



Rules of Organization and Procedure

Introduction

These “Rules of Organization and Procedure” serve many purposes. First, they bring together in one place all the provisions of the constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions, as well as “standing” rules that describe the composition, functions and responsibilities of the Churchwide Assembly. Constitutional provisions and bylaws are highlighted in gray for convenience.

Bylaw 12.31.09. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* specifies that parliamentary procedures shall be in accordance with *Robert’s Rules of Order*, latest edition, “unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.” Experience from past churchwide assemblies has demonstrated that plenary discussion and the conduct of the assembly’s business are best served by modifying certain parliamentary rules of *Robert’s Rules of Order*. These modifications, as well as numerous other procedural matters not covered by *Robert’s Rules of Order*, are a second purpose of these rules.

A third purpose is to adopt as part of the Rules of Organization and Procedure provisions from continuing resolutions related to the assembly. When adopted, a two-thirds vote will be required for their amendment or suspension as pertaining to business at this assembly.

At this Churchwide Assembly, most voting members will access the *Pre-Assembly Report*, including these rules, electronically by means of a tablet equipped with a custom application (the ELCA Guidebook app). This application will allow submission of resolutions, motions, nominations and certain notices electronically; in addition, these documents may be submitted on paper forms. For clarity, these rules will specify “electronically or on a paper form” where either method of submission is available. The procedure for electronic submission is described in Part Seven of these rules.

Adoption of these rules will follow the procedure required by *Robert’s Rules of Order*. The Church Council’s recommendation to adopt will be the main motion before the assembly.

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**Recommended for
Assembly Action**

Two-Thirds Vote Required

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

PART ONE: AUTHORITY AND DUTIES

Authority of the Churchwide Assembly

The legislative function of the churchwide organization shall be fulfilled by the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA churchwide constitutional provision 11.31.).

The Churchwide Assembly shall be the highest legislative authority of the churchwide organization and shall deal with all matters which are necessary in pursuit of the purposes and functions of this church. The powers of the Churchwide Assembly are limited only by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, and the assembly’s own resolutions (ELCA 12.11.).

Any matter for which adoption by a vote of two-thirds of those voting in a prior Churchwide Assembly was required by the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall require a two-thirds vote to be amended or repealed by a subsequent Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.12.).

Duties of the Churchwide Assembly

The Churchwide Assembly shall:

- a. Review the work of the churchwide officers, and for this purpose require and receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.
- b. Review the work of the churchwide units, and for this purpose require and receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.
- c. Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- d. Establish churchwide policy.
- e. Adopt a budget for the churchwide organization.
- f. Elect officers, board members, and other persons as provided in the constitution or bylaws.
- g. Establish churchwide units to carry out the functions of the churchwide organization.
- h. Have the sole authority to amend the constitution and bylaws.
- i. Fulfill other functions as required in the constitution and bylaws.
- j. Conduct such other business as necessary to further the purposes and functions of the churchwide organization (ELCA 12.21.).

Assembly Presiding Officer

The presiding bishop shall . . . preside at the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 13.21.c.).

The vice president shall be a layperson who shall serve . . . , in the event the presiding bishop is unable to do so, as chair of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 13.31.).

Assembly Secretary

The secretary shall be responsible for the minutes and records of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 13.41.02.a.).

Notice of Meeting

The secretary shall give notice of the time and place of each regular assembly by publication thereof at least 60 days in advance on this church’s website and in this church’s periodical (ELCA 12.31.02.).

Notice shall be provided to all voting members or voting members-elect not more than 30 days or less than 10 days in advance of any meeting. Notice may be provided electronically for voting members or voting members-elect who have provided email addresses, unless the voting member or voting member-elect has requested that written notice be mailed (ELCA 12.31.02.).

Agenda

The presiding bishop shall provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 13.21.c.).

Program and Worship

The arrangements for agenda, program, and worship shall be under the supervision of the presiding bishop (ELCA 12.31.04.).

Arrangements

Physical arrangements for churchwide assemblies shall be made by the secretary or by an assembly manager working under the secretary's supervision. Such committees as may be necessary to facilitate the planning for and operation of the assembly may be established by the secretary in consultation with the presiding bishop (ELCA 12.31.05.).

PART TWO: MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY

Assembly Voting Members

Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 6,000 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. Unless otherwise determined by the synod, the synodical vice president shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Churchwide Assembly and be included in the number of the synod's voting members. The voting members elected by each synod shall comply with the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this Constitution. In addition, each synod shall elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English. . . . The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect (ELCA 12.41.11.).

The officers of the churchwide organization and the bishops of the synods shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Churchwide Assembly. They shall have voice and vote (ELCA 12.41.21.).

The total number of voting members at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly is 927 (but will increase to 961 if the constitutional amendment making members of the Church Council voting members passes).

Eligibility to Serve as Voting Member

Each voting member of the Churchwide Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this church . . . [and] shall cease to be a member of the assembly if no longer a voting member of a congregation of this church within the synod from which elected. The criterion for voting membership in the congregation from which the voting member is elected shall be in effect regarding minimum age for that voting member (ELCA 12.41.13.).

Certification of Voting Members

The secretary of each synod shall submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly (ELCA 12.41.12.).

Seating of Alternate Voting Members

If a voting member elected by the Synod Assembly is unable to serve, the name of an eligible person chosen by the Synod Council shall be submitted by the secretary of the synod to the secretary of this church. If a vacancy occurs or exists within 30 days or less of the convening of the Churchwide Assembly or during the meeting of the Churchwide Assembly, the synodical bishop may submit the name of an eligible person to the secretary of this church. The individual whose name is submitted to the secretary of this church shall be registered and seated by the Credentials Committee as a voting member from the synod (ELCA 12.41.12.).

Inclusive Representation

Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the churchwide organization, through the Church Council, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of its assemblies . . . be laypersons; that as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of these assemblies . . . shall be female and 50 percent shall be male, and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be both female and male. At least 10 percent of the members of these assemblies . . . shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English (ELCA 5.01.f.).

It is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees be youth and young adults. The Church Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service (ELCA 6.02.A09.).

The term, “persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English,” shall be understood to mean African American, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native people. This definition, however, shall not be understood as limiting this church’s commitment to inclusive participation in its life and work (ELCA 5.01.C00.).

Additional Voting Members Provided

The Church Council may allocate up to 10 additional voting members among synods, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members (ELCA 12.41.11.).

Additional voting members have been allocated by the Church Council as follows:

<u>Synod</u>	<u>Additional Members</u>
Alaska (1A)	2
Arkansas-Oklahoma (4C)	2
Slovak Zion (7G)	2
West Virginia-Western Maryland (8H)	1
Caribbean (9F)	2

Assembly Properly Constituted

Each assembly . . . of the churchwide organization . . . shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly . . . may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly (ELCA 5.01.j.).

Advisory Members

Members of the Church Council, unless otherwise elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. In addition, executive directors of units of the churchwide organization, the executive for administration, and other persons from the churchwide organization designated by the presiding bishop shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. The Church Council also may designate other persons as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. Advisory members shall have voice but not vote (ELCA 12.41.17.).

Other Non-Voting Members

Other categories of non-voting members may be established by the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.41.18.).

Presidents of the colleges, universities, and seminaries of this church, unless elected as voting members of the assembly, shall have voice but not vote (ELCA 12.41.A89.).

A representative of the faculty of each seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be appointed by the president of each seminary to serve as a seminary faculty resource person. . . . In addition, a teaching theologian . . . may be appointed by the steering committee . . . of the Association of Teaching Theologians in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to serve as a faculty resource person. Faculty resource persons shall have voice, if so granted in the assembly’s rules, but not vote in plenary sessions of the assembly (ELCA 12.41.B07.).

An individual whose term of office as a bishop of a synod commences within one month of the assembly, unless elected as a voting member of the assembly, shall have the privilege of seat and voice, but not vote, during the assembly.

An individual whose term of office as a bishop of a synod either commences or expires during the course of the assembly shall have the privilege of seat and voice, but not vote, during that portion of the assembly before commencement or after termination of such term.

An individual who served as a churchwide or presiding bishop in a predecessor church body of this church, unless elected as a voting member of the assembly, shall have voice but not vote.

Resource Members

Resource members shall be persons recommended by the presiding bishop of this church or by the Church Council who, because of their position or expertise, can contribute to the work of the Churchwide Assembly. Resource members shall have voice only with respect to matters within their expertise, but not vote.

Congregation Observers

Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may register with the secretary of this church one congregation observer for the Churchwide Assembly prior to May 31 in the year of a Churchwide Assembly. . . . Such observers shall have neither voice nor vote in plenary sessions of the assembly (ELCA 12.41.C04.).

Official Visitors

Official visitors shall be persons invited by the presiding bishop of this church or the Church Council to address the Churchwide Assembly. They shall not have vote.

Access to Seating

A person will be admitted to restricted seating areas only upon display of proper credentials.

Assembly Costs

The churchwide organization shall be responsible for the costs of the Churchwide Assembly, including the reasonable costs for travel, housing, and board for voting and advisory members (ELCA 12.31.06.).

PART THREE: QUORUM AND PROCEDURE

Quorum

At least one-half of all persons elected as voting members must be present at a meeting to constitute a quorum for the legal conduct of business. If such a quorum is not present, those voting members present may adjourn the meeting to another time and place, provided that only those persons eligible to vote at the original meeting may vote at the adjourned meeting (ELCA 12.31.07.).

Absence of Members

Members shall not absent themselves from any session of the assembly without valid excuse, under penalty of forfeiture of the meal allowance for the day of absence and proportionate reimbursement of travel expenses.

Parliamentary Procedure

The Churchwide Assembly shall use parliamentary procedures in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly (ELCA 12.31.09.).

(Note: The 11th edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, is, therefore, the governing parliamentary law of this church, except as otherwise provided.)

No motion shall be out of order because of conflict with federal, state or local constitutions or laws.

Proxy and Absentee Voting Precluded

Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted at a Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.31.08.).

Obtaining the Floor

In plenary sessions of the Churchwide Assembly, the voting members, including the *ex officio* members, have prior right to obtain the floor, unless the chair determines that it is in the best interests of the assembly to call upon an advisory member, a resource member or another individual with voice.

Questions of Personal Privilege

Questions of personal privilege that are not urgent and do not relate to the assembly as a whole are out of order. (Questions of privilege that relate to the assembly as a whole include such concerns as problems with acoustics, voting devices, lighting and emergencies.) Other requests for time in plenary for questions of personal privilege (e.g., personal announcements, comments on matters not on the agenda, reflections on the meaning of votes after they are taken) must be submitted electronically or on a paper form to the secretary's deputy. The chair may allow such matters to be addressed at a later time.

Speeches

Unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the assembly, all speeches during discussion shall be limited to two minutes. A signal shall be given one minute before the speaker's time ends. A second signal shall be given one minute later, and the speaker shall then sit down.

After four people have spoken in a row on the same side of the motion before the assembly and no one is in line to speak on the other side, the previous question will be automatically called.

Alternating Speeches

Insofar as is possible during discussion, a speaker on one side of the question shall be followed by a speaker on the other side.

To facilitate alternating speeches, assembly members awaiting recognition at the floor microphones shall approach the appropriate microphone (marked green for those in favor of the pending matter on the floor; marked red for those opposed to the pending matter on the floor).

Purpose and Use of "White Card"

A white card, provided in the registration packet of voting members, is to be used to identify a member who wishes to offer an amendment to the pending matter or some other motion that would be in order. Except when authorized to interrupt a speaker by *Robert's Rules of Order*, voting members seeking to bring a motion shall line up at any microphone and await recognition by the chair.

Motion to Rescind or Amend Something Previously Adopted at This Assembly

A two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting shall be required to rescind or to amend something previously adopted during this Churchwide Assembly. This rule does not apply to constitutional or bylaw amendments previously adopted by this assembly. (*See PART FIFTEEN: Amendments to Governing Documents below.*)

Suspending or Revising the Rules

After the adoption of the Rules of Organization and Procedure and any amendments thereto offered prior to the adoption of the Rules, any further amendment to, revision in, or suspension of the Rules shall always require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

Moving the Previous Question

A member who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s).

A motion to end debate by moving the previous question shall apply only to the immediately preceding motion. A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order.

Applause

In the give-and-take of debate on issues before the Churchwide Assembly, members of the assembly and visitors shall refrain from applause.

Departing from Agenda

With the consent of a majority of the voting members, the chair shall have the authority to call items of business before the assembly in whatever order he or she considers most expedient for the conduct of the assembly's business.

A motion to alter the agenda shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting.

Unfinished Business

Upon adjournment of the Churchwide Assembly, all remaining unfinished items of business shall be referred to the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for disposition.

Audit of Credentials Report

At the request of the chair of the Credentials Committee or of the assembly, the chair may order an audit of the report of the Credentials Committee. When so ordered, the Credentials Committee will provide the bishop of each synod with a list of the registered voting members from such synod. Each bishop (or other voting member duly appointed by the bishop) shall then make appropriate corrections on such list and certify the accuracy of the list with such corrections as may be indicated. Each bishop (or other voting member duly appointed by the bishop) shall promptly return the certified list to the chair of the Credentials Committee.

PART FOUR: COMMITTEES OF ASSEMBLY

Mandated Committees

The Churchwide Assembly shall have a Reference and Counsel Committee, a Memorials Committee, and a Nominating Committee (ELCA 12.51.).

Reference and Counsel Committee

A Reference and Counsel Committee, appointed by the Church Council, shall review all proposed changes or additions to the constitution and bylaws and other items submitted that are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the assembly (ELCA 12.51.01.).

Memorials Committee

A Memorials Committee, appointed by the Church Council, shall review memorials from synodical assemblies and make appropriate recommendations for assembly action (ELCA 12.51.02.).

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee, elected by the Churchwide Assembly, shall nominate at least one person for each position for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with Chapter 19 of this constitution (ELCA 12.51.03.).

The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that at least 10 percent of the voting membership of the Church Council shall be youth or young adults. Youth members shall be younger than 18 at the time of their election, and young adults shall be older than 18 and younger than 30 years of age at the time of their election (ELCA 19.02.A13.).

The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position [on the Nominating Committee] (ELCA 19.11.01.).

Elections Committee

The Elections Committee shall oversee the conduct of elections in accordance with election procedures approved by the Churchwide Assembly. (*See PART THIRTEEN: Election Procedures below.*)

In the election for presiding bishop, vice president or secretary, the Elections Committee shall report the results of any balloting by announcing the number of votes received by each nominee and the names of those nominees qualified to remain on the next ballot or the name of the nominee who is elected.

The Elections Committee shall report the results of balloting in other elections by announcing the name of the person elected or by announcing the names of nominees qualified to remain on the ballot. Vote totals shall be reported to the secretary of this church and recorded in the minutes of the assembly. Based on the report of the Elections Committee, the chair shall declare elected those who received the required number of votes.

A report showing the results of a ballot shall be distributed to the voting members concurrently with, or as soon as possible after, the announced report of the Elections Committee.

Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee shall oversee the registration of voting members and shall report periodically to the Churchwide Assembly the number of voting members registered.

Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee

The Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee shall assist officers of this church in planning the agenda, program, worship and arrangements at the Churchwide Assembly.

Minutes Committee

The Minutes Committee shall review minutes of the Churchwide Assembly prepared under the supervision of the secretary of this church. The Minutes Committee shall review and recommend approval of the minutes to the secretary and presiding bishop. The presiding bishop and secretary shall then have the authority to approve the minutes on behalf of the Churchwide Assembly and shall deposit in the archives of this church the protocol copy of the assembly's minutes.

Other Committees

The Churchwide Assembly may authorize such other committees as it deems necessary (ELCA 12.51.).

Such committees as may be necessary to facilitate the planning for and operation of the assembly may be established by the secretary in consultation with the presiding bishop (ELCA 12.31.05.).

Ad Hoc Committees

Such committees as may be necessary to facilitate the organization and consideration of business before the assembly may be established by the presiding bishop in consultation with the secretary.

Additional Appointments

Additional officials or committees (sergeants-at-arms, parliamentarians, chairs for hearings, chairs for unit lunches, tellers, pages, etc.) of the Churchwide Assembly shall be appointed by the presiding bishop.

PART FIVE: VOTING PROCEDURES

Voting by Electronic Device

Voting generally shall occur through use of a wireless electronic device at each voting member's seat.

A voting device will be placed in front of every voting member. The device should remain there throughout the assembly when not being used for voting. The device must not be removed from the table. A voting device must not be used by anyone except the voting member to whom it has been assigned.

Synod bishops (or their designees) will check at the end of every plenary session to ensure that all voting devices are in place.

A voting member must be seated at the table that contains his or her assigned voting device in order to cast a vote.

Voting by electronic device shall be in accordance with instructions from the chair or the Elections Committee. The chair will announce when voting is to commence.

Once the voting period has begun and a voting member has registered her or his vote, confirmation will appear on the device's screen. If this message is not received, the synod bishop or a member of the Elections Committee should be notified immediately.

At any time prior to the announcement that the voting period has ended, a voting member may change his or her mind and register a different vote. A second vote will cancel the first vote. Confirmation of the second vote will be sent.

Periodically during the assembly, a test vote will be taken to ensure that all devices are in working order.

If a voting device is inoperative or lost, or if a voting member for any reason cannot use the voting device, please see the secretary's deputy (seated next to the podium) or a member of the Elections Committee (stationed around the plenary hall).

Various Other Methods of Voting

As directed by the chair, voting also may take place by voice, by show of hands, by standing or by written ballot.

Any member who because of physical limitation cannot raise her or his hand or stand to vote should contact the Elections Committee for assistance.

Each voting member's registration packet contains a paper ballot to be used if the chair so directs. If a paper ballot is called for by the chair, it should not be folded. The ballot will be collected at the voting member's table in accordance with instructions from the Elections Committee or from the chair.

Division of the House

When a division of the house is ordered, the vote shall be by electronic device, by standing vote or by written ballot as directed by the chair. No division of the house is in order when a vote has been taken by electronic device, by a counted standing vote or by written ballot.

PART SIX: RELATION OF ASSEMBLY TO CHURCH COUNCIL AND CHURCHWIDE UNITS

Relationship to Church Council

The Church Council shall be the board of directors and shall serve as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 14.11.).

“Interim legislative authority” is defined to mean that between meetings of the churchwide assemblies, the Church Council may exercise the authority of the Churchwide Assembly so long as:

- a. the actions of the Church Council do not conflict with the actions of and policies established by the Churchwide Assembly; and
- b. the Church Council is not precluded by constitutional or bylaw provisions from taking action on the matter (ELCA 14.13.).

Responsibilities of Church Council

The Church Council shall act on the policies proposed by churchwide units, subject to review by the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 14.21.01.).

The Church Council shall review all recommendations from churchwide units for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 14.21.03.).

The Church Council, upon recommendation of the presiding bishop, shall submit budget proposals for approval by the Churchwide Assembly and authorize expenditures within the parameters of approved budgets (ELCA 14.21.05.).

The Church Council shall arrange the process for all elections as specified in this constitution and bylaws for churchwide units to assure conformity with established criteria (ELCA 14.21.22.).

The Church Council shall report its actions to the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 14.21.07.).

Status of Church Council Recommendations

The recommendation of the Church Council with respect to any proposal by a churchwide unit or any other matter shall be treated as a motion made and seconded, unless the Church Council shall otherwise determine.

Relationship to Churchwide Units

Each unit shall report to the Churchwide Assembly and will report to the Church Council in the interim. The policies, procedures, and operation of each unit shall be reviewed by the Church Council in order to assure conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions and with Churchwide Assembly actions (ELCA 16.12.; see also 15.15.03., 17.20.05., 17.20.A11.e., 17.30.03., 17.40.02. and 17.50.03.).

Relationship to the Board of Pensions (also known as Portico Benefit Services)

The Churchwide Assembly shall:

- a. approve the documents governing the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program that have been referred by the Church Council; and
- b. refer any amendments to the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program initiated by the Churchwide Assembly to the Board of Pensions for recommendation before final action by the Church Council, assuring that no amendment shall abridge the rights of members with respect to their pension accumulations (ELCA 17.20.01.).

The Church Council shall refer, as it deems appropriate, proposed amendments to the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program to the Churchwide Assembly for final action (ELCA 17.20.02.d.).

The Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—also known as Portico Benefit Services—shall . . . manage and operate the Pension and Other Benefits Program for this church and plans for other organizations operated exclusively for religious purposes, and shall invest the assets according to fiduciary standards set forth in the plans and trusts (ELCA 17.20.A11.a.).

The Board of Pensions shall . . . report to the Churchwide Assembly through the Church Council, with the Church Council making comments on all board actions needing approval of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 17.20.A11.e.).

PART SEVEN: RESOLUTIONS, MOTIONS AND NOTICES

Submission of Resolutions and Motions

Substantive resolutions or motions, or amendments to either, must be presented electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy before the established deadline or, if applicable, in writing immediately after being moved. A form is provided for this purpose in the ELCA Guidebook app, and paper forms are available from the secretary's deputy. Other forms also are available in the ELCA Guidebook app and from the secretary's deputy. The method for electronically submitting resolutions and motions is described below. Questions about process of submitting resolutions may be submitted to the parliamentarian or the secretary.

Nature of Resolutions and Motions

► **Germane Resolutions and Motions:** A germane resolution or motion is one closely related to or having bearing on the matter before the assembly. A resolution or motion that is germane to the matter before the assembly may be offered when in order by any voting member from the floor by going to a microphone and being recognized by the chair. Nothing in this provision is intended to modify established deadlines. (*See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines below.*)

► **Non-Germane Resolutions and Motions:** Any resolution or motion not germane to the matter before the Churchwide Assembly or on the assembly agenda must be submitted to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy electronically or on a paper form prior to the established deadline. (*See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines below.*) Each resolution or motion must be supported by one other voting member. At least 24 hours must elapse before such resolution may be considered in plenary session. The secretary shall refer such resolution to the Reference and Counsel Committee, which may:

- (a) Recommend approval;
- (b) Recommend referral to a unit or office of this church;
- (c) Recommend a substitute motion to the assembly; or
- (d) Recommend that the assembly decline the proposed resolution.

► **Same or Similar Subjects:** The Reference and Counsel Committee may group together in a single recommendation resolutions or motions on the same or similar subjects. A resolution or motion on the same subject as a recommendation already on the agenda of the assembly, such as a memorial, will not be submitted to the assembly for separate action by the Reference and Counsel Committee. The chair of the committee will inform the voting member of the committee's decision.

► **Beyond Deadline for Submission:** Any resolution or motion not germane to the matter before the Churchwide Assembly or on the assembly agenda that a voting member submits because of circumstances that develop during the assembly and that cannot be submitted to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline (*see PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines below*) must be submitted to the secretary or the secretary's deputy electronically or on a paper form and supported by one other voting member. The secretary shall refer such resolutions or motions to the Reference and Counsel Committee, which may:

- (a) Decline to refer the resolution or motion to the assembly;
- (b) Recommend approval;
- (c) Recommend referral to a unit or office of this church;
- (d) Recommend a substitute motion to the assembly; or
- (e) Recommend that the assembly decline the proposed resolution or motion.

Consideration of a resolution or motion submitted beyond the deadline will require the assembly to suspend the rules prior to presentation of the matter to voting members by the Reference and Counsel Committee.

► **On Societal Issues:** In its recommendation, the Reference and Counsel Committee, following consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, shall inform the Churchwide Assembly when a resolution or motion requires action on a societal issue for which this church does not have an established social policy. Should such resolution or motion be adopted by the Churchwide Assembly, the matter shall be referred to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which shall bring to the next regular meeting of the Church Council a plan for appropriate implementation.

► **Budget Expectations:** Resolutions with budget expectations should follow the process referenced in Part Fourteen.

Substitute Motions

When a substitute motion is made, secondary amendments may be offered first to the original motion. After all secondary amendments to the original motion have been disposed of, secondary amendments to the substitute motion may be offered. When all amendments to the substitute motion have been disposed of, the vote shall be taken on whether the substitute motion is to be substituted as the original motion or be rejected.

Electronic Submission

Whenever authorized by these rules, resolutions, motions, amendments, nominations or notices may be submitted electronically through the ELCA Guidebook app by completing the applicable form located in the “Submissions” tab, identifying the supporting voting member(s), as required, and transmitting it to the secretary’s deputy by pressing the “Submit” button at the end of the form. An email response will be sent acknowledging receipt. If an electronic submission is improper or if additional information is necessary, the voting member will receive follow-up notification by email.

PART EIGHT: MEMORIALS FROM SYNOD ASSEMBLIES

Definition of Memorials

Memorials are proposals for action involving broad policy issues submitted by synod assemblies to the churchwide organization. Memorials from synod assemblies are reviewed by the Memorials Committee, which makes appropriate recommendations for assembly action. The committee’s review of the memorial shall include information about the financial and personnel implications if adopted. The committee may consult with the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council in preparing its recommendations.

Status of Committee’s Recommendations

When the Memorials Committee has recommended the passage of a memorial considered by the committee, the committee’s recommendation and text of the memorial recommended for passage shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Memorials Committee has recommended the adoption of a substitute recommendation for the memorial(s) on a subject, the committee’s recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Memorials Committee has recommended referral of a memorial(s), the committee’s recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Memorials Committee has recommended that the assembly decline a memorial(s) without the committee making any other recommendation related to the same or closely related subject, the memorial, if then moved by a voting member from the synod originating the memorial and seconded, shall be the main motion, and the committee’s recommendation shall be received as information.

En Bloc Resolution in Response to Certain Memorials

The responses to the synod memorials, as recommended by the Memorials Committee in a report distributed to assembly members prior to, or at, the first business session of the assembly, may be approved by *en bloc*¹ resolutions when so proposed by the Memorials Committee.

If a voting member desires the assembly to discuss a synod memorial or the Memorials Committee’s response that is proposed for *en bloc* consideration, she or he may request that it be removed from the proposed *en bloc* resolution, provided the member’s request is supported by 10 other voting members. Such request shall be made in accordance with the following paragraph. The assembly then will consider and vote separately on the proposed response of the Memorials Committee. After removals, the *en bloc* resolution shall be voted upon without amendments or debate.

► **Separate Consideration:** To call for such separate consideration, a voting member must submit notification electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary’s deputy prior to the established deadline (see PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*) on the **memorials form** ~~filed Notice Related to Recommendations of the Memorials Committee~~. The form is available in the ELCA Guidebook app, and paper forms are available from the secretary’s deputy.

¹Adoption of several motions by a single assembly resolution; sometimes known as a consent calendar or an omnibus bill or resolution.

Substitute Proposal

With respect to any recommendation made by the Memorials Committee in a report distributed to the assembly members prior to or at the first business session of the assembly, a voting member of the assembly may offer a substitute motion to the committee's recommendation only if such member has given notice electronically or on a paper form by the established deadline, provided the request is supported by 10 other voting members. For such notice, a voting member who desires to offer a substitute to the recommendation of the Memorials Committee must complete the memorials form, Notice Related to Recommendations of the Memorial Committee, and submit it to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline and provided the request is supported by 10 other voting members. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.) In addition, the text of the proposed substitute shall be submitted on a Motion Form electronically or on a paper form to the secretary or the secretary's deputy.

Consultation with at least one of the co-chairs of the Memorials Committee is required when a substitute will be moved and is recommended when any other amendment will be proposed to the response recommended by the Memorials Committee.

Recommendation on Same Matter

A voting member's resolution or motion dealing with the same or similar matter as a subject being reported by the Memorials Committee cannot be considered prior to the Memorials Committee's recommendation and motion with respect to that matter. This rule does not apply to a resolution or motion that proposes an amendment to a constitutional provision, bylaw or continuing resolution.

PART NINE: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

Status of Committee's Recommendations

When the Reference and Counsel Committee has recommended the approval of a resolution or motion considered by the committee, the committee's recommendation and text of the resolution or motion recommended for passage shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Reference and Counsel Committee has recommended the adoption of a substitute recommendation for the resolution(s) or motion(s) on a subject, the committee's recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Reference and Counsel Committee has recommended referral of a resolution(s) or motion(s), the committee's recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Reference and Counsel Committee has recommended that the assembly decline a proposed resolution or motion without the committee making any other recommendation related to the same or a closely related subject, the voting member's resolution or motion, if then moved by that voting member and seconded, shall be the main motion and the committee's recommendation shall be received as information.

PART TEN: VOTES ON AND AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL STATEMENTS AND RELATED ACTIONS

Definition of Social Statements

Social statements are major documents addressing significant social issues. They meet the criteria of and are prepared in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns," adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 1997 and amended by the Church Council.

Deadline for Submission

Any amendment to a social statement, or to recommendations or resolutions concerning a social statement, must be submitted electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*).

Voting members who submit amendments may be requested to meet with the staff of the unit that developed the statement.

If in the opinion of the chair of the assembly the amendments to a social statement, or to recommendations or resolutions concerning a social statement, are either too voluminous or too complex for the assembly to consider expeditiously, all amendments may be referred by the chair to either the Reference and Counsel Committee or to an *ad hoc* committee appointed by the chair for its recommendations for the consideration of the statement or recommendations or resolutions and the proposed amendments by the assembly.

If a voting member wishes to offer a substantive amendment that was not submitted prior to the deadline, the assembly, by a majority vote, may consent to the consideration of such an amendment.

Vote to Adopt Social Statements

A two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting in the Churchwide Assembly shall be required for adoption of a social statement.

A social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be developed pursuant to a policy approved by the Church Council, following consultation with the Conference of Bishops. The text of a proposed social statement shall be reviewed by the Conference of Bishops and approved and recommended to the assembly by the Church Council. A proposed social statement shall require for adoption a vote of two-thirds of those voting members present and voting in a Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.12.01.).

Vote to Amend or Repeal

Any matter for which adoption by a vote of two-thirds of those voting in a prior Churchwide Assembly was required by the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall require a two-thirds vote to be amended or repealed by a subsequent Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.12.).

Reconsideration of Social Statement

In accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns,” Churchwide Assemblies may reconsider previously adopted social statements. Such reconsideration may involve either a revision or removal of the statement. This may be done in two ways:

1. A Churchwide Assembly, by a two-thirds vote, may call for the reconsideration of a social statement at the next assembly. Subsequent to such a vote, the social statement shall be referred to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for re-study. The proposed change and the reasons for it shall be made available to this church with an official notice of such proposed action to be sent to the synods by the secretary of this church at least three months prior to the Churchwide Assembly at which it will be considered. A two-thirds vote of the assembly shall be required to revise or remove the social statement.
2. The Church Council, by a two-thirds vote of its voting members, may ask the Churchwide Assembly to reconsider a social statement. Such Church Council action must be taken no later than at the Church Council meeting in the autumn prior to the assembly. The proposed change and the reasons for it shall then be made available to this church with an official notice of such proposed action to be sent to the synods by the secretary of this church at least three months prior to the Churchwide Assembly. A two-thirds vote of the assembly shall be required to reconsider the statement and also to revise or remove it. Both actions may occur at the same assembly.

Vote to Adopt Certain Recommendations or Resolutions from a Social Statement Task Force Requiring Amendment of Constitutional Provisions or Bylaws

A two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly present and voting shall be required to adopt recommendations or resolutions originating from or relating to the subject of a social statement task force report or amendments or substitute motions related to such recommendations or resolutions that require amendment of a constitution or bylaw provision for implementation.

PART ELEVEN: VOTES ON PROPOSALS FOR CHURCH-TO-CHURCH AGREEMENTS

This church may establish official church-to-church relationships and agreements. Establishment of such official relationships and agreements shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 8.61.).

Each church body votes on a relationship of full communion using the same resolution. Amendments to a resolution establishing full communion, therefore, are not in order.

PART TWELVE: NOMINATIONS

Nominations Desk

Nominations from the floor at the Churchwide Assembly shall be made at the Nominations Desk, which shall be maintained under the supervision of the secretary of this church (ELCA 19.11.A16.a.).

A nomination from the floor shall be made by using the form provided by the secretary of this church. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Nominations Desk at times prescribed in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure (ELCA 19.11.A16.b.).

Nominations may be submitted electronically prior to the established deadline (*see* PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*) or on a paper form to the Nominations Desk at the times described below.

Information and additional forms may be obtained from the Nominations Desk on Monday, August 5, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Congregational Membership

Each nominee for an elected position in the churchwide organization and each nominee for a position on the board of a separately incorporated ministry elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this church, unless otherwise specified in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* of this church (ELCA 19.05.).

Term Limit

Unless otherwise specified in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions*, elections shall be for one six-year term, without consecutive re-election, and with approximately one-half of the members of the Church Council and of each board or advisory committee elected each triennium (ELCA 19.04.).

Nominations Form

The required form to be used in making nominations from the floor shall include the nominee's name, address, phone number, gender, lay or rostered status, white or person of color or primary language other than English status, congregational membership, synodical membership, and affirmation of willingness to serve, if elected; the name, address, and synodical membership of the voting member who is making the nomination; and such other information as the secretary of this church shall require (ELCA 19.11.A16.c.).

The nomination form for the common ballot is also available in the ELCA Guidebook app, and paper forms are available at the Nominations Desk at the times described above.

For purposes of nomination procedures, "synodical membership" means:

- 1) In the case of a layperson who is not on the official rosters of this church, the synod that includes the congregation in which such person holds membership; and
- 2) In the case of a rostered minister, the synod on whose roster such person's name is maintained (ELCA 19.11.A16.d.).

Making Floor Nominations

Floor nominations for positions on a board or committee of a churchwide unit require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least 10 other voting members. Floor nominations for the Church Council, the Nominating Committee, or other churchwide committee to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least twenty other voting members (ELCA 19.11.B05.a.).

A nomination from the floor for any position (other than presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary) shall be made by filing the completed nomination form with the Nominations Desk at times prescribed in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure (ELCA 19.11.B05.b.).

Floor nominations for the board of trustees of each of the separately incorporated ministries identified in Chapter 17 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least 20 other voting members.

Nominations from the floor for any position (other than presiding bishop, vice president, secretary) shall be made by filing the completed prescribed form electronically before the established deadline (*see* PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*) or on a paper form with the Nominations Desk on Monday, August 5, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Nominations will be considered made in the order in which filed at the Nominations Desk (ELCA 19.11.B05.c.).

For Boards and Committees: Restrictions on Nominations

Except as otherwise provided, the Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each council, board, or committee position, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an

election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. In the case of re-election, if authorized, or for nominees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, only one person need be nominated. Nominations from the floor, where permitted in the nomination process, shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Nominating Committee shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor (ELCA 19.11.02.).

The Church Council shall endeavor to ensure that every synod has at least one person serving on the Church Council or churchwide boards, committees, task forces, or other groups. Among those persons elected by the assembly, no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on the Church Council or any one board, committee, task force, or other group (ELCA 19.11.05.).

Nominations from the floor for positions on churchwide boards or committees shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Nominating Committee and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly (ELCA 19.11.C05.a.).

See Section VIII of the *Pre-Assembly Report* for details on restrictions.

A former full-time or part-time employee shall not be eligible for a minimum of six years subsequent to such employment, for nomination or election to the board of the separately incorporated ministry or committee related to the churchwide unit in which the employee served (ELCA 19.06.C13.).

So long as the number of incumbent members from a given synod serving on a board or committee with terms not expiring plus the number of positions on the same board or committee to which individuals from the same synod already have been nominated (whether by the Nominating Committee or from the floor) total less than the maximum number of two individuals from the same synod who may serve on that board or committee, an individual from the same synod may be nominated for another position on that board or committee, provided other criteria and restrictions are met. Individuals from the same synod may be nominated for a position on a board or committee to which individuals from the same synod already have been nominated, provided other criteria and restrictions are met (ELCA 19.11.C05.b.).

For Church Council: Restrictions on Nominations

In preparation for the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council shall determine how this church's commitment to inclusive representation will affect the next election to the Church Council. For 32 of the council members, the Nominating Committee shall invite each eligible synod to submit suggested nominees and shall then nominate persons who fulfill the categories assigned by the Church Council. With respect to the other nominees, the Church Council shall review its size and composition and take into consideration the experience and expertise of existing members and synodical nominees as well as the needs of the council in seeking to fulfill its duties and responsibilities. Based upon this analysis, the Church Council shall instruct the Nominating Committee to provide nominations in specific categories for the remaining positions up to 13. Excluding the churchwide officers and the chair of the Conference of Bishops, there shall not be more than two members of the Church Council from a synod. The Church Council shall have at least two members from each region. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on the Church Council by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly at which such persons were elected. If there is no Churchwide Assembly in the year when terms are scheduled to conclude, they end on August 31 (ELCA 19.02.).

Except as otherwise provided, the Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each council, board, or committee position, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. In the case of re-election, if authorized, or for nominees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, only one person need be nominated. Nominations from the floor, where permitted in the nomination process, shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Nominating Committee shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor (ELCA 19.11.02.).

Nominations for positions on the Church Council shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Church Council and Nominating Committee and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly (ELCA 19.11.D16.).

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—in the year preceding each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly—shall solicit from

eligible synods on a rotating basis the names of two persons in specified categories, in keeping with the representation principles of this church, for possible election to the Church Council. Upon their selection by the assemblies of the respective synods, the names of the two persons shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. In the event that any nominee withdraws or is disqualified from possible service, the Nominating Committee shall submit a replacement name from the same synod as the original nominee. In the event that the vacancy occurs subsequent to the preparation of the report of the Nominating Committee to the Churchwide Assembly, a floor nomination shall be provided from the same synod as the original nominee. Except as provided herein, no floor nominations for positions on the Church Council shall be permitted at the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 19.02.B11.).

See Section VIII of the *Pre-Assembly Report* for details on restrictions.

For Nominating Committee: Restrictions on Nominations

The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor (ELCA 19.11.01.).

Nominations from the floor for positions on the Nominating Committee shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Church Council and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly (ELCA 19.11.E98.a.).

So long as the number of incumbent members from a given region serving on the Nominating Committee with terms not expiring plus the number of Nominating Committee positions to which individuals from the same region have already been nominated (whether by the Church Council or from the floor) total less than the maximum number of three individuals from the same region who may serve on the Nominating Committee, an individual from the same region may be nominated for another Nominating Committee position, provided other criteria and restrictions are met. Provided other criteria and restrictions are met, individuals may be nominated for a Nominating Committee position for which someone from the same region has already been nominated (ELCA 19.11.E98.b.).

PART THIRTEEN: ELECTION PROCEDURES

Election Procedures Utilizing the Common Ballot

The common ballot is used in those elections when the ecclesiastical or nominating ballot is not used (ELCA 19.06.A02.a.).

In each case in which there are floor nominations, there shall be a preliminary ballot that shall include the names of the nominees presented by the Nominating Committee or the Church Council, and the person or persons nominated from the floor, where permitted. The names of the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be placed on the final ballot (ELCA 19.11.04.).

For the first common ballot, the exact number of ballot forms equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. The bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each of the voting members from the synod (ELCA 19.06.A02.b.).

Upon recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, the second common ballot may be conducted by electronic device. Unless the second common ballot is conducted by electronic device, the distribution of ballot forms for the second common ballot will be in the same manner as the first common ballot (ELCA 19.06.A02.c.).

Any discrepancy between the number of ballots given to a synodical bishop and the number of voting members (including the synod bishop) from such synod must be reported by the synodical bishop to the Elections Committee (ELCA 19.06.A02.d.).

Each ticket for which an election is held will be considered a separate ballot (ELCA 19.06.A02.e.).

A voting member may vote for only one nominee on each ticket (ELCA 19.06.A02.f.).

Failure to vote for a nominee for every ticket does not invalidate a ballot for the tickets for which a nominee is marked (ELCA 19.06.A02.g.).

Ballots must be marked in accordance with the instructions presented in plenary session (ELCA 19.06.A02.h.).

Ballot forms shall not be folded (ELCA 19.06.A02.i.).

Marked ballot forms must be deposited at the designated Ballot Stations at certain exits of the hall in which plenary sessions are held (ELCA 19.06.A02.j.).

If a ballot is damaged so that it cannot be scanned, a replacement ballot may be obtained at the Ballot Station upon surrender of the damaged ballot (ELCA 19.06.A02.k.).

Unless otherwise ordered by the assembly, polls for the first common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure (ELCA 19.06.A02.l.).

(See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.)

On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit members to record their votes (ELCA 19.06.A02.m.).

Unless the second ballot is conducted by electronic device, polls for the second common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure or as otherwise ordered by the assembly (ELCA 19.06.A02.n.).

(See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.)

On the second ballot, whether by common ballot or by electronic device, the first position on each ticket shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot. If two nominees are tied for the highest vote, the first position on the ticket shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee (ELCA 19.06.A02.o.).

Majority Required for Election

In all elections by the Churchwide Assembly, other than for the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary, a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for election. If an election does not occur on the first ballot, the names of the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be placed on the second ballot. On the second ballot, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election (ELCA 19.06.02.).

Breaking Ties

On the first common ballot, the blank ballots of the treasurer and vice president shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee to be presented to the treasurer for her or his vote only in those elections where a tie would otherwise exist, and to be presented to the vice president for his or her vote only in those elections to break a tie remaining after the ballot of the treasurer has been counted (ELCA 19.06.B98.b.).

On the second common ballot, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist (ELCA 19.06.B98.c.).

PART FOURTEEN: BUDGET PROPOSALS

Budget Procedures

The presiding bishop shall . . . provide for the preparation of the budget for the churchwide organization (ELCA 13.21.f.).

At the direction of the presiding bishop, the executive for administration shall . . . develop the budget for the churchwide organization and report to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly through the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council with regard to the preparation of the budget (ELCA 15.12.A10.d.).

A Budget and Finance Committee shall be composed of members of the Church Council elected by the council. The treasurer of this church shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the committee. This committee shall have staff services provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer. The committee shall prepare and present a comprehensive budget to the Church Council for its consideration and presentation to the Churchwide Assembly. The committee shall relate to the work of the Office of the Treasurer (ELCA 14.41.A15.).

The Church Council, upon recommendation of the presiding bishop, shall submit budget proposals for approval by the Churchwide Assembly and authorize expenditures within the parameters of approved budgets (ELCA 14.21.05.).

The Churchwide Assembly shall . . . adopt a budget for the churchwide organization (ELCA 12.21.e.).

Each synod shall remit to the churchwide organization a percentage or amount of all donor-unrestricted receipts contributed to it by the congregations of the synod. The actual percentage or amount shall be

determined through individual consultations with each synod. Consultations may recognize and include receipts other than unrestricted receipts in establishing and reporting the synod's remittance to the churchwide organization (ELCA 10.71.).

Proposed amendments to the budget must be submitted to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy electronically or on a paper form prior to the established deadline. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.) Each amendment must be supported by one other voting member. The secretary shall refer such proposed amendments to the Budget and Finance Committee. During the consideration of the budget by the assembly, the Budget and Finance Committee shall report on the implication of each proposed amendment.

Any amendment to the budget that increases a current program proposal of, or adds a current program proposal to, a churchwide unit must include a corresponding decrease in some other current program proposal of the same or another churchwide unit(s) and/or increase in revenues. Any amendment to the budget that proposes an increase in revenues shall require an affirmative vote by at least two-thirds of those present and voting.

The assembly may refer to the Church Council for final action any amendment to the budget that has been presented in accordance with these Rules of Organization and Procedure. Such referral shall not preclude the assembly from acting on other budget amendments or from adopting the budget.

Appropriations

When a motion calling for an appropriation comes before the Churchwide Assembly from any source other than the Church Council or a memorial from a synod, it shall be referred at once to the Reference and Counsel Committee. The Reference and Counsel Committee shall refer the proposed appropriation to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council. The Budget and Finance Committee may consult with the churchwide unit(s) affected by the proposed appropriation. The Budget and Finance Committee may conclude that it cannot evaluate adequately the proposed appropriation prior to assembly adjournment and may request that the Church Council be designated to receive the evaluation later and to determine whether or not the proposed appropriation shall be authorized. The findings of the Budget and Finance Committee shall be forwarded to the Reference and Counsel Committee, which shall then make its recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly. If the report of the Reference and Counsel Committee is negative, a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting shall be required for adoption.

A proposed appropriation that originates with a synod through a memorial will be handled in the same way as in this preceding rule, except that reference shall be to the Memorials Committee rather than to the Reference and Counsel Committee.

New Studies or Research Proposals

Each proposal by a voting member for a study or research project shall be made as a main motion and shall be referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee. The Reference and Counsel Committee shall refer the proposal to **Planning**, Research and Evaluation in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. **Planning**, Research and Evaluation, in consultation with the churchwide unit to which the proposal is directed, will seek to determine the purpose, relationship to existing studies and research projects or current programs, potential value, overall costs including staff requirements, and availability of budget and staff. **Planning**, Research and Evaluation may conclude that it cannot evaluate adequately the proposal prior to assembly adjournment and request that the Church Council be designated to receive the evaluation at a later time and determine whether or not the study or research project should be initiated. The findings of **Planning**, Research and Evaluation shall be submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee, which may make its recommendation to the assembly. If the recommendation calls for a new appropriation, the matter also shall be referred at once to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration and report to the Reference and Counsel Committee. If the report of the Reference and Counsel Committee is negative, a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting shall be required for adoption.

A proposal that originates with a synod through a memorial shall be handled the same way, except that reference shall be to the Memorials Committee, rather than to the Reference and Counsel Committee.

Process for Initiation or Reconsideration of Social Statements

The process for initiating the preparation of a social statement or commencing a revision or removal of a social statement adopted at a prior Churchwide Assembly shall be governed by the document, "Policy and Procedures for Addressing Social Concerns," which was adopted by the 1997 Churchwide Assembly (CA97.05.21) and revised by the Church Council in 2006 (CC06.11.51) and in 2011 (CC11.04.28).

PART FIFTEEN: AMENDMENTS TO GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Constitutional Amendments

This constitution may be amended only through either of the following procedures:

- a. The Church Council may propose an amendment, with an official notice to be sent to the synods at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the next regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly present and voting.
- b. An amendment may be proposed by 25 or more members of the Churchwide Assembly. The proposed amendment shall be referred to the Committee of Reference and Counsel for its recommendation, following which it shall come before the assembly. If such an amendment is approved by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting, such an amendment shall become effective only if adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the next regular Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 22.11.).

A constitutional amendment may be proposed only by a main motion.

A proposed constitutional amendment must be submitted electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.)

Bylaw Amendments

Bylaws not in conflict with this constitution may be adopted or amended at any regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly when presented in writing by the Church Council or by at least 15 members of the assembly. An amendment proposed by members of the assembly shall immediately be submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel for its recommendation. In no event shall an amendment be placed before the assembly for action sooner than the day following its presentation to the assembly. A two-thirds vote of the members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption (ELCA 22.21.).

A bylaw amendment may be proposed only by a main motion.

A proposed bylaw amendment must be submitted electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.) The secretary first shall report to the assembly any bylaw amendments so submitted and the amendments then shall be referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee.

Any floor amendment that is to be offered to a bylaw amendment proposed by the Church Council must be submitted in accordance with the requirement for bylaw amendments that are proposed by voting members.

Continuing Resolutions

Continuing resolutions not in conflict with the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Such continuing resolutions become effective immediately upon adoption. Matters related to the administrative functions of the churchwide organization shall be set forth in the continuing resolutions (ELCA 22.31.).

Should the conference, committee or board in question disagree with the action of the Church Council in amending a continuing resolution, it may appeal the decision to the Churchwide Assembly. (See ELCA 10.81.03., 17.20.07., 17.40.04. and 17.50.07.)

A continuing resolution amendment may be proposed only by a main motion.

A proposed continuing resolution amendment must be submitted electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.)

Amendments to the Constitution for Synods

The *Constitution for Synods* contains mandatory provisions that incorporate and record therein provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. Amendments shall be made in accordance with the required provisions in Chapter 18 of the *Constitution for Synods*. Non-mandatory provisions shall not be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of this church (ELCA 10.13.).

An amendment to the *Constitution for Synods* may be proposed only by a main motion.

A proposed amendment to the *Constitution for Synods* must be submitted electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.)

Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations

A *Model Constitution for Congregations* shall be provided by this church. Amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* shall be made in the same manner as prescribed in Chapter 22 for amendments of the bylaws of this church (ELCA 9.53.02.).

An amendment to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* may be proposed only by a main motion.

A proposed amendment to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* must be submitted electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*.)

En Bloc Resolution for Amendments to Governing Documents

Amendments to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions as recommended by the Church Council in a report distributed to assembly members prior to, or at, the first business session of the assembly, may be approved by *en bloc*² resolutions when so proposed by the Church Council.

If a voting member desires the assembly to discuss a particular amendment that is included in the *en bloc* resolutions, she or he may request that the particular amendment be removed from the proposed *en bloc* resolutions, provided the member's request is supported by 10 other voting members. Such request shall be made in accordance with the following paragraph. The assembly then will consider and vote separately on the particular proposed amendment. After removals, the *en bloc* resolutions shall be voted upon without amendments or debate.

To call for such separate consideration, a voting member, with the support of 10 other voting members, must submit notification electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline (*see* PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines *below*) on the form titled **Notice Related to Proposed Amendments to the Governing Documents**.

Notice shall be given by the secretary of this church to the assembly of which constitutional provisions or bylaw proposals have been removed from the *en bloc* resolutions by specific voting members.

Vote to Adopt Certain Recommendations from Reports

A two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly present and voting shall be required to adopt recommendations from any report that requires amendment of a constitutional provision or bylaw of this church for implementation.

Reconsideration or Rescission Prohibited

After the adoption by the assembly of a constitutional or bylaw amendment, a motion for reconsideration or a motion to rescind or amend such action is not in order.

PART SIXTEEN: ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Election Procedures

Set forth hereafter are the procedures for the elections of the presiding bishop, the vice president and the secretary, whether or not there will be an election at this assembly for any of these positions. Elections are required because of completion of the specified term for a position or when a vacancy otherwise occurs.

Background Checks and Screening

Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as churchwide officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Church Council (ELCA 19.01.B09.).

The Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening and the forms which the nominees need to complete, including a Biographical Information Form, a Disclosure Form, and a Background Check Disclosure and Release Information Form, are available.

²Adoption of several motions by a single assembly resolution; sometimes known as a consent calendar or an omnibus bill or resolution.

Restrictions on Nominations for Officers

The officers shall be the presiding bishop, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Each officer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this church (ELCA 13.11.).

The presiding bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church (ELCA 13.21.).

The presiding bishop shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly to a six-year term and serve until a successor takes office (ELCA 13.22.).

The presiding bishop shall be a full-time, salaried position (ELCA 13.22.02.).

The vice president shall be a layperson (ELCA 13.31.).

The vice president shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly to a six-year term and serve until a successor takes office (ELCA 13.32.).

The vice president shall serve without salary (ELCA 13.32.02.).

The secretary shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly to a six-year term and serve until a successor takes office (ELCA 13.42.).

The secretary shall be a full-time, salaried position (ELCA 13.42.02.).

The secretary may be either a minister of Word and Sacrament or a lay person.

Ecclesiastical Ballot Defined

An “ecclesiastical ballot” for the election of officers (other than treasurer) of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is an election process:

- a. in which on the first ballot the name of any eligible individual may be submitted for nomination by a voting member of the assembly;
- b. through which the possibility of election to office exists on any ballot by achievement of the required number of votes cast by voting members of the assembly applicable to a particular ballot;
- c. that precludes spoken floor nominations;
- d. in which the first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot;
- e. in which the first ballot defines the total slates of nominees for possible election on a subsequent ballot, with no additional nominations;
- f. that does not preclude, after the reporting of the first ballot, the right of persons nominated to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot;
- g. in which any name appearing on the second ballot may not be subsequently withdrawn;
- h. that does not preclude an assembly’s adoption of rules that permit, at a defined point in the election process and for a defined period of time, speeches to the assembly by nominees or their representatives and/or a question-and-answer forum in which the nominees or their representatives participate; and
- i. in which the number of names that appear on any ballot subsequent to the second ballot shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the governing documents (ELCA 19.01.C94.).

Election Procedures Utilizing the Ecclesiastical Ballot

For each election by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, the exact number of appropriate ballot sets equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. The bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot sets to each of the voting members from the synod (ELCA 19.01.D07.a.).

Unless otherwise ordered by the chair, one of the numbered ballots from the appropriate ballot set is to be used on each ballot for elections determined by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot. The chair will announce the number of the ballot from the appropriate ballot set that is to be used for each ballot. Failure to use the correct numbered ballot will result in an illegal ballot (ELCA 19.01.D07.b.).

On the first two ballots for each office being selected by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, both the first and last names of a nominee should be used. Members should endeavor to use correct spelling and should provide, on the first ballot, any additional accurate information identifying the nominee, such as title, synod, or residence (ELCA 19.01.D07.c.).

On the third and subsequent ballots conducted by written ballot, only the last name of the nominee need be used, provided there is no other nominee with the same or similar name (ELCA 19.01.D07.d.).

A member may vote for only one nominee on each ballot (ELCA 19.01.D07.e.).

Ballots should not be marked prior to the time the chair advises the voting members to do so (ELCA 19.01.D07.f.).

Written ballots shall not be folded (ELCA 19.01.D07.g.).

Written ballots will be collected from the voting members in accordance with instructions from the Elections Committee or from the chair (ELCA 19.01.D07.h.).

When the results of the first ballot are presented, the chair will announce when and how persons nominated may withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot (ELCA 19.01.D07.i.).

Whenever the number of names of nominees that will appear on a ballot is nine or less, on recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, voting may be by means of electronic device (ELCA 19.01.D07.j.).

When voting by electronic device, the first position on each ballot shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the immediately preceding ballot, with the remaining positions assigned to the other nominees in descending order of the number of votes received on the immediately preceding ballot. If two or more nominees were tied with the same vote on the immediately preceding ballot, their respective positions shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee (ELCA 19.01.D07.k.).

On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit voting members to record their votes (ELCA 19.01.D07.l.).

Election of the Presiding Bishop

The presiding bishop shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot (ELCA 19.01.02.).

Those wishing to withdraw and not let their names to the second ballot may do so in writing or by completing a electronic form in the Guidebook App and either by submitting a paper form to the Nominations/Elections desk in the registration area, electronically via email (nominations@elca.org), or by electronic submission or by phone in the hearing of two members of the elections committee. The deadline for withdrawing is August 6, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

If there is no election on the second ballot, the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot shall complete the Biographical Information Form, Disclosure Form, and Background Check Disclosure and Release Information Form approved by the Executive Committee of the Church Council. Nominees shall receive instructions on how to complete these forms.

Prior to the third ballot for presiding bishop, biographical data will be distributed for the seven nominees (plus ties).

All nominees will be present for the following forums or be permitted to address the assembly telephonically.

Prior to the third ballot for presiding bishop, a forum shall be held in which the seven nominees (plus ties) are invited to respond to questions submitted. Voting members may submit questions electronically or on a paper form to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy. From the questions submitted, the Executive Committee of the Church Council, excluding the presiding bishop and nominees, shall select a sample of questions and determine the process to be followed in the forum. An individual nominee may choose to respond to those questions he or she wishes to address. Each of the nominees shall be asked questions in rotating order, and each response shall be no longer than 90 seconds. The forum shall be limited to 60 minutes.

Prior to the third ballot for presiding bishop, the seven nominees (plus ties) will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly and is unable to address the assembly telephonically, the bishop of the synod of such person's roster shall, in consultation with such person, if possible, designate an alternate to speak on behalf of such person.

Prior to the fourth ballot for presiding bishop, the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period moderated by an individual appointed by the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Election of the Vice President

In a year when the vice president or secretary shall be elected, the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons who might be considered for election as vice president. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least 60 days prior to the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members (ELCA 19.01.A18).

The vice president shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for vice president does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and a majority of votes cast shall elect (ELCA 19.01.03.).

If there is no election on the second ballot, the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot shall complete the Biographical Information Form, Disclosure Form, and Background Check Disclosure and Release Information Form approved by the Executive Committee of the Church Council. Nominees shall receive instructions on how to complete these forms.

All nominees will be present for the following forums or be permitted to address the assembly telephonically.

Prior to the third ballot for vice president, biographical data will be distributed for the seven nominees (plus ties).

Each of the seven nominees (plus ties) will be asked in rotating order to respond to three questions as determined by the Executive Committee of the Church Council, excluding the vice president and nominees. Each nominee's response to each question shall be limited to 90 seconds.

Prior to the fourth ballot for vice president, the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly and is unable to address the assembly telephonically, the bishop of the synod of such person's congregation membership shall, in consultation with such person, if possible, designate an alternate to speak on behalf of such person.

Election of the Secretary

In a year when the vice president or secretary shall be elected, the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons who might be considered for election as vice president. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least 60 days prior to the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members (ELCA 19.01.A18.). The secretary shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for secretary does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall elect (ELCA 19.01.04.).

Names identified and posted on the assembly website or through the Guidebook App prior to the assembly, shall be removed from the site and the application following the adoption of these rules. The biographical information shall be provided for the top seven nominees plus ties after the second ballot.

Those wishing to withdraw and not let their names to the second ballot may do so in writing or by completing an electronic form in the Guidebook App and either by submitting its paper form to the Nominations/Elections desk in the registration area, electronically via email (nominations@elca.org), or by electronic submission or by phone in the hearing of two members of the elections committee. The deadline for withdrawing is August 8, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

If there is no election on the second ballot, the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot shall complete the Biographical Information Form, Disclosure Form, and Background Check Disclosure and Release Information Form approved by the Executive Committee of the Church Council. Nominees shall receive instructions on how to complete these forms.

All nominees will be present for the following forums or be permitted to address the assembly telephonically.

Prior to the third ballot for secretary, biographical data will be distributed for the seven nominees (plus ties). Each of the seven nominees (plus ties) will be asked in rotating order to respond to three questions as determined by the Executive Committee of the Church Council, excluding the secretary and nominees. Each nominee's response to each question shall be limited to 90 seconds.

Prior to the fourth ballot for secretary, the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly and is unable to address the assembly telephonically, the bishop of the synod of such person's roster or such person's congregation membership, shall, in consultation with such person, if possible, designate an alternate to speak on behalf of such person.

Majority Required for Election On the final ballot for the election of presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary of this church, when only two names appear on the ballot, a majority of the legal votes cast is necessary for election.

Breaking Ties

On the ballot for the election of the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary, when only two names appear, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist (ELCA 19.06.B98.a.).

PART SEVENTEEN: STATUS OF REPORTS

Assembly Reports

At least 20 days prior to an assembly the secretary shall prepare and distribute to each congregation and to the voting members-elect a pre-assembly report. Distribution to congregations may be accomplished by posting the report on the website of this church (ELCA 12.31.03.).

Reports of the Presiding Bishop and Secretary of This Church

Following presentation, the presiding bishop's report and the secretary's report shall be referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee.

Status of Reports

All reports published in the *Pre-Assembly Report* shall be treated as having been received by the assembly without formal vote.

Distribution of Materials

Materials may be distributed on the floor of the assembly only with the written consent of the secretary of this church. In cases where the secretary does not consent, appeal may be made to the Reference and Counsel Committee. That committee's decision shall be final.

PART EIGHTEEN: DEADLINES

Monday, August 5, 2019

9:45 p.m. Separate consideration (removal from *en bloc*) of responses to synod memorials

Proposed changes to the responses to synod memorials

Separate consideration (removal from *en bloc*) of social policy resolutions proposed to be archived

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

10:45 a.m. Separate consideration (removal from *en bloc*) of proposed general amendments to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions

Proposed changes to the general amendments to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions

Proposed amendments from the floor to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions

Nominations from the floor

~~Proposed amendments to inter-religious policy statement~~

~~Proposed amendments to authentic diversity statement~~

12:00 p.m. Withdrawal from ballot for presiding bishop

Submission of questions for presiding bishop nominee forum

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

8:30 a.m. Proposed amendments to inter-religious policy statement

Proposed amendments to strategy toward authentic diversity statement

11:00 a.m. Non-germane resolutions

Proposed amendments to the 2020-2022 budget proposal

Proposed amendments to women and justice social statement and implementing resolutions

2:15 p.m. First common ballot

Thursday, August 8, 2019

12:00 p.m. Withdrawal from ballot for secretary

2:15 p.m. Second Common Ballot

PART NINETEEN: HEARINGS

Certain proposals that are scheduled for assembly action or information are the subject of hearings. Voting members, advisory members, other members, resource members, official visitors and other categories approved by the Churchwide Assembly may attend with voice. Others may attend only if space permits and shall not have voice. Hearings have no legislative authority.

The chair of the hearing shall endeavor to maintain decorum and order and may call upon the assistance of sergeants-at-arms. Insofar as is possible during discussion, a speaker on one side of the question shall be followed by a speaker on the other side.

PART TWENTY: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Use of computers and other electronic devices, such as cellphones (in texting mode only), smart phones, tablets and other wireless electronic communication devices is allowed in the plenary hall during assembly sessions, provided that such devices are in a silent mode and do not disturb voting members. Speaking on any device is prohibited in the plenary hall during assembly sessions. Members and others are expected to be courteous and respectful and are encouraged to leave the hall if they intend to engage in communication activities that may disturb others or are not related to the work of the assembly. Use of computers and other electronic devices is precluded during worship.

Members and others using ELCA-issued electronic equipment shall ensure that such equipment is used for assembly purposes only and in a manner that is consistent with good stewardship and the mission and ministry of this church. Use of such equipment and related technology is contingent upon agreement to the terms and conditions of the use agreement.

PART TWENTY-ONE: OTHER MATTERS

College Corporation Meetings

The voting members of the Churchwide Assembly also constitute the voting members of certain college corporations that hold meetings as part of the agenda of the assembly. The assembly will recess to conduct the corporation meeting(s) and reconvene at the conclusion of the corporation meeting(s) or at the beginning of the next scheduled session of the assembly. Quorum requirements for college corporation meetings are specified in the governing documents of each college. The quorum requirement for the Churchwide Assembly does not apply to college corporation meetings.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ASSIGNMENTS
ELCA Church Council Members
2019 Churchwide Assembly
Milwaukee, WI

Memorials Committee (room 101 D)

Cheryl Chatman, co-chair
Reid Christopherson, co-chair
Dena Gable
Joe Nolte

Committee for Reference and Counsel (room 101 D)

Emma Wagner, co-chair
Jim Jennings, co-chair
Clarence Smith
Ingrid Stafford

Ad-hoc Committee: Faith, Sexism, and Justice Social Statement (room 202 A)

Previous assemblies have permitted the presiding bishop, in accordance with the Rules of Organization and Procedure, to name members to “ad hoc” committees to receive and process any amendments proposed to items on the assembly agenda. The members of this committee work in consultation with the Committee of Reference and Counsel and with voting members who have brought amendments for consideration by the assembly to bring a report and recommendations to the assembly regarding implementation of the amendments.

Church Council

Leslie Swenson
Jim Utt

Conference of Bishops

Ann Svennungsen

Churchwide Organization Staff

Kathryn Lohre
Mary Streufert
Roger Willer

Women and Justice: One in Christ Task Force

Kathryn Kleinhans
Mary Lowe
William Rodriguez
Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld
Brad Wendel

Other ad hoc committees will likely be proposed. If Church Council members are identified to serve, Jodi Slattery will inquire with you.

Hearings

Hearings will be held on Tuesday, August 6. There are two sessions. It is the responsibility of the chair to introduce the staff and any resource persons present and to facilitate the discussion. In all instances, there will be one or more resource persons who are responsible for answers. Please start the

hearing promptly so that the hour can be used efficiently. Since the hearings are not legislative, no action will be forthcoming. It is wise to establish guidelines for discussion, including a two-minute time limit on speeches. According to the rules of the assembly, persons with voice include: voting members, advisory members, resource persons, and official visitors. Other guests may attend *only if space permits*, but have no voice.

Recorders are responsible for recording the tone of the meeting, the approximate number of persons present, and any helpful ideas that come forward. The informal report can be turned in to the resource person at the end of the plenary. Handwritten notes are fine.

Session I: Tuesday, August 6 (5:00 – 6:00 p.m.)

Word and Service Entrance Rite (room 102 A/B)

Chair: Cynthia Gustavson
Recorder: Lisa Burk
Resource people: Cherlyne Beck, Krista Anderson

Budget (room 201 A)

Chair: Meri Jo Petrivelli
Recorder: Will Voss
Resource People: Lori Fedyk, Wyvetta Bullock

Network of ELCA Colleges & Universities (room 201 B)

Chair: Seth Zimmann
Recorder: Emilee Le Blanc
Resource People: Mark Wilhelm

Inter-Religious Policy Statement (room 103 D/E)

Chair: Hans Becklin
Recorder: Linda Nou
Resource People: Kathryn Lohre, Kathryn Johnson

Faith, Sexism and Justice Social Statement (room 102 C)

Chair: Leslie Swenson
Recorder: Jim Utt
Resource People: Mary Streufert, Roger Willer

Declaration to People of African Descent (room 102 D/E)

Chair: Sonja Wolfe
Recorder: Peder Johanson
Resource People: Judith Roberts, Albert Starr

Session II: Tuesday, August 6 (7:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Inter-Religious Policy Statement (repeat – room 103 D/E)

Chair: Linda Nou
Recorder: Hans Becklin
Resource People: Kathryn Lohre, Kathryn Johnson

Faith, Sexism and Justice Social Statement (repeat – room 102 C)

Chair: Jim Utt
Recorder: Leslie Swenson
Resource People: Mary Streufert, Roger Willer

ELCA World Hunger (room 201 C)

Chair: Gary Pederson
Recorder: Philip Wirtanen
Resource People: Rebecca Duerst, Mikka McCracken, Dan Rift

Theological Education (room 201 A)

Chair: John Lohrmann
Recorder: Chad Huebner
Resource People: Javier Goitia, Wyvetta Bullock

AMMPARO (room 102 D/E)

Chair: Ricardo Rivera
Recorder: Jonathan Splichal Larson
Resource People: Mary Campbell, Trinidad Ariztia, Dennis Frado, Evelyn Soto, David Wunsch

Authentic Strategic Diversity & Inclusion (room 201 B)

Chair: Cheryl Chatman
Recorder: Mike Ward
Resource People: Albert Starr, Judith Roberts

Updating Vision & Expectations (room 102 A/B)

Chair: Peder Johanson
Recorder: Emilee Le Blanc
Resource People: Philip Hirsch, Cherlyne Beck

Resource Speakers in Plenary Sessions

These council members are identified to speak to issues that are raised on the floor during a plenary session. As Church Council members, you have deeply engaged in the issues before the assembly and are equipped to address the questions raised by voting members. In addition, Churchwide staff will be prepared to respond to questions. A resource mic will be located near the seating area for the advisory members. The resource mic is the microphone the resource speakers should be using.

Constitutional Amendments:

Chris Boerger, Jim Hushagen

Budget:

Clarence Smith, Jim Jennings

Archival of Social Policy Resolutions:

Cynthia Gustavson

Inter-Religious policy statement:

Bill Horne

Authentic Strategic Diversity report and recommendations:

Cheryl Chatman

Faith, Sexism and Justice social statement:

Leslie Swenson, Jim Utt

Officers' Elections: Hosts

Church Council members are assigned to accompany nominees for presiding bishop and secretary. Their role is to:

- Be aware of and provide information about process, scheduling, and details related to the election of the presiding bishop and secretary.

- Be available to answer questions, run errands, seek information, offer space for contemplation/rest and accompany the nominee, as desired.
- Express gratitude on behalf of the Church Council to nominees who do not continue on succeeding ballots.
- Rhondean Johnson or Jodi Slattery will conduct an orientation session with the officers' elections hosts on Monday, August 5.

Presiding Bishop

Nominee 1*	Chad Huebner
Nominee 2	Leslie Swenson
Nominee 3	Jonathan Splichal Larson
Nominee 4	Meri Jo Petrivelli
Nominee 5	Allan Bieber
Nominee 6	Cynthia Gustavson
Nominee 7	Emilee Le Blanc

Secretary

Nominee 1*	Maren Hulden
Nominee 2	Gary Pederson
Nominee 3	Dena Gable
Nominee 4	Jim Hushagen
Nominee 5	Cheryl Chatman
Nominee 6	Vernon Veal
Nominee 7	Man Hei Yip

* Based on vote totals for the second ballot

Prayers at the Beginning and Closing of Sessions

The persons planning worship will select a hymn and write a brief prayer to be read by the council member. Prior to each prayer, Bishop Eaton will light a candle and ring a bell, inviting the assembly to a time of silence.

There will be a brief rehearsal during the pre-assembly Church Council meeting on Aug. 5. If you have questions, please contact Jodi Slattery (773-380-2599 or 773-558-2144, work cell).

Tuesday, August 6, Plenary 2 (8:30 a.m.)

Morning Prayer
Sonja Wolfe

Wednesday, August 7, Plenary 4 (8:30 a.m.)

Morning Prayer
Man Hei Yip

Friday, August 9, Plenary 8 (8:30 a.m.)

Morning Prayer
Joyce Graue

Prayer Team

The Churchwide Assembly "prayer team" is prepared to pray periodically throughout the assembly, particularly before major votes. The team will include synod bishops, synod vice presidents, and members of the Church Council. The Prayer Team consists of the following people:

Church Council

Pr. Hans Becklin
Ms. Cynthia Gustavson
Pr. Linda Nou
Pr. Will Voss

Conference of Bishops

Bishop Idalia Negrón Caamaño
Bishop Deborah Hutterer

Synod Vice Presidents

Joyce Caldwell
Arundel Clarke

Throughout the Churchwide Assembly:

As Advisory Members to the Churchwide Assembly, we hope you will be present during the breaks and throughout the assembly seeking out conversation and opportunities to provide information on how our shared ministries are having an impact in each synod, the church and the world. You are great ambassadors and you can deepen voting members' understanding of the work we do *together* as the ELCA and to show how each member, congregation and synod is an essential partner in sharing God's love with the world.

En Bloc Items

I. Synod Mission Support Plans

The ELCA Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod Mission Support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Constitution, 8.15 and 10.71). Since the Budget and Finance Committee is not meeting prior to this Church Council meeting where the recommendations to the Church Council usually are made, the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer are recommending the following actions:

I.A. Revisions to 2019 Synod Mission Support Plans

Since the April 2019 Church Council meeting, two revisions to 2019 Mission Support plans have been received. One synod has requested to decrease the projected amount to be shared. One synod has requested to decrease their percentage sharing.

CC ACTION [En Bloc]

Recommended:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Minneapolis Area Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

CC ACTION [En Bloc]

Recommended:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

I.B. Revisions to 2020 Synod Mission Support Plans

Since the April 2019 Church Council meeting, two 2020 Mission Support plan revisions were received. One synod has requested to decrease their percentage sharing and decrease projected dollar amount to be shared. One synod has requested to hold their percentage sharing and decrease the projected dollar amount to be shared.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge the action of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and affirm the

percentage of sharing of 2020 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries and estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared;:

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

We further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Minneapolis Area Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2020 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

II. Ratification of Church Council Committees

Following the elections at the Churchwide Assembly, newly elected members will indicate their preferences prior to the November 2019 meeting. A final listing of committee membership for the triennium will be ratified by the Church Council at its November 2019 meeting upon recommendation by the Executive Committee.

At its November 2019 meeting, the Church Council also will appoint members to related advisory or liaison appointments for the time period from 2019 to 2022. Members of the Board Development Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee in November 2019.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To ratify the following appointments of continuing members of the ELCA Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2019–2022 time period:

Budget and Finance Committee: Dena Gable, James Jennings (chair);

Legal and Constitutional Review Committee: Cheryl Chatman, Gary Pederson (chair) and Phil Wirtanen;

Planning and Evaluation Committee: Chad Huebner(chair), Lisa Burk, and Ricardo Rivera; and

Program and Services Committee: Joe Nolte, Emma Wagner (chair), and Sonja Wolfe.

III. Churchwide Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure

Since the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee is not meeting prior to this Church Council meeting where the recommendations to the Church Council usually are made, the action comes directly to the Church Council for consideration from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary.

The Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary made some revisions to the [Rules of Organization and Procedure](#). Most notably, the deadlines have been amended and language regarding submission of forms has been clarified.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

IV. Response to Synod Memorials/Resolutions

This memorial from the New England Synod was reclassified as a resolution and the Executive Committee referred it to the Office of the Secretary for a response.

IV.A Christ’s Great Commission

New England Synod (7B) [2017]

WHEREAS, the evangelical mandate of Christ to his apostles in Matthew 28:18-20 calls us to make his teaching and presence known throughout this earth’s nations; and

WHEREAS, the discipleship and gospel entailed in that Great Commission is obscured and diminished if the dissemination of its witness is thought of as exclusively intended for or achieved in the conversion of others to Christianity; and

WHEREAS, Christian discipleship and witness bids us reach out with a love that not only gives account of our faith but also genuinely values and respects our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the current wording of the ELCA’s constitutions in C4.02.c. and its parallels (“reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ”) can too easily be heard to narrow the definition and motivation of our outreach and stand a contradiction of the good faith of witness; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is committed to fostering unity among the children of God for the sake of the world; and

WHEREAS, in the Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community (adopted by the ELCA Church Council, April 18, 1994) this church officially expressed “our urgent desire to live out our faith in Jesus Christ with love and respect for the Jewish people” and offered “prayer for the continued blessing of the Blessed One upon the increasing cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community”; and

WHEREAS, in the ELCA’s Guidelines for Lutheran-Jewish Relations this church affirms that “an encounter with living and faithful Judaism can be profoundly enriching for Christian self-understanding”; and

WHEREAS, in the ELCA’s Guidelines for Christian-Muslim Relations we affirm that “the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls Christians to mutual understanding and friendship with Muslim people in the United States and around the world. By learning about Islam and seeking opportunities to know Muslim people better, we bear witness to God’s saving love incarnate in Jesus”; and

WHEREAS, “the Scriptures have no single teaching about the relationship between the people of the covenant and those who practice other religions” (*Engaging Others, Knowing Ourselves: A Lutheran Calling in a Multi-Religious World*); and

WHEREAS, “reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ” goes beyond the previous C4.01., “The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world,” in which we are called and sent to bear witness, not to “bring” which is the work of the Holy Spirit; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther teaches in the Small Catechism that we believe that we cannot by our own “understanding or strength believe in Jesus Christ our Lord or come to him, but that the Holy Spirit calls us through the Gospel”; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther’s theology of the cross calls into question all human efforts to speak with certitude about the pathways of God; and

WHEREAS, in the light of the growing positive and rich multi-faith engagement of the 21st century, we have come to a new humility about the question of God’s relation to other religions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New England Synod memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to initiate a process to change C4.02.c. and its constitutional parallels with language such as: “Carry out Christ’s Great

Commission by giving a good account of our hope in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the resources of the ELCA enlist and consult its teaching theologians, bishops and other leaders in the drafting of such an amendment for consideration at its subsequent Churchwide Assembly.

Executive Committee Action [EC19.04.16b3]

To receive the resolution from New England Synod regarding Christ’s Great Commission;

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Secretary in its consideration of amendments to *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Response from the Office of the Secretary (August 2019)

The Office of the Secretary has reviewed the reclassified resolution and had conversations with the chair of the ELCA Inter-Religious Task Force. The Office of the Secretary recommends the action of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly on “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A policy statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” to be the response to this resolution. Furthermore, based on the action of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, the Office of the Secretary will propose revised constitutional language in its consideration of amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* to the Church Council for consideration at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended

To receive with gratitude the resolution from the New England Synod concerning Christ’s Great Commission;

To acknowledge the action of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment” as the response of the Church Council;

To direct the Office of the Secretary to propose revised constitutional language to the Church Council for consideration at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly; and

To request the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

IV.B Inequality, Discrimination and Sexism

Northwest Washington Synod (1B) [2019]

RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod Council develop a year of celebration of women’s ordination during 2020, include a celebration and special recognition upon the 50th anniversary of women’s ordination at our annual gathering, promoting women preachers, teachers and speakers at all events during this year, and provide materials and encouragement to congregations to do the same; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon the passage of the social statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* all congregations in the synod be encouraged to study this document; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod Council encourages the ELCA Church Council to take action to address the issues of inequality, discrimination and sexism.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To receive with gratitude the resolution from the Northwest Washington Synod concerning inequality, discrimination and sexism;

To acknowledge the action of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the response of the Church Council; and

To request the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

V. Secretary Opinion to Hope Lutheran, San Mateo

Background (Secretary Report, January 29, 2019)

A petition was submitted by Hope Lutheran Church in San Mateo, California, requesting the secretary provide constitutional interpretation on calling their interim pastor because Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod, did not attest the call. When a resolution comes from a synod council to the Church Council, the Executive Committee needs to refer the response to an office or a unit in accordance with ELCA Bylaw 14.41.01.b.

Executive Committee Action [EC19.01.02]

To assign the Sierra Pacific's referral of the Petition of Hope Lutheran San Mateo to the Office of the Secretary for suggested action and a timeline on how that action would take place.

Response from the Office of the Secretary (August 2019)

Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, Calif. [submitted a petition](#) to the Sierra Pacific Synod Council under **9.53.07**. This petition request was forwarded by the Sierra Pacific Synod Council to the Church Council. Until this case, **9.53.07** has been used as the basis for legislative petitions such as resolutions or memorials. Accordingly, the Church Council has treated this as a legislative petition, not a judicial petition. This petition asks for a finding that Bishop Mark Holmerud acted improperly.

Bishop Holmerud appointed the Rev. Daniel Severson as interim pastor of Hope in 2015. With this appointment, both Pastor Severson and Hope Lutheran agreed, in writing, that Pastor Severson would not be a candidate for a regular call at Hope. Before the synod provided the congregation with any potential candidates, however, the call committee requested permission to consider Pastor Severson for the call; that request was denied. After receiving candidates for the position, the call committee declined to recommend any for call.

The call committee instead approached Pastor Severson about this call. After at first declining, he ultimately agreed to be interviewed and the call committee recommended his call. Bishop Holmerud informed him and the leadership of the congregation that if the call were voted, he would not attest the call. At an improperly called congregation meeting, and then at a legally called meeting, the congregation voted to call Pastor Severson. Bishop Holmerud did not attest the call and informed Pastor Severson that his appointment to serve as interim pastor was terminated. He also informed Pastor Severson that his on leave from call status was expiring. Not being under call and without on leave status, he was removed from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church.

The petition seeks a declaration that Bishop Holmerud acted improperly in refusing to attest the call and the restoration of Pastor Severson to the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

The recommendation of the ELCA secretary can be found [here](#).

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended

To thank the Sierra Pacific Synod for its resolution forwarding the petition from Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, Calif. to the Church Council;

To receive and adopt the recommendation of the ELCA secretary attached hereto as the response to this petition; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod and the congregation of this action.

Revised August 2, 2019

VI. Approval of ELCA Foundation Bylaws

According to constitutional provision 15.15., the Endowment Fund of the ELCA (doing business as ELCA Foundation) “hold[s] and manage[s] endowment assets and offer[s] pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its related congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions.”

The ELCA Foundation is submitting an amendment to Section 2.2 of their bylaws for Church Council’s consideration. The proposed bylaw amendment is as follows:

SECTION 2.2 Terms. Individuals shall be elected by the ~~Church Council~~ Churchwide Assembly to serve ~~six~~ three-year terms as trustees of this corporation with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. The members of the Board of Trustees initially elected by the Churchwide Assembly in 2019 shall be divided into three classes as nearly equal in number as possible, so that ~~the terms of office of one third of the members of the Board of Trustees shall expire every second year at the conclusion of the regular Fall meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~ one class shall be deemed to be elected to their first term and be eligible for election to two more terms, one class shall be deemed to be elected to a second term and be eligible for election to one more term; and one class shall be deemed to be elected to a third term and not be eligible for further election. A member of the Board of Trustees shall hold office for the term for which he or she was elected through ~~the end of the meeting at which~~ January 1st after his or her successor has been elected and until such successor has qualified, or until the member’s prior death, resignation or removal. A period of at least ~~two~~ three years shall have elapsed between the expiration of a member’s term of office and the commencement of the member’s next term of office, if any. Any member of the Board of Trustees may be removed by the ~~Secretary of the ELCA~~ executive committee of the Board of Trustees upon two successive absences that have not been excused by the board. Any vacancy occurring because of the death, resignation or removal of a member of the Board of Trustees shall be filled by the Church Council of the ELCA for the unexpired term of such member of the Board of Trustees.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended

To approve the amended bylaws of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.