Resolution 3 – Amendments to Western Iowa Synod Constitution per Churchwide

Submitted by Western Iowa Synod Council

WHEREAS, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informed this synod that the 2025 Churchwide Assembly has amended the Constitution for Synods,

WHEREAS, the Western Iowa Synod Council has recommended approval of the amendments to non-required provisions,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the Western Iowa Synod Constitution

Chapter 7.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit persons currently serving as synod-authorized ministers and/or lay representatives of authorized worshiping communities and/or outreach ministries of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

Chapter 9.
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons ~~(plus ties)~~ who receive the greatest number of legal votes (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons ~~(plus ties)~~ who receive the greatest number of legal votes (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons ~~(plus ties)~~ who receive the greatest number of legal votes (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the previous ballot.

Chapter 10.
SYNOD COUNCIL

S10.05. ~~No e~~Elected members of the Synod Council shall not receive compensation solely for ~~such~~ their service as council members.

S10.06. No person related to a synod staff member shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Synod Council or the following synod committees: Executive, Consultation, Discipline, Mutual Ministry, and Finance/Audit. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the synod employee, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

S10.~~06~~07. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet . . . .
S10.~~07~~08. The composition of the Synod Council . . . .
S10.~~08~~09. *Robert's Rules of Order,* latest edition, shall govern . . . .

Chapter 13.
CONGREGATIONS

S13.40. Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities and Outreach Ministries
S13.41. ~~Authorized worshiping~~ Worshiping communities and outreach ministries, authorized by the synod and acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

The Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel reports this resolution and recommends its adoption.