

# Proposed Rules for the Thirty-Third Annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly

Items indicated with "A" are items not currently covered by any Constitution, Bylaw, or Continuing Resolution and hence require action by the Assembly. Constitution, Bylaw, or Resolution references are indicated following each item.

Key: + = Required Provision found in the Synod Constitution

## **A SA1 CALL OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY.**

SA1.01 Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this Synod. (S7.13.)

SA1.02 The time and place of the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced three months prior to the assembly. (S7.11.01.)

## **A SA2 VOTING MEMBERS.**

SA2.01 The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows: (+S7.21.a.)

- a. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members. (+S7.21.a.)
- b. All ministers of Word and Service under call on the rosters of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members. (+S7.21.b.)
- c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and at least 45 percent shall be men. (+S7.21.c.)
- d. The lay officers of this Synod shall not be counted as additional lay representatives in order to have at least 60% of the voting membership of the Assembly composed of lay persons. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod. (+S7.21.d.)
- e. Retired, On Leave from Call ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, on the official rosters of this Synod, as well as rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament and of Word and Service with disability status, shall be voting members of the Assembly if they have pre-registered by the date and in the manner provided by the Synod Council. Such guidelines shall provide for pre-registration sufficiently in advance of the Assembly so

as to allow the Synod to comply with provisions of Section +S7.21. of the Synod Constitution regarding the percentage relationship of clergy to lay membership at the Assembly. (S7.22.01.)

- f. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with +S7.21. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church. (S7.26.)
- g. A Minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod serving a congregation as an interim pastor or as a pastor under contract shall be a voting member of the Synod Assembly. In addition, those who have been licensed for Word and Sacrament ministry in the Northern Illinois Synod and intern pastors who have been licensed for Word and Sacrament ministry shall also be voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- h. All candidates for ordination at this assembly shall have voice and vote.

SA2.02 The Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (commonly known as “Light”) president, or designee, shall be a voting member of the Synod Assembly. (S7.27.A00.)

A SA2.03 Voting members are authorized by size of congregation. The listed baptized membership figures of all the Northern Illinois Synod congregations, as reported to the ELCA through each congregation’s year-end report (parochial report) as of 12/31/2019, is the basis for determining the number of lay voting members selected to attend the Synod Assembly. The baptized membership formula consists of the top 10% of our congregations receiving four (4) lay voting members, the next 10% of our congregations receiving three (3) lay voting members, and the remainder of our congregations receiving two (2) lay voting members.

SA2.04 In order to implement bylaw +6.04.02, each congregation may elect 1 additional youth (a voting member who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service) or 1 young adult (a voting member between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service). (S7.21.A11.)

SA2.05 Every congregation member eligible to vote at the Assembly shall have registered online to vote by April 14, 2021. (S7.21.03.)

SA2.06 The voting members are required to check-in upon their arrival in the Zoom platform prior to being allowed to enter the Synod Assembly. (S7.21.04.)

SA2.07 Compliance with the Constitution lay voting member percentage requirement for Synod Assemblies shall be established for all purposes at an Assembly by certification of the Credentials Committee that at least sixty percent (60%) of registered voting members to the Assembly are lay persons. (S.7.21.05.) Should there be insufficient lay voting members to comprise sixty percent (60%) of the

registered voting members, the Bishop may appoint as lay voting members from among members of Northern Illinois Synod congregations who are registered visitors to the Synod Assembly to bring the ratio of clergy and lay voting members within the constitutionally prescribed ratio. (S7.21.06.)

- SA2.08 It is the intention of this Synod that normally there shall be no more than one voting member\_of the Synod Assembly from a single household. (S7.21.A87.)
- A SA2.09 Voting members shall not absent themselves from any Assembly business without good cause.
- A SA3 QUORUM.**
- SA3.01 Fifty percent (50%) of the registered voting members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum. (S7.14.)
- A SA4 RIGHT OF VOICE AND VOTE.**
- A SA4.01 Livestreaming of the digital assembly shall normally be available for visitors to the assembly. Visitors will not be granted voice or vote.
- A SA4.02 The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time as well as Synod standing committee members, shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Bishop, Synod Council, or the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.
- SA4.03 Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this Synod. (+S7.31.) Voting shall normally be executed through a digital software platform.
- A SA4.04 Length of time of individual voice may be restricted by the chair to facilitate completion of business on schedule. Three (3) minutes per speaker shall be the standing rule. Challenges to the chair's ruling shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of attending voting members.
- A SA4.05 Identical or similar resolutions (as determined by the Resolutions Committee) received will be shared with the Assembly but will be bundled together as one (1) resolution for debate and vote.
- A SA4.06 Voting members shall remain muted during the digital assembly until such time as they wish to ask to speak by using the hand raise option in the software platform. The Bishop shall recognize the person wishing to speak and they will be spotlighted and asked to be unmuted. The speaker shall then offer their name and the name of the congregation they hold their membership. Once the speaker is finished speaking, they will be muted and unspotlighted.
- The privilege to speak on a given issue still must be appropriate to Robert's Rules of Order and the adopted Rules of the Assembly.

**A SA5 ASSEMBLY OFFICERS.**

- A SA5.01 The Bishop of this Synod, the Rev. Jeffrey Clements, shall serve as Presiding Officer of the Assembly (+S8.12.i2). In the absence of the Bishop or as the course of Assembly deliberations makes appropriate, the Bishop's designee shall serve as Presiding Officer.
- SA5.02 The Secretary of this Synod, the Rev. Don Knowles, shall serve as Secretary of the Assembly. (+S8.32.a.)
- A SA5.03 If an officer of the Synod Council, other than the Bishop, is unable to be present at the Assembly, the bishop may appoint an officer pro-tempore from among the Synod Council members to serve in that capacity during the Assembly.

**A SA6 ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES.**

SA6.01 The following shall be the committees of the Synod Assembly:

SA6.01.01 ***Credentials Committee.*** A Committee on Credentials shall be appointed by the Synod Council, which shall consist of a rostered minister serving a congregation in the city in which the Synod Assembly convenes and a minimum of two other persons. The duties of this committee shall be to approve the credentials of Synod Assembly voting members and to report to the Presiding Officer. (S7.34.01.)

SA6.01.02 ***Election Committee.*** An Election Committee shall be appointed by the Synod Council to conduct the elections and report the results to the Synod Assembly. (S7.34.02.)

SA6.01.03 ***Resolutions Committee.*** A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Synod Council and shall consist of five (5) members, of whom one may be appointed the parliamentarian of the Synod Assembly. (S7.34.03.)

Duties of the Resolutions Committee shall be as follows:

- a. Process all resolutions addressed to the Synod Assembly and report thereon with its recommendations.
- b. Provide such assistance to the Bishop as requested during the course of the Synod Assembly.

**A SA7 RESOLUTIONS, MEMORIALS, AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.**

A SA7.01 To assure presentation to the Synod Assembly, non-constitutional resolutions must be submitted to the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Resolutions Committee, 639 38<sup>th</sup> Street Rock Island, IL 61201, and emailed to Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Resolutions Committee, mhanson@nisynod.org not later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the Assembly. Resolutions received subsequent to that date shall not be accepted for consideration at this Assembly, unless the Resolutions Committee judges it to be a matter of sufficient importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already before the Assembly. The Resolutions Committee shall not receive resolutions subsequent to the opening of the Assembly.

When a resolution is submitted it shall contain: a) the signature of at least ten (10)

Synod Assembly voting members or is channeled through a congregation council, conference meeting, Synod Council or standing committee; b) the date on which the action was taken; c) a resource impact reporting form; d) the address of the group or person authorizing the resolution; and, if possible, e) the author's authority to edit the resolution be assigned to a voting member of the Assembly if the author is not present.

- A SA7.02 The Resolutions Committee may: a) recommend adoption of the resolution; b) recommend adoption with proposed amendment; c) recommend defeat of the resolution; d) recommend referral to another entity; e) forward without recommendation; f) offer a substitute motion; or, g) return the resolution to the submitter for clarification or editing.
- SA7.03 A resolution introduced by other than the Synod Council to amend the Constitution, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after having been presented in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Synod Assembly over the signatures of at least ten (10) members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. (+S18.13.a.)
- A SA7.04 Memorials to the Churchwide Assembly are not the only route for a Synod to express a concern. Resolutions may be passed that are addressed to a specific churchwide unit or to units that relate to a given concern. Resolutions may receive more immediate attention and follow a more direct route than memorials which await the Churchwide Assembly's response.

**A SA8 GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE.**

- SA8.01 Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly (S7.32.) or otherwise provided for in the Constitution or the bylaws of this church or in the Constitution or the bylaws of this Synod.
- A SA8.02 The Presiding Officer shall have the privilege of altering the rules of this Assembly as needed to facilitate the flow of action during the Assembly. The chair may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.
- A SA8.03 The Presiding Officer shall allow the report from the Election Committee to come to the floor at the earliest convenience and shall do so during the course of the agenda.

**A SA9 ELECTIONS.**

- SA9.01 The Assembly shall elect such officers of this Synod and such other persons as the Constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. (+S9.01.)
- SA9.02 In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the office of bishop, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. (S9.02.)
- A SA9.03 Whenever nominations are in order, the Nominating Committee will normally provide a minimum of two nominees, for each elected position. Nominations may be made from the floor of the Assembly for uncontested elections. (S9.03.)

- SA9.04 In all elections, except for the office of the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election (S9.08.)
- SA9.05 With the exception of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service rostered in synods other than synod of residence, each voting member of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committee, board, or other organizational unit of this Synod shall be a voting member of a congregation of this Synod. (S9.15.)