

RESOLUTION 8

R-0809

To Establish a Process By Which Ordained Ministers Serving an Extra-Congregational Call May Be Elected Delegates for Synodical Conventions

Preamble: This resolution presupposes the adoption of the resolution “To Establish a Process by Which Ordained Ministers Serving an Extra-Congregational Call May Be Elected Delegates for District Conventions”.

Whereas Ordained ministers of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod called as assistant pastors or to extra-congregational ministries (e.g. Universities, Seminaries, and Recognized Service Organizations) are not eligible to serve as voting delegates to Synodical conventions; and

Whereas while many have recognized that this is basically unfair no one has offered a proposal that has been found acceptable to correct it; and

Whereas many ordained ministers serving extra-congregational ministries have special expertise in educational or mercy ministries of the church; and

Whereas one difficulty the Synod has had in trying to address the issue of voting by ordained ministers serving extra-congregational ministries is the practice of maintaining a balance between clergy and lay voters; and

Whereas this resolution is crafted in such a way as to respect that balance and impact it as little as possible; and

Whereas another difficulty has been the desire that all congregations should be represented equally; and

Whereas this resolution maintains that as much as possible all congregations should have equal voice in selecting delegates; therefore be it

Resolved that the Ohio District petition the 2010 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod convention to revisit the issue of a convention franchise at Synodical conventions for ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call; and be it further

Resolved, that the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod in convention adopt the following process for selecting ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call to serve as voting delegates to Synodical conventions:

1. Each district shall elect (an) ordained minister(s) serving an extra-congregational call at its district convention to serve as (a) voting delegate(s) to the Synodical convention.
2. All districts shall be entitled to at least one ordained minister serving an extra-congregational call delegate. Districts with more than ten non-exceptional circuits shall be entitled to one extra ordained minister serving an extra-congregational call delegate and one more in every multiple of four above

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- 47 that. (i.e. districts with 11 circuits will have two ordained minister serving
48 extra-congregational call delegates, if there are 15 eligible circuits they
49 receive three ordained minister serving extra-congregational call delegates,
50 etc.)
- 51 3. Non-exceptional circuits are those that meet all the numerical requirements in
52 bylaw 5.1.1 without exception.
 - 53 4. All ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call who have served
54 as voting delegates to their district convention shall be considered nominees
55 for election as a voting district ordained minister serving an extra-
56 congregational call delegate to the Synodical convention unless they remove
57 themselves for consideration by notifying their district secretary.
 - 58 5. An ordained minister serving an extra-congregational call who receives a
59 majority of the votes cast shall be elected as district ordained minister serving
60 an extra-congregational call delegate to the Synodical convention.
 - 61 6. If further balloting is necessary the ballot shall contain two names for every
62 remaining position to be elected determined by who received the highest
63 number of votes on the first ballot. On all subsequent ballots the ordained
64 minister serving an extra-congregational call with the lowest number of votes
65 shall be removed from the ballot.
 - 66 7. Six months prior to each district's convention the Secretary of Synod shall
67 determine how many ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call
68 each district is entitled to elect and notify the district secretary of this number;
69 and be it finally
70
- 71 Resolved, that the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall make such changes to
72 the bylaws of Synod as are necessary in order to implement this resolution.