



Legislative Update
Friday, August 12, 2016

Consideration of the Word and Service Proposal

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Roster of Ministry of Word and Service, and Section VI, Report and Recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force.

The Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, chair of the Conference of Bishops and member of the Church Council, made the motion on behalf of the council.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-864; NO-32

CA16.05.09

To thank the Word and Service Task Force members and all who contributed to its work to develop a proposal to establish a single, unified roster of Word and Service;

To unify the three existing Official Rosters of Laypersons (Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Diaconal Ministers) into a roster of Ministry of Word and Service;

To ensure that individuals on the three existing rosters of Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Diaconal Ministers be automatically transferred to the roster of Ministry of Word and Service, unless a person on an existing roster declines, and that the existing rosters be eliminated with the establishment of the new roster on January 1, 2017;

To endorse the other recommendations of the task force regarding this new roster; and

To give thanks to God for the ministry of all who have served and are serving on the present lay rosters and to express confidence that God is leading this church into God's future.

Consideration of the Word and Service Amendments to Governing Documents

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Constitutional Amendments Related to a Roster of Ministry of Word and Service.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called on the *Ad Hoc* Committee to present its report and recommendations.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Other, Report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Christine P. Connell, Church Council member from Staten Island, N.Y., and the Rev. Mark E. Narum, bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod, co-chairs of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, presented the report of the committee.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-889; NO-15

CA16.05.10

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words "associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Service" in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial correction that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.