

## RESOLUTION 7

R-0709

### **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 its district 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 district conventions for ordained ministers serving extra-congregational ministries; and be it further

Resolved, that henceforth delegates to district conventions include an ordained minister serving an extra-congregational call from each circuit, 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 calls to serve as voting delegates to district conventions:

1. Each circuit shall meet at the call of the counselor to elect its ordained minister serving an extra-congregational call delegate not later than six months prior to the opening day of the district convention.
2. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layperson from each member congregation of the circuit, both of whom shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation. Multiple parishes shall be entitled to a lay vote from each member congregation.

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- 46 3. All ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call who hold  
47 membership in a circuit congregation shall be eligible for election.  
48 a. Each voter may write in the names of two ordained ministers serving an  
49 extra-congregational call on the initial ballot. The three ordained ministers  
50 serving an extra-congregational call (or more in the case of a tie vote) who  
51 received the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be  
52 placed on the next ballot.  
53 b. Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue  
54 with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until  
55 one ordained minister serving an extra-congregational call shall have  
56 received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be  
57 declared the ordained minister serving an extra-congregational call  
58 delegate.  
59 c. The congregation served by the elected ordained minister serving an  
60 extra-congregational call delegate shall be removed from consideration for  
61 supplying the alternate ordained minister serving an extra-congregational  
62 call delegate for that particular convention unless there are no other  
63 ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call available for  
64 election from other congregations.  
65 d. All other ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call who  
66 received votes in the initial write-in ballot, except those who were  
67 eliminated through the election of the previous delegate shall be eligible  
68 for election as the alternate.  
69 e. Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from  
70 each succeeding ballot until one ordained minister serving an extra-  
71 congregational call shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast,  
72 whereupon he shall be declared the alternate ordained minister serving an  
73 extra-congregational call delegate.
- 74 4. The counselor shall report the results of the election to the secretary of the  
75 district in writing immediately after said election.
- 76 5. If neither the delegate nor the alternate can serve, the vacancy may be filled  
77 by the district president in consultation with the respective circuit counselor.
- 78 6. Circuits which have no ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call  
79 who hold membership in a circuit congregation will have no ordained minister  
80 serving an extra-congregational call delegate for the district convention.
- 81 7. Costs for the ordained minister serving an extra-congregational call delegates  
82 to the district convention shall be covered by the same process used to cover  
83 the costs of lay and pastoral delegates.
- 84 8. With the provision for ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call  
85 delegates, status of ordained ministers serving an extra-congregational call  
86 as advisory delegates shall cease; and, be it

87  
88 Resolved that assistant pastors shall be eligible to be elected as the pastoral delegate  
89 for their congregation to district conventions; and be it finally,  
90

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91 Resolved, that the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall make such changes to  
92 the by laws of Synod as are necessary to implement this resolution.