



Amendments to Non-Required Provisions

Additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~; all changes are **highlighted**.

Chapter 7. Synod Assembly

- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit **persons** **currently serving as synod-authorized ministers and/or** lay representatives of authorized worshipping communities **and/or outreach ministries** of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

This change allows synod-authorized ministers (“SAMs”) or representatives of synod-authorized worshipping communities or outreach ministries to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly. See also explanation to S13.40 below concerning “outreach ministries.”

Chapter 9. Nominations and Elections

- 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 **(including ties in the final qualifying position)** on the second ballot, 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 **(including ties in the final qualifying position)** 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 **(including ties in the final qualifying position)** on the previous ballot.

This change clarifies election process in the event of tie votes. For example, if there is a tie for third on the third ballot, the top 7 vote recipients will advance (first place through sixth place, including the two people tied in third place), but if there is a two-person tie for seventh position, then the top 8 vote recipients will advance.

Chapter 10. Synod Council

- S10.05.** ~~No e~~**E**lected members **s** of the Synod Council shall **not** receive compensation **solely** for **such their** service **as council members**.

This change is a clarification that no person may receive compensation solely for his or her service as a voting member on the Synod Council, but it also establishes the possibility that an elected Synod council member may receive compensation for other services provided to the synod.



Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

S10.06. No person related to a synod staff member shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Synod Council. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the synod employee, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

For purposes of avoiding conflicts of interest, this new provision allows synods to define where relatives of synod staff may or may not serve.

S10.0607. If an ordained member of the Synod Council ceases to meet . . .

S10.0708. The composition of the Synod Council . . .

S10.0809. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern . . .

Existing provisions S10.06 through S10.08 have been renumbered as S10.07 through S10.09 to accommodate the insertion of a new S10.06.

Chapter 13. Congregations

S13.40. Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities and Outreach Ministries

S13.41. ~~Authorized worshiping~~ **Worshiping** communities ~~and outreach ministries,~~ **authorized by the synod and** acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

This pair of amendments reflects a change in terminology adopted in ELCA Bylaw 10.01.04, which changed "such as developing ministries, preaching points, or chapels" to "authorized outreach ministries." Provision 10.01.04 extends the synods' authority to acknowledge authorized outreach ministries as well.