

## 2017 South Dakota Synod Assembly Resolutions

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**Resolution #: 1**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

**Subject: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members**  
**Source: Resolutions Committee**

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod, ELCA elect the following conference nominees to the South Dakota Synod Council for a term of four years:

Medary Conference (Clergy)	Rev. Shelly Gehring, Madison
Crossroads Conference (Lay)	Jan Haugen-Rogers, Sioux Falls
Northern Plains Conference (Lay)	VACANT
Prairie Rivers Conference (Lay)	VACANT

**Subject: LSS Campaign for Hope**

**Source: All Seven Conferences of the South Dakota Synod**

WHEREAS, Hebrews 13:1 tells us to “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it”; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services has been offering hospitality to strangers that is comforting and welcoming for nearly 100 years; and

WHEREAS, LSS touched the lives of South Dakotans 52,001 times last year, responding to the ever-changing needs of our communities, bringing solutions, people and resources; and

WHEREAS, the “Campaign for Hope” will allow LSS to centralize its core services on a campus-like setting in Sioux Falls. From this efficient hub, administrative and program services will stretch to existing sites in Aberdeen, Brookings, Mitchell, Rapid City, Watertown, Yankton, and every corner of our state. Space will be designed to accommodate technology and expand telehealth services in mental health and chemical dependency counseling to rural parts of the state; and

WHEREAS, The campus-like setting will improve access to services for clients with multiple needs and would also allow LSS staff to work more collaboratively as a result of closer proximity to each other. LSS chose a location that is accessible to those who want to utilize our services; the new site is just a few blocks from the main transfer station for the Sioux Falls bus system. The new location has adequate parking space and is easily accessible; and

WHEREAS, the campus-like setting is the new permanent home for the LSS Center for New Americans, the only refugee resettlement agency in South Dakota. The space includes 7 classrooms to meet demand for community orientation classes, four levels of English as a second language classes, customized vocational English classes, and citizenship classes. The reception and waiting area provides a safe and welcoming environment; and

WHEREAS, LSS has a long tradition of fiscal responsibility and of changing services in response to the changing needs of communities across South Dakota. The campus setting will allow a better utilization of our financial resources by eliminating duplication of expenses on maintenance, energy usage, instructional technology, classrooms and meeting spaces. As a result, relocating services to a campus setting will allow at least \$66,000 currently spent on annual operating costs to be allocated to direct client services across the state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly celebrates the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota by affirming the “Campaign for Hope” and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the South Dakota Synod support the “Campaign for Hope” through prayer, volunteer assistance and through a special congregational campaign to be conducted in the next three years, starting in the fall of 2017; and be it finally

**Resolution #: 2**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly authorize the Synod Council to approve details of the campaign as it relates to congregations of the South Dakota Synod.

**Resolution #: 3**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

**Subject: South Dakota Synod Constitution Amendments**  
**Source: Synod Council**

Background information: related to the report and recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted constitutional amendments necessary to unify the three lay rosters into one Ministry of Word and Service. Additionally, the words “ordained minister/s”, and “clergy” were replaced with minister/s of Word and Sacrament.

These amendments may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote at one assembly under +S18.12.

RESOLVED, the South Dakota Synod Council at the March 17, 2017, meeting recommended to adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitution* of the South Dakota Synod.

- S7.11.01. ~~The Synod Assembly of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall meet annually. The time and place of the South Dakota Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place of the next regular assembly normally shall be announced 12 months prior to the assembly.~~
- S7.22.** ~~Retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly if they are elected by their congregations and if the 60 percent minimum representation of lay persons required by +S7.21. is satisfied.~~  
~~All retired ordained ministers, all ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call or retired, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call or retired, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call or retired, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.~~  
~~This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.~~
- S7.24.** ~~Ordained ministers—Ministers~~ under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of ordained ministers of this synod. ~~Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod.~~ Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant ~~an ordained a~~ minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the

**Resolution #: 3**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ~~ordained~~ minister's service in a congregation of this church.

- S8.55.** Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held, or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be four years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a four year term.
- S10.03.** The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
- ...
- d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ~~ordained ministers and of other official rosters~~ Ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Ministers of Word and Service, receive and act upon and make appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- e. Issue letters of call to ~~ordained-rostered~~ ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- ...
- S11.11.** This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of +S6.04. With the exception of ~~ordained~~ ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a confirmed-voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S13.11.** When a ~~pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered~~ minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12.** A congregation under financial obligation to its ~~former pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered~~ minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- S14.0313.** The pastor (a) shall be responsible for keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, and (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod. ~~The pastor shall be a member of the congregation that has extended the letter of call. If a pastor serves more than one congregation, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations, and (c) shall become a member of the~~

**Resolution #: 3**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

- S14.0414.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.0515.** Each ordained minister of Word and Sacrament on the roll-roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of this synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S14.1217.** No ordained minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. ~~An ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- S14.2125.** All ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.
- S14.33.** The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.34.** Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issued the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- S14.47.** All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

**Subject: South Dakota Synod Constitution Amendments 2**  
**Source: Synod Council**

The following constitutional amendments are recommended to reflect the ELCA Model Constitution for Synods.

These amendments may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote at one assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly under +S18.12.

RESOLVED, the South Dakota Synod Council at the March 17, 2017, meeting recommended to adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitution* of the South Dakota Synod.

- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~authorized mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered~~ congregations ~~under development~~ and authorized worshipping communities of this synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with +S7.21. ~~Authorized worshipping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.~~
- S8.42.** The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:
- ...
- f. ~~Giving of corporate surety~~ Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. ~~and~~ ~~†~~ The premium for it the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.
- S9.05.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two-one persons for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.06.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two-one persons for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.07.** The Synod Council shall nominate two-one persons for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.08.** In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the two persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- S9.09.** The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly ~~and printed in detail.~~

**Resolution #: 5**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

**Subject: South Dakota Synod Bylaw Amendments**  
**Source: Synod Council**

Background information: related to the report and recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted constitutional amendments necessary to unify the three lay rosters into one Ministry of Word and Service. Additionally, the words “ordained minister/s”, “clergy”, and “pastor/s” were replaced with minister/s of Word and Sacrament. The recommendation is to change these terms in the bylaws.

Bylaw amendments may be adopted at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting per +S18.21.

RESOLVED, the South Dakota Synod Council at the March 17, 2017, meeting recommended to adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the South Dakota Synod.

- S7.13.01. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be published in official publications established by this Synod or mailed to the ~~ordained ministers, Associates in Ministry, deaconesses-rostered ministers~~ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and ~~diaconal ministers, under call, on the official lay rosters~~ of this synod and congregations, not less than 90 days before the meeting of the Assembly.
- S7.40.21. Prior to the Synod Assembly, the Synod Bishop shall appoint three ~~ordained~~ ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ and three laypersons to an Election Committee to supervise elections and announce the results to the Synod Assembly.
- S9.01.10.a. The Synod Assembly shall elect the 21 members of the Synod Council upon nominations from the conferences for four-year terms with no consecutive reelection, providing for one ~~ordained~~ minister ~~of Word and Sacrament~~, one lay woman and one lay man from each conference.
- S9.01.11. This Synod shall elect persons to serve on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota as follows: each conference elect one layperson, the SD Synod Assembly elect two laypersons and four ~~clergy-rostered ministers~~.
- S11.01.41. This synod shall establish a Candidacy Committee composed of the Bishop or the Bishop’s designate, the seminary representative appointed by the churchwide Program Unit for Vocation and Education, four at-large members, one ~~Associate in Ministry or Diaconal Minister~~ ~~minister of Word and Service~~ and one ~~pastor~~ ~~minister of Word and Sacrament~~ ordained from the TEEM program appointed by the Bishop, and one representative elected from each of the seven conferences of this synod. At least five members shall be lay persons. The Candidacy Committee shall reflect as much as possible a balance of gender and race and include one or more youth/young adult members. The length of term or appointment to the committee shall be five years with provisions for a second term. Terms/appointments shall be staggered so that only a portion of the Candidacy Committee membership changes in a given year.

...

**Resolution #: 5**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

S11.01.51. The Committee for Support to Ministries shall be composed of the Bishop, the Assistants to the Bishop, and two persons, one lay person and one ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament, elected by each conference. Conference elected members shall serve four-year terms with no consecutive election. Vacancies of conference elected members shall be filled by the conference in which the vacancy occurs.

The Committee for Support to Ministries shall:

- a. Assist congregations in calling of ~~pastors~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament and the placement of ~~associates in ministry~~ ministers of Word and Service.
- b. Assist in carrying out the responsibilities assigned to the bishop in +S8.12.c., +S8.12.i., +S14.11., S14.12., and S14.18.; and to this synod in +S6.03.a. and +S6.03a.(3) and in 9.21.a. and 9.21.a.(4) of the ELCA constitution.
- c. Designate the ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament of this board to serve as deans of their respective conferences. Duties of the dean include providing information about pastors' availability for call from the conference and representing the bishop at installations in the conference and other duties the bishop may assign.

...

S11.01.61 The Evangelical Outreach Committee shall be composed of the Director of Evangelical Mission, and two persons, one lay person and one ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament, elected by each conference, and up to five additional members appointed by the Bishop. Conference elected members shall serve three-year terms with provision for a second term. Vacancies of conference elected members shall be filled by the conference in which the vacancy occurs in consultation with the Director of Evangelical Mission. Each conference is encouraged to seek members representing a diversity of backgrounds and cultures.

...

S11.02.21. The Consultation Committee shall consist of six persons, of whom three shall be ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament, and shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for terms of six years without consecutive reelection. (ref. ELCA Chapter 20)

S11.03.31. The Synod Assembly shall elect six ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament and six laypersons for terms of six years without consecutive reelection as the Synod Committee on Discipline. (ref. ELCA Chapter 20)

S12.01.13. Each conference shall have a president and a dean and such other officers as it chooses. The Dean of the Conference must be an ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament; the other officers may be laypersons.

**Subject: South Dakota Synod Bylaw Amendments 2**  
**Source: Synod Council**

The following bylaw amendments are recommended to reflect current practice.

Bylaw amendments may be adopted at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting per +S18.21.

RESOLVED, the South Dakota Synod Council at the March 17, 2017, meeting recommended to adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the South Dakota Synod.

~~S9.01.12. The Synod Assembly shall elect persons to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association of Christian Churches in South Dakota. The term of office shall be three years, with eligibility for one consecutive reelection.~~

~~S9.01.13. Members of the Region 3 Steering Committee shall be appointed by the Synod Council according to the Region 3 Orders of Governance and rotation for representation defined by the Steering Committee.~~

~~S10.07.14. The Synod Council shall organize itself into Mission Boards.~~

~~S10.07.20. **Mission Board for Congregational Ministries**~~

~~S10.07.21. The Mission Board for Congregational Ministries (MBCM) shall receive information and requests from Churchwide and from within this Synod. The MBCM shall assign tasks and coordinate the response to or development of any programs relating to these areas:~~

- ~~1. Programmatic Ministries of the Church (worship, education, evangelism, youth, etc.)~~
- ~~2. Ministry in Daily Life~~
- ~~3. Rural Ministry~~

~~S10.07.30. **Mission Board for Outreach**~~

~~S10.07.31. The Mission Board for Outreach (MBO) shall receive information and requests from Churchwide and from within the Synod. The MBO shall assign tasks and coordinate the response to or development of any programs relating to these areas:~~

- ~~1. American Missions; Mission Partners~~
- ~~2. Global Missions~~
- ~~3. Church and Society Issues (hunger, peace and justice, etc.)~~
- ~~4. Stewardship~~

~~S10.07.40. **Mission Board for Leadership**~~

~~S10.07.41. The Mission Board for Leadership (MBL) shall receive information and requests from Churchwide and from within this synod. The MBL shall assign tasks and coordinate the response to or development of any programs relating to these areas:~~

- ~~1. Call Process~~
- ~~2. Candidacy~~
- ~~3. Continuing Education and Leadership Support~~
- ~~4. Ecumenical Ministry~~

**Resolution #: 6**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

S11.01.11. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Synod Bishop, the Synod Vice President, the Synod Secretary, the Synod Treasurer, the vice chair of the Synod Council, and ~~the chairs of the Synod Council Mission Boards~~ three members at large, elected by the Synod Council from its own membership for terms of one year.

S11.03.30. **Committee on Discipline**

S11.03.34. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall designate the chair of the committee every other year as needed.

**Subject: South Dakota Synod Continuing Resolution Amendments**  
**Source: Synod Council**

Continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly under +S18.31

RESOLVED, the South Dakota Synod Council at the March 17, 2017, meeting recommended to adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Continuing Resolutions* of the South Dakota Synod.

S7.21.B02            ~~Ordained Ministers~~ **Rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament** from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of called or contracted service in a congregation of this synod, in accord with ELCA churchwide bylaw 8.72.12.

S7.21.C02            ~~ELCA pastors~~ **Rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament** serving as interim pastors, under contract to a congregation of this synod, shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of contracted service in a congregation of this synod.

S7.21.D02            ~~Licensed Lay~~ **Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs)** certified by the South Dakota Synod, under contract to a congregation of this synod, shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote, **as an additional lay member**, in the Synod Assembly during the period of contracted service in a congregation of this synod.

S9.04.A13            *Process of Identifying Potential Nominees Leading to the Election of a Bishop*

1. An incumbent bishop shall announce to the Synod Council whether he or she is willing to serve a subsequent term. Such announcement shall take place no later than the Synod Council meeting the fall prior to the Synod Assembly during which a bishop is to be elected.
2. The processes for identifying potential nominees for Bishop and election of a Bishop shall apply for all elections of a Bishop.
3. The Synod Council shall arrange for a synod study to be completed by the Synod Council meeting the fall prior to the beginning of the election process. The synod study shall be distributed to rostered ~~members~~ **ministers** and congregations of the synod six months prior to the election, providing guidance throughout this synod as potential nominees for bishop are identified.
4. At the assembly of each conference prior to the election of a bishop, held no later than 75 days prior to Synod Assembly, the voting members will be asked to use the synod study document to guide conversation regarding the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop.

**Resolution #: 7**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

5. *At the same conference assembly, the voting members will be asked to identify ~~currently rostered ELCA pastors~~ current rostered ELCA ministers of Word and Sacrament whom the voting members believe have gifts desirable in a bishop. Identified pastors do not need to be members of the conference or of the South Dakota Synod. All ELCA pastors are encouraged to give permission to be considered in the discernment process.*
6. *The names of ~~pastors~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament identified by conference assemblies will be forwarded to the Bishop Election Committee on the day of the conference assembly.*
7. *The Bishop Election Committee will contact the individuals identified by the conferences to confirm their willingness to have their names included as possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these individuals reaffirm their willingness to be so identified, the Bishop Election Committee will facilitate their completion of a biographical information form. The potential nominees are to submit these completed forms to the Bishop Election Committee within ten days of the conference assembly.*
8. *Forty-five days before the Synod Assembly begins the names and biographical information of the potential nominees for the office of bishop identified by the conferences will be posted on the synod website.*
9. *While these individuals are identified as potential nominees for the office of bishop, the South Dakota Synod will use the ecclesiastical ballot in which the name of any ELCA ~~ordained~~ rostered minister of Word and Sacrament may be placed in nomination on the first ballot. Any person identified as a potential nominee must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member at the assembly.*
10. *The Synod Assembly will adopt Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop based upon the ecclesiastical ballot as required by the South Dakota Synod Constitution.*

S9.04.B13

*Rules for the Procedure for the Election of a Bishop*

1. *In accordance with the South Dakota Synod Constitution, the election of a bishop shall be by ecclesiastical ballot. There shall be no spoken nominations from the floor.*
2. *Any ~~ordained ELCA~~ rostered minister of Word and Sacrament ~~in the ELCA~~ is eligible for nomination for bishop. A valid ballot is to contain the nominee's full name and any other applicable identifying information. All registered voting members of the South Dakota Synod Assembly shall be eligible to cast a ballot.*
3. *Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for the election of a bishop.*

**Resolution #: 7**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

4. *If no election occurs, the first ballot is the nominating ballot. This ballot becomes the total slate of nominees. The Bishop Election Committee will attempt to contact all nominees identified on the first ballot.*
5. *Clergy Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are nominated on the nominating ballot and desire that their name be retained on subsequent ballots shall submit a complete biographical form to the Bishop Election Committee. This may be done electronically for candidates not present.*
6. *Clergy Ministers of Word and Sacrament nominated on the first ballot shall have the right to withdraw their names from subsequent ballots before the casting of the second ballot. A form requesting the name to be withdrawn must be secured from and returned to the Bishop Election Committee by (insert time and day). This may be done electronically or via phone for candidates not present.*
7. *On the second and all subsequent ballots, the order of listing of the nominees on the ballot shall be from the greatest number of ballots cast to the least. Ties shall be listed alphabetically. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election.*
8. *Following the report of the second ballot, biographical data for the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot shall be available to all voting members. Background checks will be conducted for all nominees, to be reviewed by the Bishop Election Committee.*
9. *Before the casting of the third ballot, the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot shall be invited to the stage and be introduced by name to the members of the assembly. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each individual introduction. After time has been allotted for all voting members to review the biographical information of the seven nominees (plus ties) will be invited to address the assembly on a subject of their own choosing, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly, the individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to speak on her or his behalf may address the assembly in real time via audio or audiovisual means. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot. There shall be no applause before, during, or after individual speeches; only after all have spoken is there to be such affirmation. There shall be ten minutes' time allotted after these speeches for voting members to engage in prayer, reflection on the speeches, and informal conversation with other voting members before the third ballot is cast.*
10. *Two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the third ballot.*

**Resolution #: 7**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

11. Prior to the fourth ballot for synod bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period. The period shall be moderated by the designated presider for the election process. The same five questions shall be asked of each of the nominees. Only one nominee shall be in the assembly room at a time. The order that the nominees shall appear on stage to answer the questions shall be determined by the draw of name. Each nominee shall have a maximum of two minutes to respond to each question. If any nominee is not present at the assembly, that individual, ~~if possible, may designate an alternate to answer on her or his behalf~~ may address the assembly in real time via audio or audiovisual means. A time keeper will indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allotted time and when the allotted time has ended. The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 45 minutes. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each answer; only after the question-and-answer period has come to an end is there to be such affirmation.

Questions to be asked shall be determined by the Bishop Election Committee. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly may submit questions in a process determined by the Bishop Election Committee by (list date, day, and time certain for the deadline).

12. Prior to the casting of the fourth ballot, there will be time for prayer, reflection on the speeches, and informal conversation with other voting members. Sixty percent of the **legal** votes cast shall be necessary for election on the fourth ballot.

13. On ballots after the fourth ballot, the ballots shall be limited to the two nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes cast.

14. On all subsequent ballots a majority of the **legal** votes cast shall be necessary for election.

15. The results of each ballot shall be announced to the assembly.

S11.01.B12

**The Multi-cultural Committee**

The Multi-cultural Committee shall be composed of the Director of Evangelical Mission, and two persons, one lay person and one **ordained** minister **of Word and Sacrament**, elected by each conference, and up to five additional members appointed by the Bishop. Conference elected members shall serve three-year terms with provision for a second term. Vacancies of conference elected members shall be filled by the conference in which the vacancy occurs in consultation with the Director of Evangelical Mission. Each conference is encouraged to seek members representing a diversity of backgrounds and cultures.

...

S11.11.A90

At least 30 days prior to the time of conference or synod assemblies, the Nominating Committee shall determine and notify the conference or Synod Assembly which elected positions, other than Bishop, shall become vacant. They

**Resolution #: 7**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

*shall determine which conferences or at-large positions shall be represented by which categories (layman, laywoman, ~~ordained person~~ minister of Word and Sacrament) to maintain the elected positions in compliance with this Constitution and Bylaws especially +S6.04, and to provide for alternating categories being elected by any conference.*

**Resolution #: 8**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

Subject: Seminary Scholarships

Source: Rev. Robert Hansen, Director “Listen God Is Calling” & SD Synod Council

WHEREAS the publicity materials for the “Listen God Is Calling” were prepared there was a consensus understanding that Seminary Scholarships and Debt Reduction were part of the goals of the appeal.

- The video clearly states that seminary scholarships and debt reduction are part of the goals of the appeal to provide for the next generation of rostered leaders.
- The prospectus clearly states on page 4: “Increase the Synod’s capacity to provide seminary scholarships to qualified candidates for ministry”.
- Insert # 3, to be used by congregations prior to their commitment Sunday states: “Increased seminary scholarship support”.
- The brochure used on commitment Sunday states: “We, in South Dakota, have nurtured and provided more people into called ministry than any other Synod in the ELCA. We also provide more seminary scholarships. But the work is not done.”
- It was stated to congregations and individuals that both seminary scholarships and debt reduction are important goals of the “Listen God Is Calling” appeal.

WHEREAS a concern has been noted that seminary scholarships were not specifically listed as a category in the resolution authorizing the appeal adopted at the June 13-14, 2014 SD Synod Assembly.

RESOLVED that expenditures for seminary scholarships be included in the goals for the “Listen God Is Calling” appeal.

**Resolution #: 9**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

**Resolution**

**Subject: Transfer of Rosebud Lutheran Church to the South Dakota Synod**

**Source: Synod Council**

**WHEREAS**, Rosebud Lutheran Church (Bison, South Dakota) has formed the Prairie Fellowship Parish with American Lutheran Church (Bison, South Dakota) and Indian Creek Lutheran Church (Bison, South Dakota); and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Rosebud Lutheran Church have requested the Western North Dakota Synod release the Rosebud Lutheran Church to the South Dakota Synod; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod join the Western North Dakota Synod in celebrating with Rosebud Lutheran Church and the Prairie Fellowship Parish, this new parish alignment and with blessings welcome Rosebud Lutheran Church to serve with their brothers and sisters in Christ of the South Dakota Synod. Be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the bishop of the South Dakota Synod is authorized to sign the appropriate documents and take other necessary actions to transfer Rosebud Lutheran Church to the South Dakota Synod.

Subject: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING IMMIGRATION

Source: Bear Butte Conference Assembly

WHEREAS Lutherans in America have always been an immigrant church, formalizing that status in 1939 with the creation of Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service; and

WHEREAS Lutherans in America have consistently sought to live out God's command to Israel found in Leviticus 19:34, "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" (RSV) as a response to God's love in Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS the crises of refugees continues throughout the world; and

WHEREAS the 1969 statement of the Lutheran Council in the USA, found in the ELCA's Message on Immigration, adopted by the Church Council on November 16, 1998; reads as follows:

1. To admit to our permanent population a steady proportion of newcomers:
  - a. by facilitating the reunification of families;
  - b. by facilitating the entry of persons possessing special skills or other capacities needed by the American economy and culture;
  - c. by assuming the United States' proper share of international responsibility for the resettlement of refugees and other persons urgently in need of the compassionate haven of a new home land;
  - d. by admitting persons who choose the United States as their new homeland and who impart to their American neighbors an understanding of the culture, attitude, and interests of other races and peoples of the world
  
2. To admit annually a reasonable number of the persons described above on an objective basis of selection which, while discriminating, will not be discriminatory with respect to race, national origin, color, or religion, testifying thereby to the United States' recognition of the interlocking and mutual interests of all nations with regard to the migration of peoples, the interaction of cultures, and respect of universal human rights.
  
3. To provide reasonable access to nationality and citizenship for all immigrants admitted for permanent residence.

RESOLVED that the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affirms and encourages the member congregations to examine, promulgate and support the objectives set forth in the 1969 statement of the Lutheran Council in the USA, found in the ELCA's Message on Immigration, adopted by the Church Council on November 16, 1998.

**Resolution #: 11**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken:**

**Subject: 2018 Compensation and Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Lay Staff**  
**Source: Committee for Support to Ministries and its Compensation Task Force**

RESOLVED, that the “2018 Compensation and Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Lay Staff,” prepared by a task force for the Committee for Support to Ministries and recommended by the committee for adoption, be adopted as the policy of the South Dakota Synod by the 2017 South Dakota Synod Assembly.