



## Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

*Thursday, August 15, 2013, at 3:08 PM*

1 **Motion A**

2 **Secretary Election**

3 *Submitted by: Glen VanderKloot, Central/Southern Illinois Synod*

4 That the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, consider  
5 amending the constitution in 2016 to change the method of election of the ELCA Secretary from an  
6 ecclesiastical ballot, and any new process would bring at least two names to the churchwide assembly.

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8 **Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

9 The Office of Secretary of this church requires a very specific skill set. Most voting members are not in  
10 a position to make that determination without hearing candidates speak and reading their biographical  
11 information. Further many voting members just don't know whom to write down on the first ballot.

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13 This motion asks the ELCA Church Council to consider moving away from the ecclesiastical ballot.

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15 **Recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

16 We recommend approval.

17 **Motion B**

18 **Constitution**

19 *Submitted by: Theodore L. Cockley, Upper Susquehanna Synod*

20 To amend S3.01 by striking “state” in the last line, and substitute the word “Commonwealth”  
21 and to AMEND 10.01.11 by striking the word “state” in the fifth line and substitute the word  
22 “commonwealth”, striking the final comma in the same line and substitute the word “and”, and striking  
23 the word “state” in the last line and substitute the word “commonwealth”.

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25 **Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

26 Four states within the United States -- Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia-- as well as  
27 Puerto Rico, officially designate themselves as commonwealths. The committee believes that the  
28 requested change impacts as many as eight synod constitutions in Pennsylvania alone and that all  
29 impacted synods should be consulted before the ELCA governing documents are amended.

30 **Recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

31 To refer this matter to the Office of the Secretary with a requested report to the Church Council by the  
32 Fall of 2014.

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34 **MOTION D**

35 **Youth “and/or”**

36 *Submitted by: C. Matthew Wertman, Virginia Synod*

37 Amend 19.21.A13 to read “...shall be both youth and young adults.”

38 *19.21.A13 The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that at least two ten percent of the*  
39 *voting membership of the Church Council shall be youth or young adults. Youth*  
40 *members shall have been be younger than 18 at the time of their election, and young*  
41 *adults shall be older than 18 and younger than 30 years of age at the time of their*  
42 *election.*

43 **Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

44 The committee thanks the author for reminding us of our commitment to involve both youth and young  
45 adults fully in the life of this church, including on its boards, task forces and mission tables. The  
46 committee believes that the Office of the Secretary should review all of our governing documents to  
47 ensure that each provision for representation includes both youth and young adults and calls upon the  
48 Church Council to ensure that we honor our representational principles while the governing documents  
49 are being reviewed.

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51 **Recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

52 To refer this matter to the Office of the Secretary.

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