

EXHIBIT C

Synod Council Recommendation 6 for Updating the SWPA Synod Bylaws

GROUP C Bylaws

These changes require one vote of the Synod Assembly

(1) Adopt new Bylaw B7.27.01.

B7.27.01. Those Ministers of Word and Sacrament from a church body with whom the ELCA has a relationship of full communion who are serving a congregation of this synod under a letter of invitation to extended service shall have the privilege of voice and vote at Synod Assembly.

Rationale: The current process is for the Synod Council before each Synod Assembly to identify those eligible pastors and recommend to the assembly that they be given voice and vote. The assembly then acts on that recommendation. This will streamline the process and make the beginning of the Synod Assembly more efficient.

(2) Delete Bylaw B7.32.01

~~B7.32.01. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the conduct of business at meetings of the Synod Assembly except where these bylaws otherwise provide.~~

Rationale: This Bylaw is redundant with S7.32.

(3) Adopt new Bylaw B8.52.01.

B8.52.01. The term of the Treasurer shall begin on the first day of February to coincide with the beginning of the new fiscal year of the synod.

Rationale: This brings the beginning of the term for the Synod Treasurer into line with our current practice. †8.52 was changed at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly to add a dagger to make it mandatory and thus nullifying the 2019 version of the Constitution for Synods where we had the date set previously.

(4) Delete last sentence of Bylaw B9.10.01.

B9.10.01. For the election of voting members to the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Nominating Committee shall present two panels of candidates. One panel, from which one-third of the total number of voting members will be chosen, shall be restricted to persons who have not previously served as voting members at a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The other panel, from which the remainder of the voting members will be chosen, may include names of persons who have attended Churchwide Assemblies of the Church as well as names of those who have not attended such Assemblies. Nominations from the floor for these positions shall be subject to the restrictions outlined above. Each panel shall have at least sixty percent lay persons and forty percent clergy. ~~The laity shall be divided to assure that fifty percent are female and fifty percent are male.~~

Rationale: per ELCA Constitution 5.01.e. and 5.01.f. and S7.21.b. Boards, committees and assemblies are to be as near as possible to 45% women and 45% men.

EXHIBIT C - cont'd.

(5) Delete Bylaw B10.02.02.

~~B10.02.02 The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of the synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not precluded by provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.~~

Rationale: This Bylaw is redundant with S10.02.

(6) Delete Bylaw B10.03.01.

~~B10.03.01 The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod.
Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
Provide for an annual review of the roster of pastors and deacons of the synod and take appropriate action regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
Issue letters of call to pastors and deacons of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.
Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of the Synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the synod.
Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
Establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of members in the congregation. (See Constitution S7.21c)
Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of the synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly~~

Rationale: This Bylaw is redundant with S10.03.

(7) Amend Bylaw B11.01.05.g.

~~B11.01.05.g. The Synod council shall appoint members of committees who are pastors and deacons on the roster of this synod, full communion partner clergy serving in this synod under an ecumenical letter of agreement a Letter of Invitation to Extended Service, and lay voting members of a synod congregations.~~

Rationale: This brings the Bylaw in line with the current terminology and documentation used at this time in the ELCA.

(8) Amendment to Bylaw B11.01.04.

B11.04.01. Office of Ecumenical Affairs Committee

There shall be an ~~Office of~~ Ecumenical Affairs Committee appointed by the Bishop with Synod Council approval, accountable to the Office of Bishop, which shall be responsible to assist the Bishop in coordinating inter-Lutheran, ecumenical, and interfaith activities on the territory of this Synod; support and monitor the work of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Council of Churches; and monitor and interpret ~~the~~ this church's involvement in the National Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, and Lutheran World Federation.

Rationale: We no longer refer to this as an "office". It is referred to as a committee in every other area of usage in the Synod.

EXHIBIT C - cont'd.**(9) Amend Bylaw B12.01.04.**

B12.01.04. The voting body at a conference meeting shall consist of the lay persons elected by each congregation based on the lay voter formula which the Synod Council has established for that year's Synod Assembly ~~consist of 2 lay voting members (one male, one female) from each congregation, and its their~~ pastor(s), as well as deacons under call on the roster of the Synod who hold membership in a congregation of that conference; pastors and deacons on the roster of the synod serving in specialized ministries; and retired pastors and deacons who hold congregational membership in that conference; and pastors and deacons on leave from call who are not undergoing discipline and who hold congregational membership in that conference. However, if a retired pastor on leave from call is serving as an Interim Pastor for a congregation, that pastor shall function as a member of the conference ~~to of~~ which the congregation being served is a member and not function at that time as a member of the conference in which ~~he/she the pastor or deacon~~ holds congregational membership. ~~Each congregation with a baptized membership of more than 600 but less than 850 shall be entitled to 1 additional lay voting member. Each congregation with baptized membership of 850 or more but less than 1,000 shall be entitled to 2 additional lay voting members. Each congregation with baptized membership of 1,000 or more but less than 1,250 shall be entitled to 3 additional lay voting members. Each congregation with baptized membership of 1,250 or more but less than 1,500 shall be entitled to 4 additional lay voting members. Congregations which have a baptized membership of 1,500 or more shall be entitled to an additional lay voting member for each increment of 250 additional baptized members. Additional voting members from each congregation shall be divided equally between male and female if there are an even number of additional voting members. If there is an odd number of voting members, the odd numbered voting member may be either male or female.~~

Rationale: This formula sets a different formula than the Synod Assembly and the bylaw formula disenfranchises some congregations who do not fall into one category for the conference meeting, but into another for Synod Assembly. Why have a different formula for conferences than the assembly? It makes more sense to just use the Synod Assembly formula.