

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, in August 2025, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted required and permissive amendments to all synod constitutions; and

WHEREAS, the required amendments have been incorporated into the synod constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Assembly has the option of adopting the permissive provisions into the synod constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council reviewed the permissive provisions on October 11, 2025, and voted to recommend that the Synod Assembly adopt all permissive provisions as recommended by the Churchwide Assembly; and

WHEREAS, †S18.12. of the synod constitution explains the amendment process:

Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the *Constitution for Synods*, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the *Constitution for Synods* shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

WHEREAS, on October 10-11, 2025, the Synod Council voted to submit this resolution to the Synod Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Synod Assembly of the Western North Dakota Synod approves, effective immediately, the following amendments to the synod constitution:

**S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit persons currently serving as synod-authorized ministers and/or lay representatives of authorized worshiping communities and/or outreach ministries 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.

**S9.04.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating

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 receive the greatest number of legal votes (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons ~~(plus ties)~~ who receive the greatest number of legal votes (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. 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 (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the previous ballot.

**S10.05.** ~~No e~~Elected members of the Synod Council shall not receive compensation solely for such their service as council members.

**S10.06.** ~~No person related to a synod staff member shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Synod Council. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the synod employee, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).~~

**S10.0607.** If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet . . . .

**S10.0708.** The composition of the Synod Council . . . .

**S10.09.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.

**S13.40. Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities and Outreach Ministries**

**S13.41.** ~~Authorized worshiping~~Worshiping communities and outreach ministries, authorized by the synod and acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of 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.

SUBMITTED BY:

Western North Dakota Synod Council

Note:

On May 13, 2026, the Reference and Council Committee voted to recommend adoption by the Synod Assembly.