

THE 2016 VIRGINIA SYNOD YOUTH ASSEMBLY - INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS, PASTORS, PARENTS, AND YOUTH WORKERS

What is Youth Assembly?

The Virginia Synod Youth Assembly is the annual meeting of the *Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization*, to which all Lutheran Youth in Virginia automatically belong. The Virginia Synod LYO is also the group in Virginia that relates to the ELCA Youth Organization. The Youth Assembly meets at the same time as the Synod Main Assembly each year on the Roanoke College Campus.

This Year's Event is: June 10-12, 2016 (noon Friday to noon Sunday), the same dates as the Main Assembly. (Youth will need to be excused from school on Friday, June 10)

The Purpose of the Youth Assembly is :

- to give glory to God, celebrate the good news of the gospel, and nurture faith in the synod's young leaders.
 - to conduct the business of the Synodical Lutheran Youth Organization, including election of the LYO Board.
 - to hear and explore the story of the church's work beyond the congregations of the youth delegates and equip them to share and interpret those stories in their home contexts.
 - to give voice to and encourage leadership among youth in the church.
- ☞ *Youth Delegates should understand that the activities and atmosphere of the Youth Assembly are different from those of our other Synod Youth events (Seventh Day, Lost and Found, Winter Celebration, Kairos)!*

This year's Virginia Synod Youth Assembly theme will be centered around the Church's worship life to parallel the main assembly theme, "Ambassadors for Christ: A Heart for Worship."

Who Attends the Youth Assembly?

Each congregation of the Synod is entitled to send *two delegates* to the Youth Assembly (see next paragraph). In addition, any youth who is nominated for the LYO Board (see next page) may also attend as a delegate, and if event registration has not exceeded capacity by May 4th each congregation may ask to send a third delegate of any grade level (*if you desire to do this, contact Dave Delaney at the Synod Office - 540-389-1000 or delaney@vasynod.org - to make sure there's room*). Congregations may also send third delegate of either sex and any grade if that person comes from a multi-cultural population or self-identifies as "[definitely-abled](#)."

Congregations may select their youth delegates in whatever fashion they choose. If possible, *one should be from grades 7-9 and one from grades 10-12* (congregations may send two delegates from the same age group if one from each group cannot be found). If possible, one delegate should be female and the other male. They need not have any prior experience in Synodical activities, but they should be responsible young people who have an interest in the life and work of the church, and they must be willing to abide by the expectations of the event. Youth delegates register using the special form provided for Youth Assembly, available under the "Youth Ministry" tab on the synod website, and the congregation should plan to pay the cost for youth delegates. **No adult advisors from the congregation are required to come;** the Youth Assembly staff serves as advisors for the event, although the pastor or another adult from that congregation at the Main Assembly must agree to share responsibility for the youth from their congregation in case there is a need during the weekend, and adults interested in serving as staff for this event are invited to contact Pastor Dave Delaney for more information.

What is the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board?

The Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board consists of seven youth members – one each in grades 9-12 elected by the Youth Assembly, an 8th grader appointed by the Board, a multi-cultural representative appointed by the Board, a definitely-abled representative appointed by the Board – and three adults appointed by the Synod's Youth Ministry Committee, all of whom serve for one-year terms between annual assemblies. *The youth members of the Board* are elected at each youth assembly for one-year terms from candidates nominated by their home pastors or congregation presidents, **using the**

nomination form that is available on the synod website. The 12th grade Board member becomes the president of the Board (which entails some additional responsibilities, such as representing Virginia to the annual ELCA Synodical

Youth Leadership Event, reporting to the Main Assembly, and being present where possible at the other youth events throughout the year), and the 11th grade Board member becomes the vice-president. The basic commitment of Board members is to attend Board meetings over the course of the year (no more than five) and to attend the next year's assembly. **This expectation should be made clear to candidates before they are nominated.** Use the "Nomination Form" ONLY if a youth from your congregation is being nominated for the LYO Board for the upcoming school year. Nominees will be sent or may download the additional information form which they must complete and return to the Synod Office so that it can be made available to Youth Assembly Delegates. It includes a section that must be reviewed with the nominee. In addition to the nomination form itself, please notice that there is a reference form to be filled out by a congregational leader.

Expectations for Participants in Youth Assembly

PASTORS AND OTHER ROSTERED LEADERS / YOUTH WORKERS / PARENTS: PLEASE MAKE SURE THESE EXPECTATIONS ARE MADE CLEAR TO YOUR YOUTH ASSEMBLY DELEGATES! PLEASE ALSO NOTE YOUR ROLE IN HELPING THE YOUTH ASSEMBLY STAFF TO ADMINISTER THESE EXPECTATIONS! You (or another adult from your congregation) are required to sign the Youth Assembly registration form certifying that your youth delegate understands the event expectations.

- Participants will participate fully in all activities of the Youth Assembly.
- Participants will wear the event name tag visibly at all times. This is for safety as well as other reasons.
- Participants will abide by the established guidelines, procedures, and expectations for the Youth Assembly.
- Participants will show full respect to the Youth Assembly adults and leaders as well as the staff of Roanoke College.
- Participants will remain on the Roanoke College Campus except during those times when the entire group travels to the Saturday Evening Worship Service.
- No weapons, alcohol, or drugs other than required medications may be brought to the event.
- The curfew, lights out times, and other requirements necessary for the safety of every person and the smooth running of our event will be conscientiously observed.
- All participants in Youth Ministry events sponsored by the Virginia Synod must adhere strictly to the Synod's official guidelines protecting individuals from sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct. No unwelcome touching or suggestive or other inappropriate language is permitted.

All delegates to the Youth Assembly and their pastors or another adult from the congregation must read these expectations and sign the registration form indicating their agreement to abide by them.

Other Information About the Youth Assembly.

Pastors and Youth Workers should pass along this information to youth delegates:

- After registering by mail or using the online form, youth will receive a packet confirming their registration and providing information on what to do upon arriving at Roanoke College, an event schedule, and a map of the campus.
- Delegates to Youth Assembly will be housed as a group on the Roanoke Campus and will be responsible to the adult leaders of the Youth Assembly; delegates must agree to abide by the expectations of the event.

• **Please note the special area on the registration form to be signed by the Youth Assembly delegate.** There is also a place for the Pastor or another Main Assembly delegate **to sign and provide a cell phone number** as an agreement to assist the Youth Assembly staff should there be an emergency during the event or should an unusual discipline problem develop.

Need More Information?

If you have additional questions about the Youth Assembly or about the Virginia Synod LYO Board, please contact:

The Rev. Dave Delaney
Virginia Synod, ELCA, PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153 delaney@vasynod.org
(540) 389-1000 (office); (540) 774-4937 (home); (540) 529-6893 (cell)

VIRGINIA SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION BOARD NOMINATION AND NOMINEE INFORMATION FORM

Youth who are interested in or have been encouraged to be nominees for the LYO Board must fill this form out and either submit it prior to the Youth Assembly or turn it in at the Youth Assembly check-in desk. Please see "ABOUT SERVICE ON THE VIRGINIA SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION BOARD" below. Grades 9-12 are elected by the Youth Assembly, and the 8th grader, multi-cultural, and definitely-abled representatives are appointed by the Board.

Nominee's Name: _____

Congregation and Location: _____

Full Address and Phone Number: _____

Email address if available: _____

School grade in 2015-2016 (current year): _____ School grade in 2016-2017 (next year): _____

Check here if this is a nominee who would like to be considered for appointment as either
 the 8th grade representative
 the multi-cultural representative
 the definitely-abled representative

ABOUT SERVICE ON THE VIRGINIA SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION BOARD

The **Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization** is a body that serves all Lutheran youth in Virginia - both Junior High and High School students. The LYO Constitution states that each year a Board will be selected at the Youth Assembly, with one representative for each of grades 8-12. **Ninth through twelfth** grade representatives are *elected* at the Assembly and the **eighth grader** is *appointed* by the new Board, along with a **multi-cultural representative** and a **definitely-abled representative**.

The main commitment involved with serving on the LYO Board is:

- Attendance at the 2017 Youth Assembly (tentative date: June 9-11, 2017), including early arrival on Thursday evening, June 8th.
- Participation in the 3-4 meetings of the group during the 2016-2017 school year (usually held in the middle of the state), at least two of which are overnight meetings (Friday evening through all day Saturday - one in September and one in March).

**Note: If you are a person who has a lot of Saturday commitments (work, sports and other things), and you think you may miss more than two of these meetings, you may want to consider withdrawing your nomination so that someone else can serve. Over the years Lutheran youth have made service on this Board a strong priority, and so the expectation for commitment remains high!*

The elections are held each year at the Youth Assembly. This year's Assembly is on June 10-12, 2016 at Roanoke College, and LYO Board nominees are entitled to attend (at the full registration cost) even if they are not one of their congregation's delegates, although Assembly attendance is not required in order to be a nominee for the Board. If you need information on attending, contact Dave Delaney at the Virginia Synod Office – 540-389-1000 / delaney@vasynod.org.

(see section on reverse side to be filled out by nominee →)

INFORMATION ABOUT 2016-2017 LYO BOARD NOMINEE
TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE NOMINEE FOR THE LYO BOARD

*Please do *not* use this form to register for the Youth Assembly!*

In the space below (or on a separate piece of paper), please say a bit about yourself and why you would like to serve on the LYO Board. Return this form to Dave Delaney, Virginia Synod ELCA, PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153 no later than May 25, 2016 or else bring it with you to the Youth Assembly. In addition to this form, every nominee must arrange to have the **“Pastor and Parent Recommendation Form for 2016-2017 Board Nominee”** form sent to the Synod Office or brought to the Assembly. You do **not** need to be a congregational delegate to the 2016 Youth Assembly in order to be a nominee for the 2016-2017 Board, although by virtue of being a nominee you may attend (at the regular cost) along with your congregation’s other Youth Assembly delegates. The information you share below will be posted at this year’s Youth Assembly so that people can get to know you a little bit before the voting process.

**VIRGINIA SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION BOARD
PASTOR AND PARENT RECOMMENDATION FORM
FOR 2016-2017 BOARD NOMINEE**

→ DO NOT SUBMIT UNLESS YOUTH IS A NOMINEE FOR THE LYO BOARD!

This form must be accompanied by the VIRGINIA SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION NOMINATION FORM AND NOMINEE INFO SHEET. This form must be completed by the nominee's pastor, congregation president, or youth director AND the nominee's parent/guardian in order for the nomination process to be complete. Return to Dave Delaney, Virginia Synod ELCA, PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153

**THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE L.Y.O.B. NOMINEE'S PASTOR,
CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT, OR YOUTH DIRECTOR**

Nominee's name _____

Nominee's congregation and location (town or city) _____

Your name (name of person filling out this reference): _____

Your position in the congregation's youth ministry: _____

"I have reviewed the expectations of an LYO Board member with this nominee." (on page 2 of this sheet)

Your Signature: _____

→ Note: If you as a congregation leader have any concerns about this young person's suitability for service on the Virginia Synod LYO Board, please contact:

Synod Youth Director Dave Delaney Office: 540-389-1000 Cell: 540-529-6893

E-mail: delaney@vasynod.org

THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE L.Y.O.B. NOMINEE'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Nominee's name _____

Nominee's congregation and location (town or city) _____

Position for which the youth is being nominated (please circle one):

8th grade representative (*appointed*)

Multi-cultural representative (*appointed*)

9th grade representative (*elected*)

Definitely-abled representative (*appointed*)

10th grade representative (*elected*)

11th grade representative (*elected*)

12th grade representative / President (*elected*)

Your name (name of person filling out this reference) and relationship to the nominee:

"I have reviewed the expectations of an LYO Board member with this nominee." (on page 2 of this sheet)

Your Signature: _____

ABOUT SERVICE ON THE VIRGINIA SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION BOARD

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**Note: If you are a person who has a lot of Saturday commitments (work, sports and other things), and you think you may miss more than two of these meetings, you may want to consider withdrawing your nomination so that someone else can serve. Over the years Lutheran youth have made service on this Board a strong priority, and so the expectation for commitment remains high!*

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The 2016 Virginia Synod Youth Assembly

Roanoke College, June 10-12, 2016 - **Delegate Registration and Credential Form**

ADULTS ATTENDING AS STAFF: PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND ALSO SEE SPECIAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS AT THE SYNOD WEBSITE - WWW.VASYNOD.ORG - CLICK ON THE EVENT INFORMATION LINK.

Each congregation may send two delegates to the Youth Assembly, preferably one from grades 7-9 and one from grades 10-12. An adult advisor from the congregation is NOT required. Starting May 4th congregations may contact the Synod Office to see if there is room to send a third youth delegate. Each participant must register on a separate form. The **"Expectations"** section of this form **MUST** be completed and signed! More details are available in the booklet "Youth Assembly Information Sheet for Pastors, Parents, and Youth Workers." Questions should be directed to Virginia Synod Youth Director Dave Delaney in the Synod Office - 540-389-1000 / delaney@vasynod.org. Return completed forms to: **Virginia Synod Youth Assembly, PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153 / fax# 540-389-5962.** A completed and signed Roanoke College health form is required of every participant and must be submitted with this registration form.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!! SIGNATURES REQUIRED ON BOTH PAGES !!

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Current (2015-2016) Grade Level (07-12) : _____ [] Male [] Female

Home or Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ email address: _____

Home Congregation Name: _____ Location of Congregation: _____

Name of Pastor: _____

(If your congregation does not currently have a pastor, please list the name of another adult attending the Main Assembly)

Roommate preference (PLEASE confirm this with the other person): _____

Special housing or dietary needs: _____

Circle your tshirt size:			
XS	S	M	L
XL	XXL	XXXL	

=====

ALL YOUTH ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS MUST BE HOUSED ON CAMPUS FOR THE ASSEMBLY.

ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL IF YOUTH DELEGATE MUST ARRIVE LATE (after 12:00 noon on Friday, June 10) FOR ANY REASON: _____

YOUTH DELEGATE CERTIFICATION (SIGNATURE REQUIRED!)

This is to certify that the person named above has been selected to represent: _____
(name and location of congregation)

➔ Signed (*signature of pastor or lay president*) _____ Date: _____

➔➔➔ **THREE SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM:** participant, parent/guardian, one Main Assembly voting member who can be a congregational emergency contact during the youth assembly.

Total amount due for the Youth Assembly is **\$225.00**
(\$200 if postmarked before April 15, 2016).
Mail Registration Form To:
Youth Assembly
The Virginia Synod, ELCA
P.O. Box 70
Salem VA 24153

Method of Payment:

- Check payable to Virginia Synod, ELCA (with "YOUTH ASSEMBLY" in memo line!)
- Paid Online @Vasynod.org - click "Youth Ministry" tab
- Will pay at Registration Desk

STARTING MAY 4TH CONGREGATIONS MAY REGISTER A THIRD YOUTH DELEGATE IF SPACE PERMITS. PLEASE CALL THE SYNOD OFFICE (540-389-1000) OR EMAIL Dave Delaney - delaney@vasynod.org TO SEE IF ADDITIONAL SPACES ARE AVAILABLE.

THIS SECTION MUST BE READ AND SIGNED BY THE PARTICIPANT, THE PARENT/GUARDIAN, AND EITHER THE CONGREGATION PASTOR OR ANOTHER ADULT WHO WILL BE PRESENT AT THE ASSEMBLY

Expectations for Youth and Adults at the Virginia Synod 2016 Youth Assembly:

- Each Participant must complete a **Roanoke College Health Form**.
- Participants will **participate fully** in all activities of the Youth Assembly.
- Participants will wear their **event name tag** visibly at all times.
- Participants will **abide** by the established guidelines, procedures, and expectations for the Youth Assembly.
- Participants will **show full respect** to the Youth Assembly adults and leaders as well as the staff of Roanoke College.
- Participants will **remain** on the Roanoke College Campus except during those times when the entire group travels to the Saturday evening Worship Service.
- **No weapons, alcohol, or drugs** other than required medications may be brought to the event.
- The curfew, lights out times, and other requirements necessary for the safety of every person and the smooth running of our event will be **conscientiously observed**.
- All participants in Youth Ministry events sponsored by the Virginia Synod must adhere strictly to the Synod's **official guidelines** protecting individuals from sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct. No unwelcome touching or suggestive or other inappropriate language is permitted.

All delegates to the Youth Assembly, one of their parents or a guardian, and their pastor or another voting member who will be at the Main Assembly must read these expectations and sign the registration form indicating their agreement to abide by them.

AGREEMENT TO EXPECTATIONS (THREE SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED!)

I agree to abide by the expectations of the event.

→ Signed _____ Date: _____
(signature of **participant**)

I have read the expectations for participants in this event and agree to support the Event staff in the administration of these expectations.

→ Signed _____ Date: _____
(signature of **parent** or guardian of participant under 18)

I agree to assist the staff of the Youth Assembly in the event of an emergency or disciplinary situation involving the youth from my congregation

→ Signed _____ cell phone: _____
(signature of congregation **pastor or other congregation voting member** who will be present at the Assembly)

PRINTED NAME OF THIS CONTACT PERSON: _____



**ROANOKE COLLEGE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM**

The information you provide may assist people in aiding you in case of an emergency.

Virginia Synod Assembly

June 10-12, 2016

First Name _____ M.I.: _____ Last Name _____

Home Address

_____ City State Zip Code

Age _____ Birth Date _____ Circle one: Male / Female

Blood Type _____ Date of last tetanus shot _____ Do you wear glasses or contact lenses? _____

Emergency Contact #1 _____ Relationship _____

Home Telephone # _____ Work # _____ Cell # _____

Emergency Contact #2 _____ Relationship _____

Home Telephone # _____ Work # _____ Cell # _____

Describe treatments you are receiving for a current illness/conditions (incl. chronic illnesses i.e. asthma, diabetes, seizures)

List any allergies (e.g.: insect stings, food, medication, etc.) _____

List any medications you are currently taking _____

PERMISSION TO TREAT

I give permission for 1) Roanoke College employees to administer first-aid to me in the event that I am unconscious or otherwise unable to give consent; 2) medical personnel to treat me in the event that I am unconscious or otherwise unable to give consent.

(printed name)

(signature)

(Date)

(printed name of Guardian if participant under 18 years old)

(Signature)

(Date)