

**Resolution for the External Phases with regard to the Discernment Process for
the 2019 Bishop's Election of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America**

WHEREAS, the ELCA Required Provision †**S18.31** of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states:

†**S18.31.** This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church;

WHEREAS, Provision **S9.04** of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states:

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 received the greatest number of legal votes 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 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 on the previous ballot;

WHEREAS, all processes with regard to the discernment process for the 2019 Bishop's Election of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America cannot be in conflict with †**S18.31** and **S9.04**;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 2019 Southern Ohio Synod Call Process Task Force for the Office of Bishop recommends for adoption the following four (4) External Phases with regard to the Discernment Process for the 2019 Bishop's Election of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

- I. **First Phase - Many Members, One Body of Christ**
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 1 Corinthians 12:1-14:12
Timeline: March 6 - April 26, 2019

February 28: Synod Assembly Registration Opens. Devotional materials are distributed to the congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod.

March 6: Devotional materials begin for the congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod.

April 2: Discernment Forms are distributed to congregations. Congregations fill out Discernment Forms for individuals they would like to be considered for nomination on the First Ballot. [Note: Nominations are not official until the First Nominating Ballot at the 2019 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly.]

April 26: Names for Congregational Discernment Forms are due to the Synod Office by the end of the day local Synod time.

II. Second Phase - Many Gifts, One Body of Christ

Scripture: Joshua 1:1-9; Matthew 28:18-20; Titus 1:7-8

Timeline: April 27 - May 10, 2019

April 27: Synod Council meets together. Discernment Forms may begin to be submitted to Southern Ohio Synod Office.

May 10: Completed Discernment Forms are due to Southern Ohio Synod Office by end of the local Synod time.

Part A: For congregations to continue discernment about gifts for the next Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod.

Part B: For individuals who have submitted their names on a discernment form or have had their names submitted by congregations on a discernment form.

(Note: Parts A & B will run concurrently.)

III. Third Phase - Specific Gifts, One Body of Christ

Scripture: Luke 24:13-33

Timeline: May 11 - June 8, 2019

May 23: Bulletin of Reports (with submitted & completed Discernment Forms) distributed.

IV. Fourth Phase - Sent Together as the Body of Christ

Congregational Scripture: John 20:21-23; Matthew 28:18-20

Bishop's Scripture: Exodus 18:13-27; 2 Timothy 1:13-14

Timeline: June 9-into the future, 2019

Part A: For congregations to continue doing the work God has set before us.

Part B: For the individual called to serve as Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA.

(Note: Parts A & B will run concurrently.)