

Executive Board Recommendations

The churchwide executive board, through the work of its constitutional review committee, has proposed the following changes to organizational bylaws. Consistent with Article XVIII – AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS, Section 2 of the churchwide constitution, “bylaws not in conflict with this constitution may be adopted or amended at any regular meeting of the Triennial Convention when presented in writing by the executive board”

The existing language is in regular typeface, the proposed changes are in **bold** typeface, and deletions are noted as ~~strikethroughs~~. An explanation is offered below each proposal indicating the rationale of the constitutional review committee and the date when the executive board approved the proposal.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR THE CHURCHWIDE WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION

Proposal 1.

ARTICLE XIII – EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 5. Responsibilities

- Item 10.** Determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer or board member to perform ~~her~~ **their** duties and determine whether ~~she~~ **they** shall be removed from ~~her~~ **their** office in accordance with the policies and procedures of the executive board (for removal of an officer or board member, a two-thirds vote of the total board shall be required; **neither** a mail vote **nor an email vote** shall ~~not~~ be used to effect the removal of an officer or board member);

The committee feels with the availability of digital meetings and conference calls, an actual conversation among the board should take place. The Churchwide Executive Board approved the above proposal at its October 2022 meeting.

Proposal 2.

ARTICLE XIV—NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCESS

SECTION 5. Election of the Churchwide Women’s Organization Officers

- Item 1.** The president shall be elected by the Triennial Convention by a nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Two-thirds of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the five persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot. An information sheet shall show for each of the five nominees ~~her~~ **their** address, synodical organization, and qualifications for

office. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the highest number of votes on the third ballot.

- Item 2.** The vice president shall be elected by the Triennial Convention by nominating ballot. Two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. On subsequent ballots a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the five persons (plus ties) receiving the highest number of votes on the second ballot. An information sheet shall show for each of the nominees ~~her~~ **their** address, synodical organization, and qualifications for office. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot.

Updated with inclusive language. The Churchwide Executive Board approved the above proposal at its October 2022 meeting.

Proposal 3.

ARTICLE XVI—STAFF

SECTION 1. Employment of Staff

- Item 2.** The executive director shall be the chief executive officer of the organization. ~~She~~ **They** shall carry out the policies of the organization and work collegially with the staff. ~~She~~ **They** shall work interdependently with other churchwide units. ~~She~~ **They** shall prepare the reports of the executive board to the Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA and the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA.

Updated with inclusive language. The Churchwide Executive Board approved the above proposal at its October 2022 meeting.

Proposal 4.

ARTICLE XI—CONVENTIONS

SECTION 5. Voting Members of the Triennial Convention

- Item 2.** ~~Each synodical women's organization shall elect one voting member for every 25 congregational, intercongregational, or special units (or a fraction thereof) within the synodical women's organization, and~~ **Each synodical women's organization shall have at most four elected voting members. They shall strive to elect them in the following manner: one president or convener, coordinator, or co-chair; a person of color or whose primary language is other than English; and a first-time voting member or a person under the age of 45.** At least 10 percent of the voting member body shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. As defined in ELCA continuing resolution 5.01.C00, "persons of color and/or

persons whose primary language is other than English” shall be understood to mean African American, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native people. This definition, however, shall not be understood as limiting Women of the ELCA’s commitment to inclusive participation in its life and work. **Multiple categories can be met in a single candidate, where-in a voting member who is both a person of color and president would count as meeting both criteria leaving another voting member spot open in terms of eligibility.**

Brought forth by the committee and edited and proposed by the Churchwide Executive Board in October 2022.

Proposal 5.

ARTICLE XI—CONVENTIONS

SECTION 5. Voting Members of the Triennial Convention

Item 6. Voting members elected to serve at the Triennial Convention shall continue serving until ~~voting members are elected for~~ the start of the next regular Triennial Convention.

The committee feels the following item should be edited to better reflect what would happen in situations where a special vote is needed in between conventions.

MODEL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR A SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION

Proposal 6.

ARTICLE VII—BOARD OF THE SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION

SECTION 7. Board Duties

Item 10. Determine the fact of the incapacity of a SWO leader or board member to perform ~~her~~ **their** duties and determine if ~~she~~ **they** shall be removed from ~~her~~ **their** office in accordance with the policies and procedures of the churchwide Executive Board. For removal of a SWO leader or board member, a two-thirds vote of the total board shall be required. **Neither** a mail **nor an email** vote shall ~~not~~ be used to effect the removal of a SWO leader or board member.

The committee feels with the availability of digital meetings and conference calls, an actual conversation among the board should take place. The Churchwide Executive Board proposed the above amendments at its October 2022 meeting.