



Legislative Update
Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Voting on certain constitutional items

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA, pages 34 and 43

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger announced that a voting member brought constitutional provision **22.21.** of the ELCA Constitution to his attention. It states, "In no event shall an amendment be placed before the assembly for action sooner than the day following its presentation to the assembly." Vice President William B. Horne II declared action CA19.01.03 and the first ballot for presiding bishop from Monday, August 5, 2019, invalid.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

APPROVED BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE

CA19.01.03 To adopt, en bloc, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: 12.41.16., 12.41.17., and 17.60. through 17.60.B19.

The assembly then began discussion on the constitutional amendments regarding making Church Council members voting members and establishing the Endowment Fund (ELCA Foundation) as a separately incorporated ministry. It was moved to postpone voting on the item until the scheduled time for other amendments to governing documents. After further discussion, a voting member called the question.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

PASSED BY TWO-THIRDS

CA19.02.03 To end debate.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

MOTION IS DEFEATED

CA19.02.04 To postpone voting on the action on these amendments until the scheduled time to discuss other amendments to governing documents.

A voting member requested to use the voting machines to ensure the accuracy of the vote.

ASSEMBLY

YES-204; NO-670

ACTION

MOTION IS DEFEATED

CA19.02.05 To postpone voting on the action on these amendments until the scheduled time to discuss other amendments to governing documents.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

PASSED BY TWO-THIRDS

CA19.02.06 To adopt, en bloc, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: 12.41.16., 12.41.17., and 17.60. through 17.60.B19.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

PASSED BY TWO-THIRDS

CA19.02.07

To allow the chair to amend the agenda to allow the first ballot for bishop at the most appropriate time once the elections committee has prepared the ballots.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

PASSED BY TWO-THIRDS

CA19.02.08

To extend the plenary for 15 minutes to allow time for the first ballot for presiding bishop.

Elections: First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V: Election of the Presiding Bishop*

Vice President William B. Horne II led the assembly in casting the first ballot for presiding bishop. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 9:16 a.m., 929 voting members had registered to cast ballots.

Introduction: Recommended Proposed Social Statement

“Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, “Faith, Sexism, Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action,”*

Section VI, User’s Guide for “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”

The co-chairs of the Women and Justice Task Force, the Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld and Mr. Brad Wendel, presented the proposed social statement and the work of the task force to the assembly. Voting members will vote on the proposed social statement during plenary session eight on Friday, August 9.

Introduction: 2020–2022 Budget Proposal

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 2020–2022 Budget Proposal*

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration of the churchwide organization, presented the proposed budget for the next triennium along with the Church Council recommendation to adopt the budget. The assembly will vote on the recommendation during plenary session seven on Thursday, August 8.

Elections: Report of the First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Presiding Bishop; Section X, Results of the First Ballot for Presiding Bishop*

The Elections Committee reported the results of the first ballot for presiding bishop. Of the 893 legal ballots cast, 670 votes were needed for election. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton was reelected to a six-year term as presiding bishop on the first ballot with 725 votes.

Presentation: “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent”

Reference: *2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, “A Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent”*

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, Bishop William J. Gohl, and Church Council members, the Rev. Peder J. Johanson, Mr. Clarence M. Smith, and Ms. Emma K. Wagner, presented the “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent” to the assembly. The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association, and members of the African Descent Lutheran Association, Ms. Tracey Beasley and the Rev. Tiffany Chaney, accepted the document. Presiding Bishop Eaton stated that she will be consulting with others to identify a day of repentance for congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to observe annually.

Memorials Committee

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, noted that synod assemblies had addressed 88 memorials to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The memorials were sorted into 34 categories, and the committee prepared a recommendation for assembly action for each category. The committee moved 32 of the recommended actions *en bloc* and began addressing the remaining two recommendations separately. Voting members removed six recommended actions from *en bloc*. A total of eight memorial topics will be discussed over the course of the assembly.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA19.02.09

YES-829; NO-33

To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2017, 2018, and 2019 synod memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee:

- Category A1: Gun Violence
- Category A3: Ethiopian Suffering
- Category A4: Earth Charter
- Category A5: Carbon Fee (and Dividend)
- Category A7: Immigrants and Refugees
- Category A8: Deportation
- Category B1: Just Peace
- Category B2: Palestine (No Way to Treat a Child)
- Category B3: Augusta Victoria Hospital
- Category B4: Engagement in the Holy Land
- Category C2: Income Inequality
- Category C4: Gender Identity
- Category C6: Gun Policy
- Category C7: (In Support of) “Faith, Sexism, and Justice”
Recommended Proposed Social Statement
- Category C8: Implementation of “Faith, Sexism, Justice”
Recommended Proposed Social Statement
- Category D2: Sexual Misconduct
- Category D3: Unaltered Augsburg Confession
- Category D4: Thrivent
- Category D5: Social Purpose Funds (Portico)
- Category D6: Seminary Tuition
- Category D8: Vision and Expectations Task Force
- Category D9: Bishop Evaluation
- Category D10: Merging or Consolidating Synods
- Category E1: Word and Service Constitutional Amendments
- Category E2: Binary Designations
- Category E3: Titles of Ministers

Introduction: “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment”

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment”

The Rev. Patricia J. Lull, bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, and members of the inter-religious task force presented the proposed policy statement “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment.” The Church Council unanimously recommended that the Churchwide Assembly adopt the proposed policy statement. The assembly will vote on the recommendation during plenary session seven Thursday evening, August 8.

Deadlines for Wednesday, August 8, 2019

8:30 a.m. Proposed amendments to inter-religious policy statement
Proposed amendments to strategy toward authentic diversity statement

11:00 a.m. Non-germane resolutions
Proposed amendments to the 2020–2022 budget proposal
Proposed amendments to women and justice social statement and implementing resolutions

2:15 p.m. First common ballot