



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

RULES OF PROCEDURE

01. To the extent consistent with the following rules of procedure, Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern.

Voice and Vote

02. All persons under call, on leave from call, and retired on the roster of this Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, in attendance at this assembly, shall have voice and vote at the proceedings of this assembly. All interim pastors serving congregations of this synod, at the time of the assembly, shall have voice and vote.
03. Alternate lay members shall be seated if the regular lay members are unable to serve.
04. Persons giving reports during this assembly's proceedings who are not members shall be given voice, no vote, during that portion of the assembly.
05. The parliamentarian appointed by the Synod Council shall be given voice, no vote (unless a member) during the proceedings of this assembly.
06. The Presiding Bishop, or his or her representative(s), and ecumenical representatives shall be given voice, no vote during the proceedings of this assembly.
07. Duly elected and serving members of the Synod Council shall have both voice and vote at the synod assembly, in accordance with S7.28 of the constitution of the synod.

Quorum

08. One-half (1/2) of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

Proxy

09. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.

Items of Business

10. With the consent of this assembly, the chair shall have the authority to call items of business before the assembly in whatever order is deemed by the chair most expedient for the conduct of assembly business. The chair shall limit discussions to items germane to the issues before the assembly.

Resolutions

11. Resolutions to be considered by the assembly shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Synod. In order to assure the resolution going to the floor of this assembly, such resolutions shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Synod prior to the promulgated deadline, which shall not be less than 30 days prior to the beginning of the assembly. The Secretary shall refer them to the Committee on Reference and Counsel. The Committee shall report to this assembly with its recommendations regarding the resolutions submitted, which shall constitute a motion to the floor of this assembly.
12. Any resolutions submitted after the deadline are not guaranteed a place on the agenda and must receive a two-thirds vote in order to be heard. Any resolution not receiving a two-thirds vote will be referred to the Synod Council for disposition.
13. Multimedia presentations will not be part of floor debate on resolutions.

Motions

14. All main motions, to be made, shall be in writing and presented to the Secretary of the Synod immediately (Constitution and Bylaw amendments require five (5) signatures of members).
15. A member who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s).
16. A motion to end debate by moving the previous question shall apply only to the immediately preceding motion. A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order.
17. When a substitute motion is made, secondary amendments may be offered first to the original motion. After all secondary amendments to the original motion have been disposed of, secondary amendments to the substitute motion may be offered. When all amendments to the substitute motion have been disposed of, the vote shall be taken on whether the substitute motion is to be substituted as the original motion or be rejected.
18. Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes per person, per speech.

Elections (Generally)

19. Ballots shall be accepted only from those members who are seated within designated areas of the assembly hall. In cases where electronic voting is used,

a voting device shall be issued only to, and may be used only by, voting members present at the assembly.

20. Nominations from the floor shall be accompanied by the copy-ready vita and the consent of the person to be nominated, both to be submitted to the secretary at the time of the nomination.

Election of a Bishop

21. Biographical information on the seven nominees (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, submitted on a form determined by the Synod Council, shall be distributed to voting members prior to the casting of the third ballot for bishop.
22. Prior to the third ballot for bishop, the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to four minutes. A timekeeper 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.
23. Prior to the fourth ballot for 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. Voting members will be divided into three separate groups according to their conferences, with two conferences being represented in each group. The three persons shall rotate through the meeting locations for each of the three groups and shall appear alone before each such group. The period shall be moderated by one or more members of the task force formed for the purpose of planning the bishop's election and transition. The same questions will be asked to each nominee. The sequence of the questions to be asked shall be determined by the task force member moderating the session. Questions may be submitted in writing to the task force member moderating the session not later than the conclusion of the conference breakfasts organized for the purpose of developing questions for the candidates. The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 30 minutes. In the event a tie in voting on the third ballot for bishop causes more than three persons to be named on the fourth ballot, the vice president and the secretary of the synod shall determine the nature and extent of any adjustments, in the agenda, logistics, or otherwise, necessary to provide each such person with the same opportunity to address all voting members.
24. Prior to the fifth ballot for bishop, the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the fourth ballot will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to seven minutes. A timekeeper shall indicate 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.
25. In the case of any of the events specified in any of the three preceding paragraphs, if any person permitted to address the assembly is not present at the assembly, the individual may address the assembly telephonically or may designate an alternate to speak on his or her behalf.

26. 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.

Minutes

27. Minutes of this assembly shall be available for review by the Synod Council by the September 30 immediately following the assembly.

Applications for Displays

28. The Assembly Planning Committee shall determine the amount of space available for displays at each assembly site, year by year, and shall determine the fees charged for displays that are and are not directly related to the tables, teams, and committees of this synod in coordination with the Synod Council.

Applications will be reviewed by the planning committee for content of display and how it relates to the Synod Assembly theme. Permission or license for displays at each assembly shall be given in light of the following priorities:

First Priority: Synod divisions and offices.

Second Priority: Agencies and ministries directly affiliated with this synod, its congregations and/or the ELCA, including 1517 Media (f/k/a Augsburg Fortress).

Third Priority: Independent organizations, services, or ministries related or useful to the ministry of this church (e.g., church fund raising organizations, ecclesiastical arts agencies).

In principle, display authorization at this synod's assemblies shall always be considered a privilege and shall never be considered a right of any organization not officially affiliated with this synod and/or the ELCA.

In accord with available "third party space," the Assembly Planning Committee shall choose as many as seems appropriate from among the applicants.

Organizations whose prior behavior or whose styles of ministry are thought to be or have been demonstrated to be demeaning of persons of differing viewpoints as to their worth as individuals, or their worthiness to hear the Gospel or to live in community with other believers, shall not be permitted the privilege of display at assemblies of this synod. Decisions of the Assembly Planning Committee in this regard are considered final.