



Recommendation: The Election of the Vice President

Process for Election

The process for election of the vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is governed by the applicable bylaws and the Rules of Organization and Procedure as adopted by the Churchwide Assembly.

The effect of the ballot on which an election takes place is the following action:

To elect _____ to a six-year term, commencing November 1, 2016, as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ELCA bylaw **19.31.01.b.** specifies the process for nomination and election of the vice president, as follows:

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.

19.31.B15. *In a year when the vice president 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.*

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the vice president, as specified in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, are diverse and numerous:

10.91.01. ... At each meeting the Conference of Bishops shall receive a report from the Church Council brought by the vice president of this church.

10.91.02. The conference shall meet at least two times each year.

11.33. **Leadership of this church shall be vested in the churchwide officers, the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, the Conference of Bishops, and executive directors of churchwide units. The full-time officers shall be the presiding bishop, secretary, and treasurer. The vice president shall be non-salaried and shall serve as chair of the Church Council.**

13.11. **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.**

13.30. VICE PRESIDENT

13.31. The vice president shall be a layperson who shall serve as chair of the Church Council and, in the event the presiding bishop is unable to do so, as chair of the Churchwide Assembly. The vice president shall serve under the presiding bishop of this church, providing leadership as specified in provision 11.33. of this constitution.

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

13.32.01. The vice president shall be elected as provided in Chapter 19 and shall take office on the first day of the third month after election.

13.32.02. The vice president shall serve without salary.

14.12. The Church Council shall meet at least two times each year.

14.41.11. The Church Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and seven members of the Church Council elected by the council. The vice president of this church shall chair this committee.

Other constitutional provisions, bylaws and continuing resolutions related to the role and responsibilities of the vice president also apply. Those cited (above) provide the general overview of the office. See also Section II of the *Pre-Assembly Report* for the Report of the Vice President.