

A Resolution, To Improve Communication of Positions Up for Election and Nominees

Proposed for consideration at the 2021 Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly

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Whereas “the Church is a *people* created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit” (NWOS Constitution 6.01, emphasis added); and

Whereas the responsibilities of the Northwestern Ohio Synod include “providing for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support” of the Church’s work (NWOS Const. 6.03.01.b); and

Whereas “additional nominations may be made from the [Synod Assembly] floor for all elections whose slates are prepared by the Nominating Committee or the Synod Council” (NWOS Const. 9.03.e); and

Whereas it is necessary to know what positions are open for election, in order to nominate oneself or another for that position...

Therefore be it resolved that:

- 1.) Starting in 2022, the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council or its designate shall publish and send to all congregations and rostered leaders a list of all positions to be elected by that year’s Synod Assembly, along with brief descriptions of these positions and guidelines for crafting resolutions and memorials. This shall be sent no less than 60 days, and preferably 90 days, before the nomination deadline.
- 2.) Starting in 2022, the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council or its designate shall publish and send to all Synod Assembly voting members a list and brief biographies of all nominees, resolutions, memorials and other action items. This shall be sent no less than 14 days before the start of the Synod Assembly.
- 3.) In the event of extraordinary circumstances that prevent the publications of these materials by these dates, the materials shall be sent as soon as possible.

Rationale:

It is often quite difficult to know ahead of time what positions are up for election at any Synod Assembly. This makes it hard for congregation members and even rostered leaders to make nominations for these positions, independent of those produced by the Nominating Committee. In turn, this risks increased alienation between congregations and the synod, if congregations and parishioners feel that they don’t really have a chance to make their voice heard and take part in synod affairs, unless they are “in the know” or are selected by the Nominating Committee. This resolution would seek to strengthen congregations’ ability to make nominations for synod leadership, thereby enhancing the trust and relationship between the synod and “everyday parishioners.”