

Synod Council Recommendations to the 2020 Synod Assembly

Amendments to the Synod Constitution and Bylaws

The following proposed amendments to the Synod Constitution are recommended from the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and recommended for adoption by the Synod Council at its February 21, 2020 meeting.

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

CHAPTER 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those ~~designated as disabled~~ granted disability status, 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 the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~congregations under development and~~ authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw ~~10.02.03, 10.01.04,~~ to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

CHAPTER 8: OFFICERS

- S.11.01.** When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.
- S8.14.** The ~~synodical~~ bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

CHAPTER 10: SYNOD COUNCIL

- S10.08.** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.
- S10.078.01.** To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATIONS

- S13.25.** This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.
- S13.40.** Synodically Authorized Synod-authorized **Worshipping Communities**

CHAPTER 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

- S14.14.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a ~~Lutheran~~ congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.17.** No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament 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-president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

- 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-president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call

CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS

- S15.14.** Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

The following four proposed amendments to the Synod Constitution and Bylaws are recommended for adoption by the Synod Council at its February 21, 2020 meeting.

- S10.01.01. In addition to the Officers of the Synod there shall be five laypersons, five clergy and five six at large members, one of whom shall be a youth, one shall be a young adult, one of whom shall be a minister of Word and Service (deacon) and one shall be multicultural.

[Note: this adds an At Large voting member to the Synod Council which will be filled by a minister of Word and Service (Deacon).]

- S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04.. With the exception of ordained ministers on roster of this synod ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organization unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

- S12.02.01. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Conference Assembly shall be given by the Conference Secretary to all rostered personnel ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service and Synod Authorized Ministers and council presidents in the conference and to the synod staff.

- S12.02.02. All ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service under call; and all retired ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service, and all Synod Authorized Ministers, and all associates in ministry shall be voting members at their respective Conference Assembly.