

Resolution 13.02

Regarding Southwestern Minnesota Synod Constitutional Change for Election of a Bishop

(Note: All constitutional changes must be passed at two consecutive Synod Assemblies according to our Synod Constitution S18.13.)

Whereas, A Task Force was appointed by the Synod Council to review the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Constitution regarding to the process of electing a Synod Bishop; and

Whereas, The Task Force gathered information and made their recommendations to the Synod Council; and

Whereas, The Task Force's recommendation has been reviewed and edited by the Synod Council Policies and Procedures Committee; and

Whereas, The Synod Council voted to receive the following constitutional changes to the sections of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Constitution regarding the election of a Synod Bishop and voted April 13, 2013 to recommend them to the Synod Assembly for adoption; therefore be it

Resolved, that S9.04 be amended to read: ~~The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from among the slate of nominees determined in the bylaws. There shall be no nominations from the floor for the office of the bishop. Seconding speeches or statements by the candidates may be permitted according to rules adopted by the synod assembly. Three fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no election results, the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be removed from the slate of nominees. On the second ballot, two thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. If no election results, the candidate with the least number of votes shall be removed from the slate of candidates. On all remaining ballots until election, a majority of votes cast shall elect. If no election results on a given ballot, the candidate with the least votes shall be removed from the slate of candidates.~~

The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly in accordance with the process specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions.

Submitted by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Council

Note from the Resolutions Committee:

If the above constitutional amendment passes in 2014, the following continuing resolution will be introduced to complete the nomination process for the bishop:

S9.04.04 At the Synod Assembly, there shall be no nominations from the floor for the office of bishop. Statements by the nominees may be permitted according to rules adopted by the Synod Assembly. Where five or more nominees are on the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no election results, the nominee receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the slate of nominees. On the second ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. If no election results, the nominee with the fewest votes shall be removed from the slate of nominees. On all remaining ballots, until election, a majority of votes cast shall elect. If no election results on a given ballot, the nominee with the fewest votes shall be removed from the slate of nominees. Where four nominees, and only four nominees are on the first ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect on the first ballot, and a majority of votes cast to elect on each succeeding ballot. Where three nominees or fewer are on the first ballot, a majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect on the first ballot. Regardless of the number of nominees on the initial ballot and each succeeding ballot, if no election results, the nominee receiving the fewest votes cast shall be removed from the slate of nominees prior to the next ballot.

Adopted as presented for the first time at the 2013 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly. The second vote on this resolution will take place at the 2014 synod assembly.