

Transcript of video available at <https://youtu.be/qKxAUyEXF-g>

Hi! I'm Dave Borka, and I serve as the synod parliamentarian for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. I'm a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Faribault.

As we head toward the 2023 Synod Assembly, the Synod Council wants to provide for increased informed engagement with all resolutions that come before the assembly. Resolutions that meet the submission deadline of March 15 will come before the assembly's voting members on Saturday, May 6, and here's our plan for giving you - the people of the synod - clear ways of being part of the process.

The process for submitting a resolution for consideration by the assembly can happen in a number of ways:

- by majority vote of a congregation of the synod at a regular or special meeting of the congregation
- by approval by a two-thirds vote of a congregation council
- by majority vote of a committee of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
- by majority vote of a conference assembly
- by a group of at least ten members of congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod elected to serve as voting members of the forthcoming synod assembly; or
- by a group of at least ten clergy voting members under call, sitting lay Synod Council members or other non-elected voting members at the time of the forthcoming synod assembly.

Resolutions must be received by March 15 each year for the Committee on Reference and Counsel to engage the review process for each resolution. For further details on the process for submitting a resolution go to semnsynod.org, click on 'events' where you will find a link to the 2023 SEMN Synod Assembly.

Resolutions will be made public on April 15 at the SEMN Synod website for people to review.

On Wednesday, April 26 at 7pm, Reverend Dr. Scott Olson, chair of Reference and Council, and the author of each resolution submitted by March 15 will be hosting a Reference and Council Caucus via Zoom. This will be a space for Pastor Scott and the authors to answer questions about the resolutions and the process by which a resolution is reviewed by Reference and Council.

Those intending to participate in the Synod Assembly as a voting member are invited to participate. A link to the Reference Caucus will be shared closer to the date of the caucus through the synod's RCWeekly and the synod website.

Unlike previous years, the proposed assembly rules will not create space for the submission of late resolutions. Rather, we invite the people of the synod to join us in using the process I've described in this video to have meaningful and informed engagement with the resolutions brought before the assembly. Together, we can all work ahead to ensure that by the time we gather on May 6, everyone has already engaged thoroughly and wisely with the submitted resolutions.