

Resolution 11.01

REGARDING AMENDING THE SYNOD CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

WHEREAS, We are grateful for the previous ministry of the conference call teams; and

WHEREAS, The synod constitution, when created twenty-two years ago, included lengthy provisions on how the call process of the synod should be done; and

WHEREAS, Through time, changes have been made to make the call process swifter, and much of the work of deciding on candidates is now more in the hands of congregational call committees; and

WHEREAS, The call process is more of a policy matter that could be regularly adjusted instead of a constitutional matter; therefore be it

RESOLVED:

That S11.20. through S11.20.08. be deleted from the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA.

Submitted by the Synod Council, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

(over for additional information)

S11.20. Conference Call Process Teams

- S11.20.01. Each conference shall have a call process team to assist congregations and other ministry agencies in the calling of ordained ministers and rostered lay ministers within the conference.
- S11.20.02. Each team shall consist of one lay female, one lay male and one ordained minister from the conference. These three call process team members must represent three different parishes within the conference. The synod bishop, or a synod minister appointed by the bishop, shall also serve on each team. The call process team members may temporarily recruit members from adjacent conferences at their discretion.
- S11.20.03. The members of each team (other than the synod bishop or synod minister) shall be elected by the conference assembly from a slate of nominees prepared by the conference nominating committee or conference officers.
- S11.20.04. The term of office for team members elected by the conference assembly shall be three years. Such team members may be re-elected by the conference assembly to an additional three-year term. A conference may establish a process where the terms of its team members are staggered.
- S11.20.05. Unexpired terms of team members from a conference may be filled by appointment by the conference dean in consultation with the conference chairperson.
- S11.20.06. Each team shall meet as needed.
- S11.20.07. Each team shall:
- a) provide for exit interviews;
 - b) provide guidance for self-study in the congregation or other ministry agency;
 - c) recommend and present candidates for call to congregations and other ministry agencies;
 - d) in consultation with the bishop provide for the installation of ordained ministers and rostered lay ministers in congregations and ministry agencies;
 - e) make a concerted effort to become acquainted with the ordained ministers and rostered lay ministers of the synod as well as congregations and ministry agencies within their conference;
 - f) maintain strictest confidentiality in all matters relating to the call process;
 - g) in complex special circumstances when they recognize a need for assistance before the call process proceeds, request support from synod staff who may call in specialized teams to assist with the call process;
 - h) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the synod assembly, the synod council or the bishop.
- S11.20.08. All conference teams shall meet together in plenary session, as convened by the synod bishop, at least once a year to review and consider changes in the synod call process. Changes to the synod call process must be ratified by the synod council.