

Bishop Term Limit Amendment Memorial

Whereas God calls and equips people of all ages and backgrounds to service in the ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

Whereas the ELCA is organized into synods, each of which are led by duly called and elected bishops; and

Whereas each synodical bishop brings his/her own set of God-given gifts and abilities; and

Whereas, the pace at which society and the world are changing is escalating exponentially; and

Whereas, no one person is gifted with every skill and ability needed to lead in all times and situations;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Southern Ohio Synod, in Assembly, amend paragraph S8.51.a. to read as follows “The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected only once.”

Be it further resolved, that paragraph S8.51.01 be amended to read as follows “The bishop, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer may be reelected only once.”; and

Be it further resolved that any other paragraphs of the Synod Constitution which conflict with these proposed amendments shall themselves be amended to reflect this change; and

Be it further resolved, that these amendments take effect as soon as possible and shall apply to the election and call of the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod elected at the 2013 Synod assembly.

Signed by the following voting members of the Southern Ohio Synod:

Gary Eichhorn
Bob Miller
Rachel Lammi
Bob Ashburn
Carl Fisher

Jamie Vannoy
Peter Ray
John Mittermaier
Ron Wean

Joe Wolf
Monte Stevens
Tim Kuenzli
Steve Kimpel

Must commune 4 times

Whereas our congregations are formed by gathering around the Gospel proclaimed in word and sacrament, and not around an offering basket, and

Whereas Luther said that if a person did not commune at least four times a year that person was no Christian, and

Whereas when people have greater requirements for membership, they value that membership more, be it therefore

Resolved that the Southern Ohio Synod in Assembly memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to alter the model constitution so that in order to be considered active, a member would have to have communed four times in the previous twelve months, and that the requirement for contributions be eliminated.

Submitted by:

The Muskingum Conference

Proposed Amendment to the SOS Constitution

Whereas the Conference is a genuine expression of Church;

Whereas the Church gathered in assembly calls and then elects those chosen to lead the saints according to the model, "it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:22a, 28a)

Whereas, since ancient times, local laity and clergy elected their own leadership to serve them in their behalf (for example, the election of St. Ambrose as Bishop of Milan);

Whereas, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, members of the Conference Assembly are most familiar with those who best may serve as the voice of the Conference on the Synod Council and in other elected positions of leadership within the our church;

Whereas the Conference Members of the Synod Council and of the Churchwide Assembly are the primary voice of the Conference in the larger church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That in By-Law **S10.07.01 b.** of the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution be amended to read:

One ordained minister and two laypersons, one male and one female, from each of the conferences, to be elected by the Synod/Conference Assembly and ratified by the Synod Assembly upon nomination by the Conference Assembly with further nominations from the floor/without further nominations from the floor. The Nominating Committee may only make nominations for these positions when the Conference fails to make timely nominations. Each position shall have at least two/one nominees/nominee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That in By-Law **S9.03.02** of the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution be amended to read:

In all elections by the Synod Assembly not otherwise provided for in this constitution and by-laws, the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two/one persons/person for the office to be filled; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That in By-Law **S9.03.03** of the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution be amended to read:

The Nomination Committee/Conference Assembly shall nominate persons for election as voting members of the Churchwide Assembly so that there shall be elected at least one ordained minister and one lay person from each conference. The Nominating Committee shall nominate together with a sufficient number of additional persons who shall be elected on an at-large basis. The Nomination Committee may establish such categories for nominations as are necessary to assure that the synod's delegation of voting members of the Churchwide Assembly meets the requirements of S6.04. Nominations for/from the floor shall be consistent with any categories established by the Nominating Committee.

Underlined material is to be deleted. *Italicized* material is to be substituted or added.
Location: Conference Two Memorial

Healing Wounded Churches Resolution

WHEREAS, the root word for "salvation" is "to cure, heal," and,

Whereas, Jesus' ministry demonstrates that healing is the evidence of the presence and activity of God, and,

Whereas, we have been called, through Christ's mandate and promise, to heal the wounded, and,

Whereas, the evidence of past faithfulness to the promise and mandate of healing resulted in churches founding most of the hospitals in existence today, and,

Whereas, the lack of healing in churches compromises the witness to the God who heals, and,

Whereas, churches are not immune from trauma due to leadership abuse, neglect, bullying, harassment, and theft, and,

Whereas, workplace studies show that "trauma is not limited to physical harm, but leadership abuse, bullying, harassment, neglect, or theft becomes a detriment to the health, success, commitment, and productivity of the workplace," and,

Whereas, "it is critical that employers have plans in place to prevent and manage workplace trauma," and,

Whereas, despite many wounded congregations, Southern Ohio Synod has not identified wound care plans, criteria, and informed resources to directly heal the wounds of churches and individuals, and,

Whereas, an institutional focus on securing the budget, programming, or doctrinal compliance in a church that has been traumatized is not a wound care plan sufficient to heal a traumatized church, and,

Whereas, to delay implementing wound care plans to wounded churches only makes permanent unhealthy survival patterns which impede the focus, life, health, and mission of the church, and,

Whereas, those church bodies who have explicitly named "healing" in their vision and mission statements, which is also reflected in their organizational planning and structure, are expanding, while those church bodies that do not name healing or reflect it through their organizational planning and structure, are contracting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southern Ohio Synod take responsibility for

its own history of further wounding itself and others by resorting to institutional solutions instead of developing wound care plans, through individual and corporate confession, and,

Be it further resolved that the SOS begin to make amends by incorporating the word “healing” into its mission and vision statements and by encouraging individual congregations to do the same, and,

Be it further resolved that the SOS encourage congregations to take time in worship to let people speak the names of those in need of healing as well as to celebrate those who have been healed, and,

Be it finally resolved, that the SOS make further amends by identifying and developing wound care protocol for churches which include: the organizational structure to debrief the trauma, the community resources to assist in processing the trauma, and the informed and trained leadership to assist in transforming the wounded into wounded healers.

AND FURTHER, LET THE SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD MEMORIALIZE THE ELCA, to include trauma education as part of the seminary curricula where leadership candidates become empowered to articulate and identify trauma's effects on the thinking, behavior, and relationships of people, and,

Be it further resolved that seminary curricula educate and empower candidates to identify and articulate the difference between unhealthy, post trauma survival patterns versus healthy relationship patterns, and,

Be it further resolved that seminary curricula educate and empower candidates to identify and articulate their own trauma histories before taking the trauma histories of those churches they serve, and,

Be it further resolved that seminary curricula educate and empower candidates to identify, develop, and implement basic post trauma wound care plans which also include identifying First Responder Community resources which can aid in the assessment, intervention, and development of wound care plans, and,

Be it finally resolved that all leaders be trained, healed, and empowered to proclaim and celebrate a theology from the cross, where, as God transformed the Trauma of the Cross into a sign of life and blessing, so does God transform all our traumas to signs of life and blessing for the world.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
MIGHTY FORTRESS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND,
MIGHTY FORTRESS CHURCH COUNCIL, KETTERING, OHIO

Resolution regarding Clergy burnout

Whereas pastors are regularly burning out from their duties, and

Whereas this leads to clergy leaving the ministry, and

Whereas this also leads to short pastorates, and

Whereas this leads to health problems for pastors, and

Whereas the synod says that it is concerned that pastors have good health, and

Whereas longer pastorates and healthier pastors leads to greater growth in congregations, be it therefore

Resolved that a task force be formed to give greater detail in the compensation guidelines concerning sabbatical leave.

Submitted by:

The Muskingum Conference