

## **Constitutional (Bylaw) Updates for Consideration by the 2021 NWOS Assembly**

**Update 1 – S11.01.01** Rationale: This update corrects the issue of term start-date for committee membership, bringing this bylaw in line with a flexible assembly, as adopted by the 2018 Synod Assembly. This update was previously missed when preparing updates to allow for a flexible assembly.

Proposed Update:

S11.01.01 The terms of members serving on committees elected by the Synod Assembly shall begin on July 1 of the year specified on the ballot which they were elected ~~the first day of the second month following the adjournment of the assembly at which they are elected.~~

**Update 2 - S10.01.01.** Rationale: This update reflects CW changes in roster language, from “clergy” to “rostered minister”, which includes both rostered ministers of word and service (deacons) and rostered ministers of word and sacrament (pastors). Update 2 brings our bylaw into conformity with the broader constitutions. This update also allows for retired rostered ministers to serve on our Synod Council.

Proposed Update:

S10.01.01

- a. The members of the Synod Council, other than the officers, shall consist of eleven lay and seven rostered ministers ~~clergy~~ and shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. Those elected shall include two members from each of the seven conferences of this synod, plus three members at-large and one minority member at-large.
- b. To be considered from a conference of this synod, a person shall be: (a) a voting member of a congregation within the conference; or (b) a rostered minister under call to a congregation, agency, or institution located within the conference; or (c) a rostered minister who is retired and is a voting member of a congregation within the conference. ~~clergy under call to a congregation, agency, or institution located within the conference.~~

**Update 3 - S10.01.02.** Rationale: Similar to the Update 2, this updates language to reflect CW changes in roster language, from “clergy” to “rostered minister”, which includes both rostered ministers of word and service (deacons) and rostered ministers of word and sacrament (pastors). Update 3 brings our bylaw into conformity with the broader constitutions. This update also allows for retired rostered ministers to serve on our Synod Council, provided they are a voting member of a congregation in the conference.

Proposed Update:

S10.01.02

- a. Should a lay member of the Synod Council during his or her term of office cease to be a voting member of a congregation within the conference from which he or she was nominated, the seat shall at once be declared vacant.
- b. Should a lay member at-large of the Synod Council during his or her term of office cease to be a voting member of a congregation within the territory of the Northwestern Ohio Synod, the seat shall at once be declared vacant.
- c. Should a **rostered minister** ~~clergy~~ member of the Synod Council during his or her term of office resign a call to accept a call in a congregation, agency, or institution within the conference from which they were originally elected, the seat shall not be declared vacant, and the normal term shall continue.
- d. Should a **rostered minister** ~~clergy~~ member of the Synod Council during his or her term of office cease to be under call to a congregation, agency, or institution located in the conference from which he or she was nominated, the seat shall at once be declared vacant.
- e. Should a **rostered minister** ~~clergy~~ member of the Synod Council under call to a congregation, agency, or institution Resign and be declared "on leave from call," even though residing in the same conference from which elected, the seat shall at once be declared vacant.
- f. Should a rostered minister member of the Synod Council under call to a congregation, agency, or institution retire and transfer membership to a congregation within the same conference, the seat shall not be declared vacant, and the normal term shall continue.
- g. Should a rostered minister member of the Synod Council under call to a congregation, agency, or institution retire and transfer membership to a congregation outside of the conference, the seat shall at once be declared vacant.

**Update 4 – S10.07.04** Rationale: This update allows for Synod Council members to also be a member of a board that receives funding from our Synod. Such examples of this include Trinity Seminary, LOMO, ELCA Church Council, etc. This update recognizes that possible conflict of interest exists and addresses that concern by requiring disclosure and recusal from financial votes. This update will then allow individuals who feel called to serve on multiple boards the ability to do so.

Proposed Update:

S10.07.04. No elected member of the Synod Council shall simultaneously be a member of a board or organizational unit to which this synod makes direct financial contribution, unless such membership is disclosed to the council and such member recuses themselves from voting on applicable financial matters, with the exception of cases of direct subsidies made to congregations, for which disclosure and recusal is not needed.