

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Chapter 9

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this Synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.

***S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the Bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.**

BLS9.02. Voting members to the Churchwide Assembly shall be elected in three groups as follows:

- a. Group A shall consist of the Bishop and a number of voting members equal to the number of Mission Districts of this Synod. Each Mission District shall nominate for election in this group an ordained minister or a layperson according to an appropriate pattern established by the Synod Council. The persons so nominated and the Bishop shall be elected en bloc as voting members.
- b. Group B shall consist of voting members who are persons of color or whose primary language is other than English, nominated by the Synod Council in an appropriate number to conform to the goals of this Synod as set forth in a Continuing Resolution.
- c. Group C shall consist of the rest of the total number of voting members allocated to this Synod by the ELCA in appropriate categories. Nominations for each category may be made by the Nominating Committee, or by any ordained minister of this Synod, or by any congregation acting through its lay voting members, or from the Assembly floor. The Secretary shall mail nominating forms no later than 15 weeks before the Synod Assembly. The forms must be returned no later than 8 weeks before the first day of the Synod Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least twice the number of voting members assigned to each category of this group. Nominees who have previously served as voting members to a Churchwide Assembly shall be identified by an asterisk.
- d. If a voting member elected in any of the groups cannot serve, then that voting member shall be replaced by an alternate voting member from the same category. The Bishop of this Synod, at any time prior to the closing of the Churchwide Assembly roll, shall be empowered to appoint a substitute in the event no alternates are available. All voting members shall be members of this Synod.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed by the Synod Council for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

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 receive the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot who are willing to serve, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third 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 legal votes on the previous ballot.

(See also Continuing Resolution 33)

- S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least three persons for Vice President; additional nominations may be made from the floor.**
- S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for Secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.**
- S9.07. The Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for Treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.**
- S9.08. In all elections, except for the Bishop, the persons receiving the highest number of 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 of two (plus ties) for each vacancy unfilled. No ballot for an ineligible person shall be counted as a vote cast in any election. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.**
- S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the Assembly in the following manner: total number of ballots cast, number of disqualified ballots, number of votes required for election, number of ballots cast for each candidate.**
- S9.11. The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representative(s) to the steering committee of its Region.**