

**Recommendations of the Synod Council
Amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws,
and Continuing Resolutions of the Upper Susquehanna Synod**

1 The synod council moves to adopt the following amendments from 2022 Churchwide Assembly (needs majority vote – †S18.12.)

S7.21.01. *Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until ~~voting members are seated at the opening of the next regular Synod Assembly.~~*

S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of ~~consistent with~~ †S7.21.e 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.

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 10.02.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

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

f. ~~Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.~~

~~S11.10.—GENERAL PROVISIONS~~

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.

2 The synod council moves to adopt the following amendments to the Constitution of the Upper Susquehanna Synod and to empower the Secretary of the synod to make any adjustments to numbering related to these amendments. (needs 2/3 majority vote at two successive assemblies— †S18.13.)

- S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of the bishop of the synod or his/her representative, two persons chosen by the Synod Council from its own membership, and one member elected by each conference, to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Synod Nominating Committee. Additional nominations must have the prior consent of the ~~nominees~~ person being nominated.
- S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least ~~two~~ one persons for vice president; ~~additional nominations may be made from the floor~~.
- S9.06. The ~~Synod~~ Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for secretary; ~~additional nominations may be made from the floor~~.

3 The synod council moves to adopt the following amendments to Bylaws and to empower the Secretary of the synod to make any adjustments to numbering related to these amendments. (needs 2/3 majority vote – †S18.20.)

- S7.11.01. ~~The~~ A regular ~~assembly of the synod meeting of the Synod Assembly shall normally will~~ will be held annually as the Synod Council shall designate. The time and place of the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for ~~the next a~~ regular ~~assembly meeting of the Synod Assembly~~ normally shall be announced six (6) months prior to the assembly.
- S7.13.01. Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service on the roster of this synod and congregations of this synod shall be notified at least four weeks prior to the date of a regular or special ~~assembly meeting of the Synod Assembly~~. A bulletin of reports shall be sent to Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service on the roster of this synod, and congregational voting members at least one month before each regular assembly. Notice of the meeting and the bulletin of reports may be sent by electronic means.
- S7.22.01. Ministers of Word and Sacrament, retired, disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of this synod, who hold voting membership in a congregation of this synod,

shall have voice and vote at all Synod Assemblies.

S7.22.02 Ministers of Word and Service, retired, disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of this synod, who hold voting membership in a congregation of this synod, shall have voice and vote at all Synod Assemblies.

~~*S8.01.01 The officers shall have voice and vote at all Synod Council meetings.*~~

S8.01.02. No ~~elected official~~ officer or other duly appointed representative of this synod, acting in their office, shall accept personal, special remuneration for services rendered in behalf of this synod to any congregation or organization of this synod.

S9.01.01. Synod Assembly

a. General Provisions:

- 1) It shall be the responsibility of the Synod Assembly to elect voting members to the Churchwide Assembly, officers of the Synod, members of the Synod Council, members of the Consultation Committee, and members of the Committee on Discipline. ~~Two~~ Up to two nominees shall be presented for each position by the Synod Nominating Committee, along with biographical information for each nominee.*
- 2) All elections shall be by ballot, and the results shall be determined by simple majority unless otherwise designated by these bylaws or the constitution of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.*

b. Churchwide Assembly

- 1) Voting members to the Churchwide Assembly shall be elected according to the procedures set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; with an equal number of alternates.*
- 2) The bishop of the synod shall be empowered to fill vacancies that may occur in the synod voting membership within 30 days of the Churchwide Assembly.*
- 3) Unless otherwise determined by the Synod Council, the synod vice president shall serve as a voting member of the Churchwide assembly.*

c. Synod Council

- 1) Synod Council members, excluding the officers and youth member, shall be elected in such a way that approximately one-third of the terms expire in any given year.*
- 2) The Nominating Committee shall strive to maintain inclusivity on the synod council through the nominating process.*
- 3) The youth and young adult members shall each be a confirmed member of a congregation whose age is as defined by the ELCA churchwide expression (see footnote to S7.21.A10).*

S10.01.02. Term of Office

~~*a. Except for the officers and the youth member, each member elected to the Synod Council shall be elected for a term of three years. Each member shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.*~~

b. Newly elected members of synod council shall take office on the first day of August immediately following the synod assembly at which they are elected. Their terms shall end on the ~~31st day of July on which their respective terms end~~ when their successors are installed.

c. Each youth member elected to the Synod Council shall be elected for a term of

two years. Each youth member shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.

S10.03.01. Persons filling vacancies on ~~the Synod Council~~, boards, committees, and commissions shall serve for the unexpired term which shall be counted as a full term in determining eligibility for succession, except when the period of vacancy is less than one year. (see 10.03. f. above)

The following bylaw renumber S10.03.02.

S10.07.01. Functions of the Synod Council in addition to those specified in the synod constitution:

- a. Determination of the salaries and benefits of the bishop and staff of the synod, and maintenance of personnel policies governing those persons' employment and performance;*
- b. Confirmation of appointments by the bishop, including appointment of synod representatives to governing bodies of interchurch agencies to which the synod is related;*
- c. Creation of and appointment to any committees, commissions, and other organizations needed to fulfill the function of the Synod Council.*
- ~~*d. Election of members to the Board of Directors of the United Lutheran Seminary in accordance with the bylaws of the United Lutheran Seminary.*~~
- e. Establish and review policies, as necessary, that will be maintained in a Policy manual, which may be digital, and see that the policies are distributed appropriately.*
- f. When requested, elect or appoint directors or trustees to institutions or agencies as may be determined.*

Delete entirely *S11.03.01. ~~The Committee on Discipline shall...~~*

S12.01.01. ~~There shall be six conferences, namely: The number of conferences and their boundaries shall be established by the synod council. The conference names and boundaries shall be defined in the Continuing Resolutions.~~

~~*12.01.02—The conferences shall be bounded as determined by the synod council.*~~

S12.01.03. Each conference shall consist of:

- ~~*a. all congregations within its boundaries*~~
- b. All rostered ministers whose calls are within its boundaries and all rostered ministers who are retired, disabled, or on leave from call and holding membership in a congregation within its boundaries.*
- ~~*c. All Ministers of Word and Service within the conference.*~~

~~*12.01.04.—The boundaries and number of conferences shall be subject to redetermination by the Synod Council at six year intervals.*~~

S12.01.05. A ~~pastoral charge~~/congregation may petition Synod Council to move from one conference to another, and with the approval of and the Synod Council, or Synod Assembly the change shall be made.

S12.01.06. Each conference shall hold a meeting of its ministers of Word and Sacrament,

ministers of Word and Service, and the Synod assembly voting members of its congregations annually. This meeting shall be held no earlier than ~~two~~ three and no later than one months prior to the regular assembly of the synod. One-third the combined number of ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, and congregational voting members shall constitute a quorum. The dean of the conference shall chair this meeting. Each Conference shall establish procedures to ensure 60 percent lay voting member representation at each conference assembly.

S12.01.09 ~~The Juniata Valley, Tulpehocken, and West Branch conferences shall elect a secretary in the even-numbered years, the Middle Creek, Buffalo Valley and North Branch shall elect a secretary in the odd-numbered years.~~ The secretary, a rostered minister of the ELCA who is a member of the conference, shall be elected at the annual assembly of the conference. The procedure for election and the term of office shall be the same as that of the dean.

S12.01.12. Succession of Dean and Secretary.

- a. In the event of the resignation or the death of the dean, the ~~secretary of the conference shall~~ bishop shall appoint a rostered leader to perform the functions of the office of dean until the following assembly of the conference.

S12.01.13. The conference shall elect a representative to the Synod Nominating Committee (C9.03) every year who will. ~~This person shall be the chair of the conference nomination committee for the following year. In consultation with the conference dean the nomination committee chair shall select three congregation council presidents from the conference to serve on the nomination committee for that year. The conference nomination committee shall prior to the annual conference assembly~~

- a. Receive from the synod office a list of ballot openings, and
- b. Distribute to all congregation council presidents (or vice presidents) and pastors of the conference a list of ballot openings and invite their nominations for any ballot openings.
- ~~c. Receive nominations with biographical information. This information shall be distributed to all congregation council presidents (or vice presidents) and pastors no later than 15 days before annual conference assembly.~~

S13.02.01. Congregations are responsible for the payment of all assembly fees and costs, including travel expenses, for their ~~pastors~~ called Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service, and elected voting members.

S13.11.01. In the event of a pastoral vacancy in a congregation or ~~pastoral charge congregations~~, the bishop shall appoint an interim pastor in consultation with the conference dean and the Congregation Council.

S13.25.01. Terms of administration shall be negotiated by the congregation ~~pastoral charge~~ charge(s) and the Synod Council through the office of the bishop.

4 The synod council moves to adopt the following amendments to Continuing Resolutions and to empower the Secretary of the synod to make any adjustments to numbering related to these amendments. (needs simple majority vote – †S18.30.)

S.7.21.A23. The number of lay voting members to Synod Assembly from each

congregation shall be determined at least six months before the next scheduled regular assembly and be based upon baptized membership as reported on the previous year's parochial report.

S.7.21.B24. Each conference ~~shall~~ may elect two youth and two young adult (as defined in ELCA constitution chapter 6)¹ voting members and credential them with their home congregations. The credentialing of youth and young adult voting members elected by conferences shall be an exception to S.7.21.A23 in regard to the number of voting members from a congregation. The conference shall make all efforts possible to maintain the ratio of men and women of S.7.21.c. The synod will cover registration, room, and board expenses for these voting members.

S7.27.A17 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, serving by Extended Service a congregation of this synod, shall be granted voice and vote at any assembly held during the time of that minister's service.

S12.01.A25 There shall be six conferences made up of approximately equal numbers of congregations.

- a. The Buffalo Valley Conference includes Mazzeppa Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church (Cowan), Follmer Lutheran Church, St John Lutheran Church (Potts Grove), Christ's United Lutheran Church (Millmont), Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Lewisburg), Faith Lutheran Church (Lewisburg), First Evangelical Lutheran Church (Mifflinburg), Milton Lutheran Church, Messiah Lutheran Church (New Berlin), St John Lutheran Church (Winfield), Zion Lutheran Church (Turbotville), First Lutheran Church (Watson town), St John Lutheran Church (Watson town), United In Christ Lutheran Church (West Milton), Holy Spirit Lutheran Church (Turbotville).*
- b. The Juniata Valley Conference includes St John Lutheran Church (Belleville), St Paul Lutheran Church (Allensville), St Mark Lutheran Church (Alfarata), St Paul Lutheran Church (Milroy), St John Lutheran Church (Siglerville), Trinity Lutheran Church (McAlisterville), Messiah Lutheran Church (Mifflintown), St Stephen Lutheran Church (Licking Creek), St John Lutheran Church (Lewistown), Port Royal Lutheran Church, St Paul Lutheran Church (Nook), Evangelical Lutheran Church (Reedsville), Centre Lutheran Church, Holy Communion Lutheran Church (Yeagertown).*
- c. The Middle Creek Conference includes Messiah Lutheran Church (Troxelville), St Mark Lutheran Church (Dormantown), Trinity Lutheran*

¹ 1 Youth are those who have not attained age 18 at the time of election. Young adults are those who are 18 to 30 years of age.

Church (McClure), St John Lutheran Church (McClure), Botschaft Lutheran Church (), St Peter Lutheran Church (Freeburg), Zion Lutheran Church (Port Trevorton), Zion Lutheran Church (Kratzerville), Christ Lutheran Church (Middleburg), Emanuel Lutheran Church (Middleburg), Zion Lutheran Church (Mount Pleasant Mills), Faith Lutheran Church (Millerstown), St Paul Lutheran Church (Mount Pleasant Mills), St John Lutheran Church (Richfield), St John's Lutheran Church (Mount Pleasant Mills), Christ Lutheran Church (Middleburg), St Paul Lutheran Church (Middleburg), St Peter Lutheran Church (Kreamer), Salem Lutheran Church, St Paul Lutheran Church (Middle Creek Dam), St Matthew Lutheran Church (Shamokin Dam), Sharon Lutheran Church (Selinsgrove), Beaver Lutheran Church (Beaver Springs).

- d. The North Branch Conference includes Grace Lutheran Church (Berwick), St Matthew Lutheran Church (Bloomsburg), St Paul Lutheran Church (Danville), St Peter Lutheran Church (Columbia Hill), Pine Street Lutheran Church (Danville), Trinity Lutheran Church (Danville), St John Lutheran Church (Espy), St Peter Lutheran Church (Grovania), St John Lutheran Church (Mifflinville), Emanuel Lutheran Church (Mountain Grove), St Peter's Lutheran Church (Mountain Grove), Trinity Lutheran Church (Mainville), St Paul Lutheran Church (Numidia), Trinity Lutheran Church (Oak Grove), Washingtonville Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Berwick), Christ United Lutheran Church (Catawissa).
- e. The Tulpehocken Conference includes St John Lutheran Church (Leck Kill), St John Lutheran Church (Danville), St Mark Lutheran Church (Elysburg), Grace Lutheran Church (Shamokin), St Paul Lutheran Church (Gowan City), St Peter Lutheran Church (West Cameron), Zion Lutheran Church (Trevorton), Zion Lutheran Church (Herndon), Zion Lutheran Church (Dalmatia), Zion Lutheran Church (Pillow), Himmel Lutheran Church (Rebuck), St John Lutheran Church (Northumberland), Grace Lutheran Church (Point Township), Trinity Lutheran Church (Point Township), Zion Lutheran Church (Sunbury), United Lutheran Church (Sunbury).
- f. The West Branch Conference includes St John Lutheran Church (Unityville), Gethsemane Lutheran Church (Arnot), Messiah Lutheran Church (Clarkstown), St Michael Lutheran Church (Quiggleville), Garman Lutheran Church (Jersey Shore), Trinity Lutheran Church (Hughesville), Grace Lutheran Church (Jersey Shore), St John Lutheran Church (Jersey Shore), Friedens Lutheran Church (Liberty), Liberty Lutheran Church, Salem Lutheran Church (Liberty), Siloa Lutheran Church (Morris Run), St James Lutheran Church (Rauchtown), St Paul Lutheran Church (Mill Hall),

Zions Lutheran Church (Renovo), Messiah Lutheran Church (South Williamsport), St John Lutheran Church (Booneville), St Paul's Lutheran Church (Loganton), Salona Lutheran Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church (Williamsport), St Luke Lutheran Church (Williamsport), St Mark Lutheran Church (Williamsport), St John Lutheran Church (Montgomery), Mount Zions Lutheran Church (Hughesville), United Lutheran Church (Lock Haven)

~~S9.03.A20 — All ordained ministers shall be eligible for nomination to Synod election by the conference in which they hold congregational membership.~~

S12.01.08.B07. The Conference Dean ~~shall~~:

- a. The Middle Creek, Buffalo Valley and North Branch conferences shall elect a dean in the even-numbered years, Juniata Valley, Tulpehocken, and West Branch shall elect a dean in the odd-numbered years. Each dean shall
 - i. Attend dean's meetings with the bishop of this synod as requested, sharing information between the bishop, other deans, and the rostered leaders of their conference in a timely manner. In the event the dean cannot attend a meeting, another rostered leader from the conference may be appointed to attend.

Renumber the remaining paragraphs.

S12.01.09.D07. The Conference Secretary shall:

- a. The Juniata Valley, Tulpehocken, and West Branch conferences shall elect a secretary in the even-numbered years, the Middle Creek, Buffalo Valley and North Branch shall elect a secretary in the odd-numbered years. Each secretary shall
 - i. Maintain an unofficial roster of all rostered leaders with membership in the conference, including current contact information.

Renumber the remaining paragraphs.