



July 28 – August 2  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



## Election of the Presiding Bishop

The process for election of the presiding bishop 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 will be the following action:

**To elect \_\_\_\_\_ to a six-year term, commencing on the first day of the third month after election, as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

ELCA bylaw **19.01.02.** and continuing resolution **19.01.A24.** specify the process for nomination and election of the presiding bishop as follows:

- 19.01.02.** The presiding bishop shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for presiding bishop 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 required 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.
- 19.01.A24.** *In a year when the presiding bishop, vice president, or secretary shall be elected, those who will serve as voting members of the upcoming Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons per office who might be considered for election as presiding bishop, vice president, or secretary. 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 30 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 presiding bishop, as specified in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, are diverse and numerous, including the following:

- 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.
- 13.20.** **PRESIDING BISHOP**
- 13.21.** The presiding bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church who, as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church. The presiding bishop shall:
- Be the president and chief executive officer of the corporation, overseeing the work of the churchwide organization.
  - Be the chief ecumenical officer of this church and its primary representative in the national and international interchurch agencies in which this church holds membership.
  - Preside at the Churchwide Assembly.
  - Provide leadership and care for the bishops of the synods.
  - Oversee the work of the other officers.
  - Provide for the preparation of the budget for the churchwide organization.
  - Nominate and direct the work of the executive for administration.
  - Appoint and supervise the executive directors of churchwide units.

- i. **Appoint members of all churchwide committees for which election procedures are not provided.**
  - j. **Relate, through the appropriate churchwide unit, to the chaplaincies of this church in federal agencies, institutions, and armed forces.**
  - k. **Serve as an advisory member, with voice but not vote, on all committees of this church and all boards or designate a person to serve as the presiding bishop's representative.**
- 13.22.**     **The presiding bishop shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly to a six-year term and serve until a successor takes office.**
- 13.22.01.**   The presiding bishop shall be elected as provided in Chapter 19 and shall take office on the first day of the third month after election.
- 13.22.02.**   The presiding bishop shall be a full-time, salaried position.

Other constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions related to the role and responsibilities of the presiding bishop also apply. Those cited above provide the general overview of the office. See also Section II of the *Bulletin of Report* for the Report of the Presiding Bishop.