



## A WORD ABOUT THE REGISTRATION FEES

In many places throughout our synod, church and family budgets are strained. The Assembly Planning Committee (APC), Synod Council, and synod staff are aware of these financial realities. We take seriously the responsibility of planning Synod Assemblies that are within an appropriate financial level. The APC carefully gathers multiple quotes from vendors and weighs the options available for contracted services. We also take seriously the evaluations and feedback we receive from voting members, visitors and guests at previous assemblies, striving to make continual improvements.

- The APC works closely with the hotel site to offer the lowest possible rate for ballroom and breakout rooms. One way we keep costs low is by ensuring that there will be a minimum amount of food and beverage purchased and overnight reservations. Your registration fees pay for the hotel staff who makes our stay comfortable by cleaning between sessions, providing water service, and preparing each meeting room. Your fees pay for kitchen and wait staff during meals, front desk and housekeeping.
- We contract with an audio-visual team that provides lighting, computers, screens, projectors and sound, so that participants can see and hear during plenary sessions with more ease. We arrange for Wi-Fi in the ballroom to effectuate a paperless Assembly.
- We make our time more efficient by renting electronic voting devices.
- We contract with a parliamentarian to ensure our business is conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and a keynote speaker to enrich our time.
- The Worship Committee, with their unique task of transforming a hotel ballroom into a sacred space, invite musicians from our synod, ensure instruments used are tuned and obtain licenses. Each of these have costs associated. The Worship Committee works creatively and borrows items from congregations when possible.
- Finally, there are several administration costs associated with the Assembly, including registration software and credit card fees.

All of this work could not be done without the volunteers who serve on committees and help on-site at assembly. In 2019, over 75 volunteers were involved in planning, staging and assisting during the assembly. Partner organizations contributed to the sense of community by providing coffee and refreshments during breaks.

We are grateful for the support in making our assembly encompass more than an annual business meeting. We value our ability to gather and our time **together** at Synod Assembly.

We want to ensure that our congregations and rostered leaders are not restricted from participating due to financial limitations. If you or your congregation are in need of financial assistance, please contact Karina Teran ([kteran@mnys.org](mailto:kteran@mnys.org)) about available funding.