

## EASTERN WASHINGTON-IDAHO SYNOD ASSEMBLY RULES

1. The Credentials Committee of three persons appointed by the Synod Council shall constitute the Committee on Credentials and Attendance. A quorum will be identified following the reading of the credentials report. Voting members must be checked in and seated in the ballroom 20 minutes prior to voting. Registration of voting members and alternates will close **7:45 am Saturday**.
2. The voting body at this Assembly shall consist of the officers of the Synod, voting members to the Synod Assembly from each congregation, the rostered persons under call whose names appear on the roster of this Synod registered at the Assembly (§7.21), interim pastors serving a congregation in this Synod, and retired rostered persons on the roster of this Synod registered (S7.22.01), and Synod Council members who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly (S7.27 as amended by the 1995 Synod Assembly). All persons expecting to vote must be officially registered voting members.
3. The Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other official representatives shall have voice but no vote at this Assembly.
4. All committee and task group chairs who are not voting members to the Synod Assembly from their congregation shall be granted voice but no vote when the Assembly is considering topics relating to their specific committee or task group.
5. Each person, when recognized by the Chair, shall state his/her name and congregation or institution before speaking. No speech shall exceed three (3) minutes. This rule does not apply to messages and reports by agencies and officers of the Synod or to guest speakers to whom special time has been allotted.
6. The debate on resolutions shall be limited to 24 minutes for each resolution. All other items for action shall be limited to 30 minutes. Extensions of debate for a stated period of time will be allowed by a majority vote of the voting members.
7. When rising to speak, use your colored cards to indicate to the Chair your position on the subject. GREEN card indicates pro, RED card indicates con, and WHITE card is personal privilege, point of order, motions, and all other matters. During debate on resolutions, the Chair will attempt to alternate recognition of speakers between those for and those against the resolution. The voting cards may be used by the chair to get a “sense of the house.”
8. The Chair shall have the authority to call non-action items of business before the Assembly without vote.
9. All reports published in the pre-Assembly mailing shall be received by the Assembly by virtue of that fact and without vote.
10. Resolutions not submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee prior to March 24, 2017, and not included in the pre-Assembly mailing must be submitted for consideration to the Reference and Counsel Committee at the Assembly. A simple majority is needed to bring these items before the Assembly and copies must be provided by its author independent of the Assembly staff.

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11. **The deadline for nominations and resolutions is: Friday, May 18, 7:30 pm. Please submit these items to the Synod Secretary.**
12. During Assembly business sessions, resolutions shall have priority for consideration except where the vice president and the presiding officer are in agreement that other business has greater priority for the Assembly. To the greatest extent possible this priority will be reflected in the printed and approved agenda for the Synod's business. Resolutions shall be numbered for consideration in the order that they were received by Reference & Counsel, except that all resolutions impacting the budget must be acted upon prior to adoption of the budget.
13. All motions must be presented **in writing** to the Secretary on the form provided.
14. A Minutes Committee of three persons (the Synod Secretary and two others appointed by the Executive Committee) shall review the minutes of the Assembly for accuracy and content.
15. The Assembly of the Synod shall be its highest legislative authority. All congregations, rostered leaders, officers, the executive committee, and all committees shall be bound by all actions pertaining to them taken by the Assembly in conformity with its Constitution.
16. All items to be distributed on the floor of the Assembly, other than biographies, must be approved by the Reference & Counsel Committee or the Executive Committee and distributed by the ushers.
17. Roberts Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this Synod Assembly.

### EXCERPTS FROM THE SYNOD CONSTITUTION THAT PERTAIN TO ASSEMBLY RULES

- S7.01.A04 There shall be a Reference & Counsel Committee of three laypersons and two members of the clergy, appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. This committee shall review any resolution to be included in the pre-assembly report for grammar, consistency with established rules and governing documents, and common sense/understanding by voting members. It may also recommend to the Bishop special orders for a hearing of representatives (voting members). The committee shall also review and present its recommendation on any matter referred to it by the Assembly or the Bishop. During meetings of the Synod Assembly it shall assist voting members and committees with the formulation and/or rewording of resolutions for submission to the Assembly.
- S7.14 A majority of the registered members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- †S7.31 Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this Synod.
- †S9.02 In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.

## BISHOP ELECTION

- S9.04 The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from among those nominated in the following manner:
- a. Each cluster may submit up to three names of those whom they wish to nominate for the office of bishop and shall submit written vitae for each nominee, said vitae to adhere to a format established by the elections committee; names of said nominees and their vitae shall then be published in the voting members' pre-assembly packet.
  - b. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot.
  - c. The second ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.
  - d. The third ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.
  - e. Prior to the casting of the third ballot, the three or more persons to appear on the ballot, if they are present, shall be invited to address the Assembly.
  - f. On subsequent ballots a majority of the 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.

The representative of the Churchwide organization shall preside over the assembly whenever the assembly is in session and considering business related to the election of the synod bishop, or when the assembly is casting ballots in this election. Upon conclusion of balloting or of specific business related to the election, the Bishop shall resume presiding over the assembly.

Prior to the second ballot for bishop, a question and answer period moderated by an individual appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council will be held in which the seven nominees (plus ties) are invited to respond to questions submitted by the Bishop Election Committee and approved by the Synod Council Executive Committee. Each of the nominees shall be asked three (3) questions while the other nominees are sequestered so they cannot hear the responses. Each response shall be no longer than 90 seconds. The forum shall be limited to 70 minutes. The questions will be given to the nominees 1 hour before the question and answer session begins.

The order of nominees addressing the Assembly during each Question and Answer session and the speeches will be determined by drawing numbers. The nominee drawing number "1" will start, then "2" etc.

Cell phones, tablets and other electronic devices, except voting devices if the bishop nominee is a voting member, need to be sequestered during all the Question and Answer sessions and speeches so long as the nominee is eligible for election.

If nominee is not present at the assembly and is unable to address the assembly telephonically, the nominee can designate an alternate to speak on their behalf.

Prior to the third ballot for bishop, the three nominees (plus ties) will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to five minutes. Only the nominee addressing the assembly will be present, the other nominees will be sequestered so they cannot hear the responses.

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Prior to the fourth ballot for bishop, the two nominees (plus ties) will be invited to answer one additional question developed by the Bishop Election Committee and approved by the Synod Council Executive Committee. The question will not be shared ahead of the question and answer session and the nominees will have 3 minutes to respond. Only the nominee addressing the assembly will be present, the other nominees will be sequestered so they cannot hear the responses.

Elections will be held by an electronic device and the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit voting members to record their votes.

The chair will validate each election before presenting the results on the screens.

The Synod Council requests that all members of the Assembly refrain from using Social Media to discuss or influence the election prior to the final announcement of an election.