

Proposed Rules Of Procedure

(As initially adopted by the churchwide executive board at its April 2019 meeting and subsequently modified for this digital convention)

DELEGATE BODY

The voting members of the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2021) shall be the officers of the churchwide women's organization, the members of the churchwide executive board, the presidents of the synodical women's organizations, those women elected as voting members by the conventions of the synodical women's organizations, and those voting members appointed to fulfill the inclusiveness guidelines of Women of the ELCA (Article XI, Section 5, Items 1 and 2).

SEATING OF VOTING MEMBERS

Voting members will be deemed credentialed when they log into the convention using their unique login codes. The roll of voting members may not be changed after August 3, 2021 (Plenary meeting #1) without specific approval of the convention.

QUORUM

A majority of the registered voting members shall constitute a quorum.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

According to the Constitution of Women of the ELCA, seat and voice shall be granted to the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or the bishop's representative and to advisors to the Women of the ELCA Executive Board (Article XI, Section 6, Item 1).

Voice shall be given to the executive director.

Voice shall be given to staff and guests when granted by the presiding officer.

Upon request by a voting member, and with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the voting members, a resource person may speak on a pending

question for a period of time not to exceed two minutes. Such speakers shall identify themselves by name and office.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

At the opening business meeting, the churchwide president shall announce the membership of the following committees:

- Conduct of Elections Committee
- Credentials Committee
- Memorials Committee
- Minutes Approval Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Reference and Counsel Committee

CONVENTION BUSINESS AGENDA

The churchwide organization president shall be granted the privilege of adjusting the agenda and calling up any item of business she deems necessary in light of schedule and time constraints.

CONVENTION MINUTES

The minutes approval committee is authorized to approve the minutes.

VOTING PROCEDURES

To be eligible to vote, a voting member must use the unique login provided to her. No proxy or absentee voting is permitted.

All voting shall be electronic.

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nominations from the floor for secretary, treasurer and executive board members may be made by completing a nomination form and submitting it online. A link for the nomination form will be provided during the convention.

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All nominations for secretary and treasurer must be completed and submitted before 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 3.

All nominations for executive board member must be completed and submitted before 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4.

See “Procedure for Nominations from the Floor,” page 80. Floor nominations must include the consent of five voting members. The person being nominated shall have given her consent and indicated her willingness to serve if elected. Nominations will be considered made in the order in which they are received and will be reported in alphabetical order by last name.

ELECTIONS

Refer to Women of the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws, Article XIV, Sections 3, 5 and 6.

The third ballot for president shall be limited to the five persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot. The top five nominees, plus ties, will address the convention for no more than three minutes each. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the third ballot.

The third ballot for vice president shall be limited to the five persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the second ballot. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the third ballot.

The second ballots for secretary and for treasurer shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballots.

After the third ballot for executive board members, subsequent ballots shall be limited to twice the number of board members yet to be elected to fulfill the constitutional criteria.

MEMORIALS AND REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEES

According to the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA, the memorials committee and reference and counsel committee shall be appointed by the president of the churchwide women's organization with the approval of the executive board. The memorials committee shall review memorials from the conventions of the synodical women's organizations and make appropriate recommendations for the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2021) action (Article XI, Section 7, Item 2). The reference and counsel committee shall review all items submitted at the convention which are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the triennial convention and make appropriate recommendations for triennial convention action (Article XI, Section 7, Item 1).

STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE AND THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

A recommendation from the memorials committee or the reference and counsel committee shall be the main motion before the convention. A committee recommendation will be one of the following:

1. adopt the memorial or resolution as originally submitted,
2. adopt the memorial or resolution as amended by the committee,
3. adopt a substitute memorial or resolution,
4. reject the memorial or resolution, or
5. refer the memorial or resolution to the Executive Board for further study and/or action. (Note: This is required if the expenditure of funds is involved.)

If the committee recommends 2, 3, 4 or 5 and the body rejects the recommendation, the original memorial or resolution becomes the main motion on the floor.

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MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Any voting member may make a motion or present a resolution from the floor if the motion or resolution is germane to the question under consideration.

Motions and resolutions of a general character and not germane to a pending question must reflect the consent of five (5) voting members and introduced no later than Plenary Meeting #2, at the time the chair calls for the second and final opportunity to present new business.

All motions shall be submitted online in the manner provided.

Any motion necessitating the allocation of funds shall be referred to the executive board. The executive board shall make a report at a subsequent meeting of the convention.

All proposed amendments to the churchwide constitution shall be made in accordance with Article XVIII of the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA. All proposed amendments to the Approved Constitution and Bylaws for Synodical Women's Organizations and the Approved Model Constitution and Bylaws for the Congregational/Intercongregational and Special Units must reflect the consent of five (5) voting members representing no fewer than three (3) synodical women's organizations and referred to the executive board. The executive board shall report on proposed amendments at a subsequent meeting of the convention but shall not be required to do so until 24 hours have elapsed following the presentation.

EN BLOC ACTIONS

Constitutions and bylaws may be amended and memorials may be adopted by en bloc votes, unless a voting member objects to the inclusion of any constitutional amendment or memorial in the block. *En bloc* means "as a group." In en bloc voting, all of the actions proposed in a given category will be voted on at the same time without discussion. The specific recommendations that will be included in en bloc voting are these:

- Recommendations from the executive board for proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA.
- Recommendations from the executive board for proposed amendments to the Approved Constitution and Bylaws for Synodical Women's Organizations.
- Recommendations from the executive board for proposed amendments to the Approved Constitution and Bylaws for Congregational/ Intercongregational and Special Units.
- Recommendations from the memorials committee on memorials from synodical conventions.

Any voting member who objects to the inclusion of any item in any of the proposed blocks shall notify the secretary of the convention via online form by 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 3, by completing and submitting the appropriate form. Particular provisions so identified will be presented to the convention separately from the rest of the proposals in that block. Any recommendations not objected to will be considered as part of the en bloc resolutions.

An online form for requesting removal from en bloc will be made available to voting members. All forms should be submitted by 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 3.

SPEECHES

- All speeches in general discussion, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the convention, shall be limited to two minutes. Total debate on any motion will be limited to 10 minutes.
- No person shall speak more than twice on the same issue without the consent of the convention and only after all others who wish to speak have spoken.
- Voting members must indicate in the chat function of the meeting that they desire to speak, identify themselves by name and synodical women's organization or name and executive

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board member, indicate whether they wish to speak for or against a motion (or whether they rise for a point of order) and must wait to be recognized before proceeding to speak.

- The chair will ask for debate on an alternating pro and con basis.
- A motion shall be put to vote immediately when no one wishes to speak in opposition to a pending question.
- A speaker who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s) at the conclusion of her speech.

ATTENDANCE

All voting members shall attend all business meetings of the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2021), including specially called meetings.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

After the convention is in session, permission to distribute materials other than official convention materials within the convention and not issued by the secretary must be secured from the reference and counsel committee.

POLICY ON ELECTIONEERING

The Policy on Electioneering as adopted by the executive board of Women of the ELCA shall apply throughout the nomination and election process for the convention. This policy is printed below.

There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit
AND

There are a variety of services, but the same Lord
AND

There are a variety of activities, but the same God
who activates them in everyone.

Women of the ELCA affirms and believes all women should have equal opportunity for involvement and leadership in the organization.

Women of the ELCA further believes that the Spirit that binds us all through baptism is the guiding factor for each voting member prayerfully to review and consider each nominee's biographical information prior to the synodical women's conventions or churchwide triennial convention.

Each participant further understands that promoting one candidate over another through campaigning is in fact interfering with God's plan and actions for participants of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

GOVERNING PARLIAMENTARY LAW

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary procedure of this convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA.