year's assembly. This will simplify the cost that would be incurred in processing refunds. However, if your congregation prefers to have the fees refunded, please do not use PayPal, but do contact Cathy Deitrich directly (cdeitrich@lss-elca.org).

It is our understanding that Pennsylvania law permits a board of directors to fill vacant director seats until the next corporate annual meeting when a meeting cannot be held due to catastrophic circumstances. The novel coronavirus pandemic poses such circumstances, and the Synod Council intends to act accordingly to conduct any necessary business that was to come before the assembly. In this way, we hope to continue the important ministry we share as the Lower Susquehanna Synod. This is the official notification of these changes.

To the glory of God,

The Rev. Beth A. Schlegel, synod secretary  
Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA  
[www.lss-elca.org](http://www.lss-elca.org)  
717-652-1852