



Dear Sisters in Christ,

We are so happy to be able to invite you again to attend in person the Thirty-Fifth Annual Convention of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA which will be held **September 15-17, 2023**, at the Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center in Augusta, Georgia.

You will find the following information concerning the convention attached:

- ★ *Registration Form*
- ★ *Voting Member Responsibilities*
- ★ *Convention Poster*
- ★ *Nomination Form*

Please encourage the women in your unit to attend the convention and extend a personal invitation to the young women (ages 14-35). You may make as many copies as you need of the Registration Form and the Convention Poster to share with the women in your congregational unit.

We have several general scholarships of \$100 that may be used toward your registration fee. There is also the Whitney Hill Memorial Fund which provides \$100 for a young woman 35 or under, and the Caroline P. Gammell Memorial Fund for a woman over the age of 65. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is July 1, 2023. Please contact **Shirley Connelly** at slconnelly@gmail.com for an application. *Names and information submitted for scholarships are kept strictly confidential.*

Please note that you will need to make your hotel reservations directly with the Augusta Marriott by calling 1-888-236-2427. You must register no later than September 1 to receive the posted rate of \$145.00 per night. Rooms will be released after September 1. If you prefer to book your room online just hold the Ctrl key on your keyboard and click on this link: [Book your group rate for 35th Southeastern SYNOD Women of the ELCA Convention Sep2023](#). Please be aware that the parking facilities are owned by the City of Augusta and guests staying will be charged \$7.00 per day/night to their room portfolio.

Event Summary

Rate Start Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023

End Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023

Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center for \$145 USD per night

Also attached is the information for your voting member to the convention. Each congregational or special unit of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA is entitled to one voting member. It is very important that all congregations be represented as we conduct the business of our organization.

We will be electing a president, treasurer, and three board members this year. A form is attached to submit nominations for these positions. Please prayerfully consider serving our organization in this capacity, note that changes to the bylaws allows up to two people from a congregation to serve on the board if one serves as an officer, and one serves as a board member.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the board members.

We have missed seeing you and can't wait to see all of you again in September!

Blessings,

Shirley Connelly

35th Annual Convention
Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA
September 15-16-17, 2023
Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center
1 10th Street, Augusta, GA 30901

Name _____ Name /badge _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____ Phone _____ Cluster # _____
 Congregation _____ City _____ State _____

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORY (*Submit ONE FORM for each person registering*)

Voting Member ____ Participant ____ Young Woman ____ Exhibitor ____ Spouse ____ Board ____ Guest ____

REGISTRATION FEES – Includes 5 meals and convention expenses (*Please circle the amount enclosed*)

Registration Fees	Early Reg Disc 7/16/2023	9/1/2023
Voting Member/ Participant	\$200	\$225
Young Woman (<i>35 or younger</i>)	\$110	\$125
Exhibitor (Saturday) _____	\$110 (<i>includes lunch</i>)	\$125
Spouse (<i>please submit a separate registration form</i>)	\$175	\$200
Banquet ONLY	\$50	\$60

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations prior to August 16 will receive a full refund minus a 25% processing fee. There will be no refund of registration fees for cancellations received on or after August 16.

*Reservations for Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center by calling 1-866-236-2427
 or can be made online, hold your ctrl key, and click the link below:*

[Book your group rate for 35th Southeastern SYNOD Women of the ELCA Convention Sep2023](#)

_____ I am a first time attendee

_____ I have special needs and *would like to have assistance during the convention hours*
 Please indicate the type of assistance and times: _____

_____ I would like to sing in the convention choir

_____ I will help with Registration - Thur. evening ____ Fri. am ____ Fri. afternoon ____ Sat. am ____

_____ Please specify food allergies and health restrictions _____

Please make checks payable to SES WELCA. If you would like to pay by credit card, go to the store on our website at www.seswelca.com. The \$12 service charge is already included in the posted fees. Please send your completed registration form and a check for the correct amount or a copy of your credit card receipt to our registrar Barbara Schwanebeck, 277 Mossy Way NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152. Registration must be postmarked by September 1, 2023. If you have any problems or questions, contact Barbara at 770-427-7808 or Barbara.schwanebeck@gmail.com.



THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION *Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA*

Dates	September 15-17, 2023
Location	Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center, Augusta, GA
Theme	Be Uplifted: It's Good for the Soul
Bible Verse	<i>"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."</i> Luke 1:46-49
Hymn	"Every time I feel the Spirit" ACS 942
Logo	Linda Few
Churchwide Rep	TBD
Chaplain	Pastor Beverly Shaw
Keynote Speaker	TBD
Special Guests	Bishop Kevin Strickland
Music Director	Dana Lee Smith
Parliamentarian	Jennie Mae Smith
Bible Study Leader	TBD
Love Offering	Churchwide Welca
In-Kind Gifts	Child Enrichment of Augusta
Registrar	Barbara Schwanebeck
Host Cluster	Cluster 1 - Ebenezer
Convention Chair	Sandy Gibson
Board Liaison	Shirley Connelly

Visit our website at www.seswelca.com for more information or to download a registration form and watch for convention updates in our newsletter, *The Southeastern Weaver*.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

The purpose of the annual convention of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA is to conduct the business of the organization, elect officers and board members (and four triennial voting members each triennium), and approve the budget and Love Offering for the coming year. It is the highest legislative authority of the synodical organization.

Each congregational unit is encouraged to elect a voting member (and an alternate) to represent their unit at the convention. Voting strength of the convention includes the elected officers and board of the synodical organization, and the voting members from each congregational unit. A majority of the voting members that are registered at the convention will constitute a quorum.

The convention also provides our women an opportunity for fellowship and fun as well as spiritual growth through Bible Study, workshops, and worship services. Special guests include the bishop and a chaplain from the Southeastern Synod, the churchwide representative, a music director, a keynote speaker, workshop leaders, and others.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A VOTING MEMBER

- Each congregational, intercongregational, or special unit may elect one voting member to the convention **An alternate should also be chosen in the event that the voting member is unable to serve*
- Complete a registration form and send the appropriate fees to the registrar by the date indicated on the form
- Read all materials sent to her, which will allow her to become familiar with the business and elections that will be conducted
- Attend the Voting Member Orientation that will be held prior to the opening session of the convention
- Be present at all convention sessions
- Be seated in the section reserved for VOTING MEMBERS ONLY
- Participate in all other activities offered during the convention – workshops, worship, etc.
- Report back to the congregational unit on the election results, the business that was conducted, the budget that was approved, as well as other information and ideas that were gained while attending the annual convention

**SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA
2023 BOARD NOMINATION FORM**

Check the position below in which the nominee is willing to serve. The individual nominated must consent to serve if elected. All board positions are for a two-year term.

_____ **President**

_____ **Treasurer**

_____ **Board Member**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone home () _____ **cell/other ()** _____

email _____

Please list any positions held and most significant experience or service in each area over the last five years. (For example, president of your congregational unit, community service volunteer at homeless shelter, etc.)

Congregational Level _____

Cluster Level _____

Synodical Level _____

Churchwide Level _____

Community Service _____

Occupation _____

Age Range (*Optional)

_____ **35 years or under**

_____ **50-64**

_____ **36-49**

_____ **65 or over**

Ethnic/Racial Heritage (*Optional)

_____ **Hispanic**

_____ **Caucasian**

_____ **Native American**

_____ **African American**

_____ **Asian American**

Primary language if other than English (*Optional) _____

Name and Cluster Number _____

Name and address of congregation _____

In your own words, explain why you have allowed your name to be placed in nomination for this position.

*Information from these categories ensures that we are in line with churchwide policies concerning inclusivity and in no way is intended to offend.

Please send this completed form along with a photo of the nominee to the Nominating Chair:



(This section is to be completed by the participant nominating this person)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone () _____ **email** _____

Name and address of congregation _____

Signature _____