

# **Proposed Amendments to the CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS and CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Proposed Amendment to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Constitution.** For this assembly, a two-thirds vote will be taken to satisfy the above requirements in **+S18.13.**

- +S10.01.**      The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.
- a. ...
- b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth members, shall be ~~three~~ four years.

## **Proposed Amendments to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Bylaws.**

This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. **(+S18.21)**

- S7.51.04.**      The committee of reference and counsel shall consist of six people, who shall be nominated by the Secretary of this Synod and appointed by the Synod Council to three-year staggered terms. The chairperson shall be appointed by the Synod Council to a term of one year and shall be eligible for reappointment as chairperson. ~~Conference deans are encouraged to nominate individuals for this committee.~~ All terms shall begin January 1. *[with the balance of this bylaw remaining unchanged]*

- S7.51.04.**      The committee of reference and counsel shall consist of six people, who shall be nominated by the Secretary of this Synod and appointed by the Synod Council to three-year staggered terms. The chairperson shall be appointed by the Synod Council to a term of one year and shall be eligible for reappointment as chairperson. All terms shall begin January 1. *[with the balance of this bylaw remaining unchanged]*

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- S9.03.01.**      There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of ~~five~~ six persons ~~representing the broad constituency of the synod, one from each of the six area subdivisions of the synod.~~ They shall be ~~appointed by the Synod Council~~ elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary of this synod shall ~~act as convener.~~ convene the Nominating Committee.

- S9.03.01.**      There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of six persons, one from each of the six area subdivisions of the synod. They shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary of this synod shall convene the Nominating Committee.
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**S9.03.02.** The function of the Nominating Committee will be to receive the names and information about nominees ~~provided by the conferences~~ for offices for which there are elections, ~~to provide additional nominees in cases in which a conference does not provide the number of nominees required by the constitution or bylaws, and to obtain nominees for the at-large positions as a means to ensure obtaining inclusive goals.~~ Information about nominees should ~~thus~~ be made available in adequate time for publication in the pre-assembly report.

**S9.03.02.** The function of the Nominating Committee will be to receive the names and information about nominees for offices for which there are elections required by the constitution or bylaws. Information about nominees should be made available in adequate time for publication in the pre-assembly report.

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**S9.03.03.** ~~Each conference shall nominate at least one person for the Synod Council. The~~ Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for each position of the Synod Council ~~except that of the bishop. They~~ Nominees shall be either clergy or lay as determined by a schedule established by the Synod Council. ~~From these nominees, and any others nominated from the floor, the Synod Assembly shall elect one person to represent each conference.~~

**S9.03.03.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for each position of the synod council except that of the bishop. Nominees shall be either clergy or lay as determined by a schedule established by the Synod Council.

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**S9.03.04.** ~~The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for each of the four at-large positions on the Synod Council. From each of these nominees, the Synod Assembly shall elect one at-large member to serve a staggered term on the Synod Council.~~

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**S9.03.05.04.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for each of two youth positions, one male and one female, as those positions become open on the Synod Council. From these nominees, the Synod Assembly shall elect one in each category to serve ~~a staggered term on the Synod Council, each of whom at the time of election shall be in or have completed the tenth grade of school.~~ is a voting member of a congregation in this synod and who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election.

**S9.03.04.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for each of two youth positions, one male and one female, as those positions become open on the Synod Council. From these nominees, the Synod Assembly shall elect one in each category to serve on the Synod Council, each of whom is a voting member of a congregation in this synod and who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election.

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**S9.03.06** ~~In consultation with the Synodical Women's Organization, the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for one Synodical Women's Organization position, and the Synod Assembly shall elect one.~~

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- S9.03.07.05.** In accordance with ELCA constitutional provision **12.41.**, Southeastern Iowa Synod constitutional provision **+S6.04.**, and Southeastern Iowa Synod continuing resolution **+S6.04.A01.**, members of the Churchwide Assembly shall be selected as follows:
- ~~Each conference shall nominate one clergy. This nomination shall be accomplished and communicated to the secretary of this synod no later than December 1 prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will occur.~~ The Nominating Committee shall, if necessary, nominate sufficient clergy so that there are at least two nominees for each clergy position. All of these nominees and any additional nominees from the floor shall be submitted to the Synod Assembly on a single ballot and not in pairs, and the Synod Assembly shall elect the number of clergy members of the Churchwide Assembly allotted to this synod.
  - The Nominating Committee shall nominate two lay male at-large nominees and two lay female at-large nominees. The Synod Assembly shall elect one male at-large member and one female at-large member from these nominees.
  - ~~Each conference shall nominate one lay person, who may be either male or female. This nomination shall be accomplished and communicated to the secretary of this synod no later than December 1 prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will occur.~~ The Nominating Committee shall, if necessary, nominate sufficient additional lay persons so that there are at least two nominees for each of the remaining possible male lay positions and at least two nominees for each of the remaining possible female lay positions. All of the male nominees and any additional lay male nominees from the floor shall be submitted to the Synod Assembly on a single ballot and not in pairs, and the Synod Assembly shall elect the required number of lay male members to the Churchwide Assembly. All of the female nominees and any additional lay female nominees from the floor shall be submitted to the Synod Assembly on a single ballot and not in pairs, and the Synod Assembly shall elect the required number of lay female members to the Churchwide Assembly.
- S9.03.05.** In accordance with ELCA constitutional provision **12.41.**, Southeastern Iowa Synod constitutional provision **+S6.04.**, and Southeastern Iowa Synod continuing resolution **+S6.04.A01.**, members of the Churchwide Assembly shall be selected as follows:
- The Nominating Committee shall nominate sufficient clergy so that there are at least two nominees for each clergy position. All of these nominees and any additional nominees from the floor shall be submitted to the Synod Assembly on a single ballot and not in pairs, and the Synod Assembly shall elect the number of clergy members of the Churchwide Assembly allotted to this synod.
  - The Nominating Committee shall nominate two lay male at-large nominees and two lay female at-large nominees. The Synod Assembly shall elect one male at-large member and one female at-large member from these nominees.
  - The Nominating Committee shall nominate sufficient lay persons so that there are at least two nominees for each of the possible male lay positions and at least two nominees for each of the possible female lay positions. All of the male nominees and any additional lay male nominees from the floor shall be submitted to the Synod Assembly on a single ballot and not in pairs, and the Synod Assembly shall elect the required number of lay male members to the Churchwide Assembly. All of the female nominees and any additional lay female nominees from the floor shall be submitted to the Synod Assembly on a single ballot and not in pairs, and the Synod Assembly shall elect the required number of lay female members to the Churchwide Assembly.

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**S10.01.03** — ~~There shall be one Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization position on the Synod Council for a term of three years.~~

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- S10.07.01** The Synod Council shall be composed of three clergy from three of the six area subdivisions of the synod, one lay member from each ~~conference~~ of the six area subdivisions of the synod, ~~four~~ three at-large members (~~one two lay male, one lay female, and two one clergy~~), the officers of this synod, two youth members, and any additional members as prescribed in the bylaws.
- S10.07.01** The Synod Council shall be composed of three clergy from three of the six area subdivisions of the synod, one lay member from each of the six area subdivisions of the synod, three at-large members (two lay and one clergy), the officers of this synod, two youth members, and any additional members as prescribed in the bylaws.
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- S10.07.02.** Except for the ~~officers~~ bishop and youth members, terms of members on the Synod Council shall be ~~three~~ four years in length. Members who are not officers of this synod ~~shall be eligible for consecutive reelection once to a second full term. The youth members~~ shall not be eligible for reelection.
- S10.07.02.** Except for the bishop and youth members, terms of members on the Synod Council shall be four years in length. Members who are not officers of this synod shall not be eligible for reelection.
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- S10.07.04.** The Synod Council shall ~~stagger the terms of office~~ be elected in even-numbered years. Terms of office will be staggered so that approximately one ~~third~~ half of the members ~~nominated by conferences~~ shall be elected each even-numbered year; in which a Synod Council election occurs ~~and so that at least one at-large member shall be elected each year.~~
- S10.07.04.** The Synod Council shall be elected in even-number years. Terms of office will be staggered so that approximately one-half of the members shall be elected each even-numbered year in which a Synod Council election occurs.
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- S10.07.05.** The representation on Synod Council from ~~each of six particular conference~~ shall rotate among lay female, clergy and lay male. area subdivisions of the synod shall rotate between lay female and lay male. Clergy shall be elected from three of the six area subdivisions of the synod, alternating terms with the other three area subdivisions. The Synod Council shall, by continuing resolution, adopt a rotation plan which will implement this bylaw ~~and permit each member of the Synod Council to serve out the balance of the two terms one term permitted to that member or that member and the member's immediate predecessor. The Synod Council may adjust the rotation plan from time to time to respond to gender balance and diversity considerations.~~
- S10.07.05.** The representation on Synod Council from each of six area subdivisions of the synod shall rotate between lay female and lay male. Clergy shall be elected from three of the six area subdivisions of the synod, alternating terms with the other three area subdivisions. The Synod Council shall, by continuing resolution, adopt a rotation plan which will implement this bylaw.
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**S11.01.11.** There shall be an Executive Committee, chaired by the bishop of the synod, consisting of the four synod officers, plus one additional ~~clergy member~~ appointed by the Synod Council upon the recommendation of the bishop and vice president. The additional ~~clergy member will serve~~ is appointed for one year ~~and shall be chosen from the Synod Council~~ and is eligible to serve consecutive years.

**S11.01.11.** There shall be an Executive Committee, chaired by the bishop of the synod, consisting of the four synod officers, plus one additional member appointed by the Synod Council upon the recommendation of the bishop and vice president. The additional member is appointed for one year and is eligible to serve consecutive years.

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**S12.01.11.** This synod shall establish eleven conferences ~~and their boundaries~~ within the territory of this synod.

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**S12.20. Area Subdivisions**

**S12.01.21.** This synod shall establish six area subdivisions within the territory of this synod from which nominees are identified for synod leadership positions.

~~**S12.01.12.** Each conference shall, at an annual assembly of the conference, elect a dean (clergy), a secretary (lay) and any other officers deemed necessary, for three year terms to serve no more than two consecutive terms. When a conference assembly is scheduled to elect a dean, the bishop may recommend for consideration a pastor serving within the conference.~~

~~**S12.01.14.** Each conference shall have at least one assembly per year with voting representation established by each conference.~~

~~**S12.01.16.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of dean, the bishop shall appoint a pastor from the conference to serve until the next conference assembly.~~

## **Proposed Amendments to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Continuing Resolutions.**

This synod may amend its continuing resolutions at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a majority vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting or by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council. (+S18.31)

**S10.03.A18.** *The Synod Council shall elect one synod dean from each of the area subdivisions of the synod to a three-year term upon the recommendation of the bishop. Synod deans are eligible to serve two consecutive terms.*

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**S10.07.A12.** *For the purpose ~~determining conference representation on the synod council~~, of identifying nominees for the Synod Council from area subdivisions, the rotation reflected by S10.07.05. shall be extended until such time that another method is adopted.*

**S10.07.A12.** *For the purpose of identifying nominees for the Synod Council from area subdivisions, the rotation reflected by S10.07.05. shall be extended until such time that another method is adopted.*

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**S12.01.A18.** *The Synod Council shall determine the boundaries of the eleven conferences within the territory of this synod.*

**S12.01.B18.** *The rostered ministers of the conference shall elect from among their members a conference chaplain to a three-year term. Conference chaplains are eligible for reelection.*

**S12.01.C18.** *The Synod Council shall designate six area subdivisions within the territory of this synod.*