

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NEBRASKA SYNOD ELCA CONSTITUTION  
AS APPROVED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL, OCTOBER 14, 2023**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS**

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Nebraska Synod ELCA  
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Following is official notification of proposed amendments to the *Nebraska Synod ELCA Constitution* that were approved by the Nebraska Synod Council, October 14, 2023, to be brought forth to the 2024 Synod Assembly. Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

**Section 1: Amendments to Recommended Provisions** (as approved by the Churchwide Assembly, August 2022, and recommended by Nebraska Synod Constitution Review Committee)

**Chapter 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

- S7.14.** ~~One-half~~ One-third of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- S7.24.** Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless replaced by the election of new members for a special synod assembly, or until they have been disqualified by termination of congregation membership. ~~Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay representatives of authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly ~~of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~ the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.

**Chapter 8: OFFICERS**

- S8.42.** The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:  
[...]
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the

general work of this church as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.

## **Chapter 11: COMMITTEES (names of other organizational units)**

### **~~S11.10. General Provisions~~**

## **Chapter 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS**

**S14.13.** The pastor (a) shall keep accurate ~~parochial~~ records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

**S14.15.** Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of ~~his or her~~ ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

**S14.34.** Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of ~~his or her~~ ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

## **Section 2: Amendments to Recommended Provisions (as recommended by the Nebraska Synod Constitution Review Committee)**

## **Chapter 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

**S7.02.f.** Elect officers, ~~board members,~~ and other persons as provided in constitution or bylaws.

**S7.22.e.** One youth or young adult from each mission cluster unit in this synod, consistent with the provisions of ~~†S6.04.0201.~~

**S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.

**S7.27.28.** Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.

## **Chapter 9: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**S9.03.** There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of representatives of mission cluster units with consideration given to geographical representation and gender balance, alternating between clergy and lay persons. The members of the committee shall be elected by the Synod Council. Terms shall be for ~~two~~ three years with ~~one-half~~ third being elected annually. No person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms. The Synod Council shall appoint one of its members to serve on the committee.

Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee. Each floor nomination shall be presented as an additional nominee within a specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as other nominees in that category. Biographical data shall be provided for each nominee. Each nominee should have given prior consent to serve if elected.

**S9.04.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Nominating ballots shall be cast at spring mission cluster unit meetings. The first ballot at the Synod Assembly shall include the names of the persons who have consented to candidacy following nomination at mission cluster unit meetings, in keeping with the process specified in the bylaws. The names of other ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament may be written in on the first ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot and second ballots. If no one is elected on the first ballot, that ballot shall be considered the Synod Assembly's nominating ballot and the assembly shall proceed to the second ballot. Three-fourths of the legal 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 legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. Biographical data for the persons whose names shall appear on the third ballot shall be printed and distributed to members of the Assembly prior to the third ballot. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60% of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The final three candidates (plus ties) shall address the assembly. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

**S9.08.** In all elections of officers, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes ~~after the second ballot~~, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on ~~either the first or the second ballot~~ 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.

~~**S9.08.01.** In all elections except for bishop and those not covered by S9.08, the names of the two individuals receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot shall be entered on a second ballot. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of 22 the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.~~

## **Chapter 10: SYNOD COUNCIL**

**S10.01.09** Synod Council members are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

**S10.11** The Synod Council shall have an Executive Committee which shall be composed of the synod officers and three members of the Council elected by the Synod Council annually. The Executive Committee shall perform those functions of the Synod Council assigned to it by the Synod Council. The Executive Committee provides leadership for the Synod and may conduct business of the Synod in lieu of the Synod Council between regularly

scheduled Council meetings. Such business shall be conducted in accordance with established policies of the Synod. The Committee shall make the Council aware of all such business and decisions made by the Committee within fifteen business days.