



## **RULES OF ORGANIZATION & PROCEDURE ONLINE SYNOD ASSEMBLY (2020)**

Order and procedure of this assembly shall be governed by the constitution, by-laws , continuing resolutions of the Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod, these rules of organization and procedure, and unless otherwise ordered, parliamentary procedures in accordance with the advisements of Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition regarding electronic meetings.

### **MEMBERS**

**Voting Members** - Voting members, by constitution (S7.21ff), are persons designated by their congregation to be a voting member according to the representative formula of this Synod. Voting members also include: (1) persons designated by a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community or Mission Congregation under Development to be a voting member according to the representative formula of this Synod, (2) all ordained and lay ministers on the roster of this Synod, (3) ordained ministers of a church body with which the ELCA is in full communion who are serving as pastors under contract with a congregation or Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community of this Synod, (4) lay Synodically Authorized Worship Leaders who are serving under contract with a congregation of this Synod by the Bishop's authorization, and (5) members of the Synod Council who are registered for the assembly. For the purposes of the 2020 Assembly alone these voting members will also serve as the advisory board for Briarwood Lutheran Ministries, Inc. for the sole purpose of affirming the slate of candidates to serve on the Briarwood Board.

Voting members must be present, as provided by the online format, to vote. Proxy and absentee voting are not allowed.

**Advisory Members** - Advisory members are the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the presiding bishop's representative, chairpersons of Synod Teams, Youth Convo members, and seminary interns currently serving within a congregation of this Synod.

Advisory members have voice but no vote.

**Resource Members** - Resource members are the chief executives of church agencies and institutions related to this Synod, the executive directors and chairpersons of the boards of the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund and Briarwood Lutheran Ministries, the meeting planner(s) for the assembly, and others as granted permission by this assembly, who because of their position or expertise can contribute to the work of the assembly.

Resource members have voice only with respect to matters within their expertise, but no vote, unless otherwise granted by their roster or appointed status.

**QUORUM** - One half of the registered voting members must be present, as provided by the online format, to constitute a quorum.

**AGENDA** - The proposed agenda may be amended by a majority vote prior to its adoption. Thereafter a two-thirds affirmative vote shall be required for amending the adopted agenda. With the consent of the assembly, the chair may call items of business in whatever order the chair considers most expedient for the conduct of the assembly's business.

**RESOLUTIONS** - There will be **NO** resolutions from the floor for the 2020 assembly due to the brevity and new nature of the online meeting platform. Only resolutions from the synod council will be considered.

**MOTIONS**

### **Moving the Previous Question**

A member who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s).

A motion to end debate by moving the previous question shall apply only to the immediately preceding motion.

A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order.

### **Substitute Motion(s)**

When a substitute motion is made, secondary amendments may be offered first to the original motion. After all secondary amendments to the original motion have been disposed of, secondary amendments to the substitute motion may be offered. When all amendments to the substitute motion have been disposed of, the vote shall be taken on whether the substitute motion is to be substituted as the original motion or be rejected.

**NOMINATIONS** - Nominations will be made by the Nominating Committee. There will be **NO** nominations from the floor for the 2020 assembly. With each nomination an information sheet about that person shall be filed with the secretary for use by the Committee on Elections. All persons nominated as an officer of this Synod (Bishop, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) shall have appropriate background checks conducted prior to the election.

A majority vote of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

**ELECTIONS** - Zoom Poll will be utilized for online voting. Each vote is validated by the user's email address and each user may only vote once.

Each category for which an election is held is considered a separate ballot even though several categories for election may appear on an electronic screen. In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on

the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled (S9.08). In cases where there is only one nominee after nominations have been closed, the chair may take a voice vote on electing that person and, if it is a majority as determined by the chair, declare the election of that nomination.

**DEBATE** - Upon opening the floor to debate by the chair, those wishing to speak will message the administrator of the meeting and indicate their position on the question being debated. The administrator will determine person's right to debate and then notify the chair. The chair will then choose to recognize and give voice to those persons.

Speakers shall limit their speeches to two minutes. No one is entitled to recognition a second time on the same question as long as another member who has not spoken on the motion desires the floor. A person who has spoken twice on a particular question has exhausted the right to debate further on that question. Insofar as is possible during discussion, a speaker on one side of the question shall be followed by a speaker on the other side. In the give and take of debate on issues, members and visitors shall refrain from applause or comment.

**DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS** - All approved materials will be posted on the NT-NL website.

**PROPOSED MISSION STRATEGY** - The proposed Mission Strategy (budget) along with the rationale shall be presented to the assembly in the resource materials. Debate and adoption of the Mission Strategy shall take place as scheduled on the approved agenda. Any motion for expenditure of funds or proposed amendment to the Mission Strategy as presented by the Synod Council shall be submitted in writing to the secretary by 2:30 p.m. (CDT), Saturday, February 26, 2020, for review and recommendation by the Committee for Reference and Counsel. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the Mission Strategy or otherwise, which is presented to the assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote for adoption.