

Proposed Changes to Southern Ohio Synod Bylaws, November 24, 2014

Procedural actions for bylaw changes:

In accordance with †§18.20. and †§18.21. (as shown below), the Synod Council recommends the 2015 Synod Assembly approve the following bylaw changes. This action requires a 2/3 vote of the Synod Assembly.

†§18.20. Amendments to Bylaws

†§18.21. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution nor with the constitution and bylaws of this church. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

Recommended bylaw changes:

- S1.01.01. The principal office of this synod shall be located in Columbus, Ohio the geographic territory of the Southern Ohio Synod, as recommended by the Synod Council and ratified by the Assembly.
- S7.11.01. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held each year at least biennially between the dates of March 1 and September 1 on dates chosen by the Synod Council in consultation with an assembly planning task force.
- S7.11.02. The Synod shall provide at least biennially a Synod-wide conference for rostered leaders to address issues of theology, continuing education, worship, or fellowship as deemed appropriate by the Bishop and Synod Council and subject to budget restrictions.
- ~~S7.13.01.~~ The secretary shall give written notice to the membership of the time and place of each meeting of the Synod Assembly at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.
- ~~S7.13.02.~~ **S7.13.01** The secretary shall provide the membership with all reports and recommendations to be considered at a meeting of the Synod Assembly at least 15 days in advance of the meeting.
- S7.21.01. Two lay members elected by each congregation, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation normally shall be divided equally between male and female.
- S7.22.01.** Retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who have registered to attend the Synod Assembly shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly. Ordained ministers on leave from call (except those on leave from call for disciplinary reasons) on the roster of the synod who have registered to attend the Synod Assembly shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.22.02.** The Synod Council shall establish a process which will assure that at least 60% of the voting membership of the Synod Assembly shall be lay persons

~~S9.01.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect representatives, as requested, to the Board of Directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary.~~

S9.01.02. The Synod Assembly shall elect voting members of the Churchwide Assembly in such number as the synod is entitled to elect. The bishop, who is ex officio member of the Churchwide Assembly and shall be included in the number of voting members.

S9.03.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly not otherwise provided for in this constitution and bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two one persons for the office to be filled; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.03.03. The Nominating Committee 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 layperson from each conference, together with a sufficient number of additional persons who shall be elected on an at-large basis. The Nominating 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 the floor shall be consistent with any categories established by the Nominating Committee.

S9.03.04. The Nominating 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 from the floor shall be consistent with any categories established by the Nominating Committee.

S9.05.01. The Nominating Committee shall prayerfully seek to nominate more than one person for vice president.

S9.06.01. The Synod Council shall prayerfully seek to nominate more than one person for secretary.

S9.07.01. The Synod Council shall prayerfully seek to nominate more than one person for treasurer.

S10.07.01. The Synod Council shall consist of the following members:

a. The four officers.

b. One ordained minister and two laypersons, one male and one female, from each of the conferences, to be elected by the Synod Assembly upon nomination by the Conference Assembly with further nomination from the floor. The Nominating Committee may only make nominations for these positions when the Conference Assembly fails to make timely nominations. Each position shall have at least two one nominees.

c. One ordained minister and two laypersons, one male and one female, to be elected by the Synod Assembly upon nomination by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may establish such categories for nomination as are necessary to assure that the membership of the Synod Council meets the requirements of †S6.04. Nominations from the floor shall be consistent with any categories established by the Nominating committee.

d. One youth, who shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod and who shall not have reached the age of 18 at the time of the election, to be elected by the Synod Assembly upon nomination by the Nominating Committee.

e. One member from the men's organization to be elected by the Synod Assembly upon nomination by the Nominating Committee.

f. One member from the women's organization to be elected by the Synod Assembly upon nomination by the Nominating Committee.

- S10.07.03.** When a vacancy occurs, the synod council shall fill it by appointment until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly which shall elect a member to complete the unexpired term of office. ~~Except for the youth member, anyone~~ ~~Anyone~~ elected to an unexpired term of two years or less shall be eligible at the conclusion of that term to be elected to a term of four years and may be reelected only once. ~~A youth member elected to an unexpired term of one year or less shall be eligible at the conclusion of that term to be elected to a term of one year and may be reelected once.~~
- S10.07.06.** To the extent permitted by law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.
- S11.01.33.** There shall be a Synod Candidacy Committee appointed by the Synod Council. Composition and duties of this committee are set forth in ~~the ELCA Candidacy Manual~~ ~~accordance with the processes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~
- S11.01.51.** Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, or in the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the following mission teams shall be established:
- Team for Leadership Development and Support which shall be concerned with developing and strengthening both lay leaders and rostered leaders. ~~This team shall relate to the churchwide Divisions for Ministry, and Higher Education and Schools.~~
 - b. Team for Congregational Ministries and Support which shall be concerned with congregational ministries and the synod organizations for women, men and youth. ~~This team shall relate to the churchwide Division for Congregational Ministries.~~
 - c. Team for Outreach Ministries and Support which shall be concerned with making disciples of all and serving those in need. ~~This team shall relate to the churchwide Division for Outreach, Church in Society, and Global Missions.~~
- S12.01.01** This Synod shall have six conferences: Central Ohio, Cincinnati, Dayton, Northwest, Muskingum and Scioto. ~~Conference membership shall be proposed by the Synod Council and approved by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly.~~ ~~Changes in conference membership may be made by petitioning the Synod Council for action at a subsequent Synod Assembly, or may be presented directly to the Assembly and subject to Assembly rules.~~
- S12.01.02** ~~Conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions within the Synod territory shall exist only with Synod Council approval.~~
- S12.01.03** ~~Conference membership shall be proposed by the Synod Council and approved by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly. Changes in conference membership may be made by petitioning the Synod Council for action at a subsequent Synod Assembly, or may be presented directly to the Assembly and subject to Assembly rules.~~
- S12.01.11.** ~~Each conference shall meet in a Conference Assembly at least once a year.~~
- S12.01.12.** ~~All ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers under call who are voting members of the Synod Assembly and are members of a congregation of the conference shall be voting members of the Conference Assembly.~~
- S12.01.13.** ~~It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of the conference annually to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Conference Assembly. The number shall be equal to the number of lay voting members of the Synod Assembly from that congregation.~~

S12.01.21. — The Conference Assembly, by procedures of its own choosing, shall elect a president and a secretary as its officers.

S12.01.22. — The conference president shall convene and preside at meetings of the Conference Assembly and the Conference Council.

S12.01.23. — The conference secretary shall keep minutes and records of the Conference Assembly and the Conference Council.

S12.01.31. — The Conference Assembly, by procedures of its own choosing, shall elect a Conference Council and fix its duties.

S12.01.32. — The Conference Council shall consist of the two officers of the conference; four ordained ministers; six laypersons, three male and three female; and such advisors as the Conference shall determine.

S12.01.33. — The Conference Council shall plan ministry and programs for its constituency.

S12.01.34. — Each Conference Council shall recommend candidates to the Conference Assembly for election to open positions on the Synod Council as described in

S12.01.41. — Conferences may subdivide into clusters or coalitions as each conference may determine.

S12.01.51. — This synod may establish non-geographical clusters or coalitions.

S13.01.01. — No congregation of this synod shall hold dual affiliation with another church body.