

## SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD ELCA

### **Procedure for Selection of Retired, On Leave from Call, and Disabled Rostered Persons and Synod Authorized Ministers to Serve as Voting Members of the Synod Assembly**

PURPOSE: Section S7.22 of the Synod Constitution, as amended by the Synod Assembly on May 1, 2010, provides:

**S7.22** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

This document sets out the processes adopted by the Synod Council for the selection of such persons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly.

#### **Rostered Ministers Not Under Call**

This process applies to service as a voting member of the Synod Assembly by a person:

1. who is Minister of Word and Sacrament or Minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod;
2. whose status on the roster of this synod is “retired,” “on leave from call,” or “disabled,” and
3. who is not otherwise elected or eligible to serve as a voting member of the Synod Assembly in another capacity.

For ease of reference, the persons described above are referred to below individually as a “Rostered Minister Not Under Call” or “RMNUC” and collectively as “Rostered Ministers Not Under Call” or “RMNUCs.”

Up to 5 percent of the total number of Rostered Ministers Not Under Call will be selected to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, with voice and vote. The persons to serve in that capacity will be selected as follows:

- 1) All RMNUCs will be contacted by mail on or about February 1 of that assembly year to determine their willingness to serve as voting members, and advising them of the process of selection, including the deadline for responses.
- 2) Any RMNUC who is Minister of Word and Sacrament serving under at least a one-year contract with a congregation, agency or institution recognized by this synod and desires to serve, or who is serving as a Dean or Ministry Team Chair

within this synod, will automatically be included in the total number of RMNUCs serving as voting members. If the total number of such persons exceeds the 5 percent limit, the persons selected to serve will be chosen from among those persons desiring to serve by random drawing conducted by the Executive Committee or at its direction.

- 3) If the number of persons selected under the paragraph above is less than the total number of RMNUCs authorized to serve as voting members for the assembly, the remaining positions will be filled from among those who indicated their desire to serve by random drawing conducted by the Executive Committee or at its direction.
- 4) The RMNUCs chosen to serve as voting members will be notified of their selection as soon as practicable before the assembly.
- 5) In the event a voting member selected under this process is unable to attend the assembly, or no longer qualifies as a RMNUC, the Executive Committee may appoint a substitute to serve in his or her place from among those who previously indicated their desire to serve but were not selected.
- 6) RMNUCs serving as voting members under this process will be counted as clergy for purposes of satisfying the requirements of †S7.21.
- 7) Registration fees for the assembly will be waived for RMNUCs serving as voting members under this process. Any travel, housing, meal or other expenses incurred are the responsibility of the RMNUC.

### **Synod Authorized Ministers**

- 1) A Synod Authorized Minister in attendance at the Synod Assembly who is serving within a congregation under an authorization of at least one year in duration shall be a voting member of the Synod Assembly, with voice and vote.
- 2) Synod Authorized Ministers serving as voting members under this process will be counted as lay persons for purposes of satisfying the requirements of †S7.21.
- 3) Synod Authorized Ministers serving as voting members under this process will not be counted as a lay voting member from the congregation they serve for purposes of determining the number of lay voting members to be elected by the congregation.
- 4) Registration fees, travel, housing, meal and other expenses incurred in attending the Synod Assembly are the responsibility of the congregation served by the Synod Authorized Ministers.

### **General**

If the selection of voting members of the Synod Assembly under the processes above results in additional lay voting members being needed to meet the requirement that at least 60% of voting members of the assembly be lay persons, additional lay voting members from congregations will be selected in accordance with the process adopted by the Synod Council under †S7.21(c).

**Adopted by the Synod Council of the Southwestern Texas Synod on November 21, 2019.**