

The following resolution was adopted by the 2015 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 19-20, 2015 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.

LAY ROSTERED VOTING MEMBERS AT SYNOD AND CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLIES

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.