

Resolution to Adopt to the South Dakota Synod Bylaws the continuing resolutions

Process of Identifying Potential Nominees Leading to the Election of a Bishop and Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop

June 6, 2012

From: The Bishop Elections Committee

Whereas, a process for nominating and electing a bishop accompanies the Bylaw of electing a Bishop by ecclesiastical ballot; therefore, be it

RESOLVED to adopt the following Continuing Resolution to the South Dakota Synod Bylaws:

S9.04.A12 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 in November 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. ~~except where an incumbent Bishop is eligible for a second term. IN THOSE CASES, THE PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL NOMINEES AT THE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLIES WOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED. If an incumbent bishop is willing to serve, and the conference nominating identifying process is dropped, an ecclesiastical ballot for the election of a bishop continues as described in the amended S9.04.~~

**3. ~~When there is not an incumbent bishop who is willing and able to serve a subsequent term, t~~
The Synod Council shall arrange for a Synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the election process. The Synod study and any strategic planning adopted by Synod Council shall be distributed to rostered members 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 consider a set of topics developed by Synod Council designed to clarify the vision for this synod's mission, the issues they deem important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide minutes of this discussion to the secretary of synod for use by the Synod Council.

5. At the same conference assembly, the voting members will be asked to identify currently rostered ELCA pastors 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. After all voting members have had opportunity to identify potential nominees possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the voting members will, at the same assembly, engage in a process of their own determination to select up to three potential nominees, the names of whom are to be forwarded to the synod for inclusion among the potential nominees for the Office of Bishop.

7. The dean of each conference will contact the individuals selected by the conference to confirm their willingness to have their names included with those selected by all the conferences as possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these individuals reaffirm their willingness to be so identified, the dean will facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by Synod Council. The potential nominees are to submit these completed forms to the secretary of synod within ten days of the conference assembly.

8. The secretary of synod will post on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins the names and biographical information of the potential nominees for the Office of Bishop selected by the conferences. Other information also may be posted.

9. While these individuals are identified as potential nominees for the office of bishop, the South Dakota Synod will continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot in which the name of any ELCA ordained minister 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.B12 RULES OF 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 minister in the ELCA is eligible for nomination for bishop. A valid ballot is to contain the nominee's full name as found in the clergy roster. All registered voting members of the South Dakota Synod Assembly shall be eligible to cast a ballot.

3. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for the election of a bishop.

4. If no election occurs, the first ballot is the nominating ballot. This ballot becomes the total slate of nominees.

5. Clergy who are nominated on the nominating ballot and desire that their name be retained on subsequent ballots shall submit a completed biographical form to the secretary of synod. This may be done electronically for candidates not present.

- 6. Clergy 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 the Synod Secretary and must be returned to the secretary of synod by (insert time and day). This may be done electronically 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 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 distributed to all voting members.**

- 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 read the biographical information of the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot, these seven persons (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. 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 vote shall be necessary for election on the third ballot.**

- 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 six 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 names. 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. A time keeper will indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of allotted time and when the allotted time has ended.**

Questions to be asked shall be determined by a committee appointed by Synod Council. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly may submit questions in a sealed envelope to the secretary of the synod, or the secretary's designee (list date, day, and time certain for the deadline). 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.

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. 60% of the 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 votes cast shall be necessary for election.

15. The results of each ballot shall be printed, distributed, and announced to the assembly.