



Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work. Our Hands.

May 27, 2020

Dear siblings in Christ,

At its regular meeting on 21 May 2020, the Greater Milwaukee Synod Council voted unanimously to cancel the 2020 Synod Assembly, which had previously been rescheduled to meet in mid-August.

After prayerful discernment and thoughtful consideration of multiple options, including a virtual assembly, the Council's decision was based on continuing concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on large public gatherings. On behalf of the Council, we offer thanks to the Synod Assembly Planning Team and Synod Assembly Manager Mary Romskog for their flexibility and hard work in helping the Council decide upon cancellation as the best option for public health and our life together as a Synod. The Italian Community Center has graciously allowed deposits made toward this year's assembly to be applied to the 2021 Synod Assembly.

Our synod constitution only *requires* an assembly every three years. Some of the business conducted by the Synod Assembly can be addressed by Synod Council. The Council will continue to meet virtually to handle business. Meeting summaries are available afterwards online at <https://milwaukeeesynd.org/who-we-are/synod-council/>.

The decisions regarding changes from Clusters to Conferences have been tabled at present and may be considered prior to the 2021 Synod Assembly. The synod office is beginning to refund registration payments already made prior to the postponement and cancellation of the Assembly. If you have any questions, please contact the synod office.

The decision to cancel this Assembly altogether was challenging, but also made great sense for the stewardship of all who would gather. Like many other synods around the country, we don't want to gather together in ways that put people at greater risk of illness or death. We look forward to the time when we can gather together again in larger groups. In the meantime, God's church goes on, and God's mission continues. Thank you for your faithfulness in these challenging times. Please mark your calendars for the 2021 Synod Assembly, meeting on a new weekend, April 30—May 1, 2021 at the Italian Community Center, Milwaukee.

God's peace to you and your communities of faith,

The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse
Synod Secretary

Joyce Caldwell
Synod Vice President

The Rev. Paul D. Erickson
Bishop

Council Action

SC 20.05.04. Cancellation of 2020 Synod Assembly

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