

Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

The following proposed changes to the synod constitution and bylaws are recommended by the Synod Council at its December 2, 2016 meeting. Most of the proposed changes are recommendations from the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Constitutional amendments require a majority vote (because they are recommended by Churchwide Assembly; bylaw amendments require a 2/3 majority vote.

April 2017

Group 1: Time, place and notification of synod assemblies

Delete current S7.01.01.

The time and place of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Delete current S7.11.A87.

The Synod Assembly should meet annually for at least the first five years and then consider biennial meetings.

Add S7.11.01.

The time and place of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place of the next regular assembly normally shall be announced six months prior to the assembly.

Group 2: Voting members and non-voting members at synod assemblies

Delete current S7.22.

All retired ordained ministers, all retired associates in ministry, all retired members of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and all retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod shall have the privilege of voice and vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Add new S7.22.

This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Delete current S7.22.01.

The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

Add new S7.22.01.

All retired rostered ministers of this synod shall have the privilege of voice and vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Delete current S7.22.02.

All ordained ministers on the roster of this synod on leave from call and available for call shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Add new S7.22.02.

All rostered ministers on the roster of this synod who are on leave from call and available for call shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Add new S7.23.

The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

Modify S7.24. as noted.

~~Ordained ministers~~ Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters ~~of ordained ministers~~ of this synod. ~~Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod.~~ Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Modify S7.27. as noted.

This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant ~~an ordained minister of~~ Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ~~ordained~~ minister's service in a congregation of this church.

Group 3: If Synod Treasurer is appointed by Synod Council.

Modify S8.55. as noted.

Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be four years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a four year term.

Group 4: Modify terminology of rostered ministers in the functions of the Synod Council

Modify S10.03.c. and S10.03.d. as noted.

The functions of the Synod Council shall be to: . . .

d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service ~~and of other official rosters~~, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.

e. Issue letters of call to ~~ordained~~ rostered ministers ~~and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers~~ as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Group 5: Modify terminology of rostered ministers at the time of their resignation

Modify S13.11. as noted.

When a ~~pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal~~ rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

Modify S13.12. as noted.

A congregation under financial obligation to its former ~~pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal~~ rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

Group 6: Modify terminology of ministers of Word and Sacrament to attend meetings of synod and conference

Modify S14.25. as noted.

All ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

Group 7: Modify terminology of minister of Word and Service during time of accepting a letter of call.

Add a new S14.33.

The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

Add a new S14.34.

Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Add a new S14.42.

No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

Add a new S14.47.

All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.