



# Florida-Bahamas Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2023

From: Synod Council  
To: Voting Members of the Synod Assembly 2023

The Synod Council unanimously forwards the following amendments to the synod's governing documents for approval.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

*In the following illustrations, words to be removed are ~~struck out~~ and words to be added are underlined.*

### **Amendment 1**

Amend the Florida Bahamas Synod Constitution article S9.04. by inserting the word "legal" before the words "votes cast" wherever those words appear.

**S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the five persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fifth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the fourth ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.**

*This amendment would bring this article into conformity with the recommendation of the ELCA Constitution for Synods. It requires a majority vote of the Synod Assembly to amend.*

### **Amendment 2**

Amend the Florida-Bahamas Synod Constitution article S9.08. by striking the word "two" and inserting the word "legal" before the word "votes" wherever it appears and inserting the words "to the number 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." after the words "next ballot".

**S9.08. In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the ~~two~~ highest numbers 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 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.**

*This amendment would bring this article into conformity with the recommendation of the ELCA Constitution for Synods. It requires a majority vote of the Synod Assembly to amend.*

### **Amendment 3**

Amend the Florida-Bahamas Synod Bylaw S10.07.02 by inserting in section b. the word “rostered” before the word “ministers” and striking the words “of Word and Sacrament” and striking the words “one year” and inserting in their place the words “three years” and inserting after section c. a new section d. with the words “A young adult shall be elected to serve a term of three years or until a successor is elected. The young adult member shall be between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election. The young adult member shall be eligible for reelection as a young adult member for one additional term provided that the young adult member is under the age of 31 at the time of reelection.” The secretary is directed to correct the subsequent section identifications.

- S10.07.02. The Synod Council shall be composed of the officers of the synod and additional members determined as follows:
- a. To ensure geographic representation . . .
  - b. To ensure inclusive representation of lay and rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~, male and female, Native Americans and persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, there shall be a number of members-at-large as determined by the Synod Council. The persons so elected by the Synod Assembly shall be elected for a term of ~~one year~~ three years or until their successors are elected and take office and shall be eligible for reelection.
  - c. A youth shall . . .
  - d. A young adult shall be elected to serve a term of three years or until a successor is elected. The young adult member shall be between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election. The young adult member shall be eligible for reelection as a young adult member for one additional term provided that the young adult member is under the age of 31 at the time of reelection.
  - d.e. All terms for a Synod Council member . . .
  - e-f. Persons who are members . . .
  - f.g. Persons who represent . . .

*This amendment recognizes that ministers of Word and Service are included as rostered ministers. It also adds the position of a young adult member of the Synod Council to be in conformity with the higher-ranking constitution article †S10.01.a. and corrects the term of at-large members of the Synod Council from one-year to three-years to be in conformity with the higher-ranking constitution article †S10.01.b. Existing sections d., e., and f. are given new section identifications. It requires a two-thirds vote of the Synod Assembly to amend.*