

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**National Conference Center      Leesburg, Virginia**  
**June 19-20, 2015**

**Reference & Counsel Number: 2015-002**

**Secretary's Number: 6.2**

**Title:            Lay Rostered Voting Members at Synod and Churchwide Assemblies**

**Submitted:    Ms. Deborah K. Haynes, Seminarian - Holy Trinity, Falls Church, Virginia**

**Received:      April 29, 2015**

**Whereas**      the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) maintains rosters of ordained ministers and three lay rosters -- commissioned associates in ministry, consecrated diaconal ministers and consecrated deaconesses; and

**Whereas**      at least 60% of the voting members of synod and churchwide assemblies shall be composed of laypersons, with the remaining portion of voting members coming from the roster of ordained ministers (*ELCA Constitution & Bylaws, Section 5.01.f-g*); and

**Whereas**      persons from the three lay rosters who serve as voting members at churchwide assemblies are included among the number of lay voting members of churchwide assemblies; and

**Whereas**      the number of non-rostered lay voting members is thereby reduced when rostered lay persons fill those seats, thereby reducing representation of the non-rostered membership, the majority voice of our church; and

**Whereas**      the unique perspective of the lay rostered leader, whose combination of theological education and call to *diakonia*, serving on the boundaries between Church and World, is a critical voice in conversations regarding our Church; and

**Whereas**      both ordained and lay rostered voting members at assemblies serve congregations, agencies and organizations related to the ELCA and bring that unique perspective to the assembly; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to amend the ELCA governing documents to require that at least 60% of the total number of voting members at synod and churchwide assemblies consist of non-rostered lay voting members, with the remaining voting members to be drawn from leaders on the four ministry rosters of the ELCA.