



## Nominations and Election of Eastern Synod Delegates to ELCIC National Convention

### Background

In 2015, the National Church adopted a new governance structure that included provisions to reduce the size of national conventions. Each synod was tasked with the responsibility of determining how it would elect its delegates.

The total number of synodical delegates attending national conventions will be 150. The Eastern Synod share of this total is determined by the following:

- a) A base number of 10;
- b) An additional number based on the Eastern Synod's share of ELCIC baptized membership.

For the 2022 ELCIC National Convention, Eastern Synod representation must be allocated amongst lay and active rostered delegates in the following proportions:

- a) Lay: 32
- b) Active Rostered: 21

According to ELCIC Administrative By-laws Part VII Section 7, synods shall make reasonable efforts to elect or appoint one-fifth (1/5) of such delegates who are sixteen (16) to thirty (30) years of age as of the first day of convention. Therefore, our aim is to elect at least 11 delegates from this age category.

The following proposal assumes that 10 delegates (5 lay and 5 rostered) will be elected by the Synod Council Officers at its first regularly scheduled meeting subsequent to the convention at which all other delegates are elected. Consideration shall be made to reflect proportionate geographical representation, gender and age balance.

### POLICY

#### Section I Nominations for Delegates

1. 120 days (by February 24, 2021) in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the secretary of synod council shall call for nominations for lay and rostered delegate positions. Nominations shall close 60 days (by April 25, 2021) prior to the opening of the convention at which the elections shall take place. No nominations may be made after this time including during the synod convention.
2. Eligible nominees shall be:
  - a) rostered ministers, called or appointed to serve in a ministry of this church;
  - b) lay members in good standing of a congregation of this church.

3. Only one nominee may be nominated from any given congregation.
4. Nominations will be accepted provided:
  - a) the nomination form is endorsed by 10 members of good standing, representing at least 3 Eastern Synod congregations;
  - b) the nominee is endorsed by the Congregational Council/Meeting of the congregation within which the nominee is a member; and
  - c) the completed nomination includes biographical information provided as per the prescribed form.
5. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be posted on the Eastern Synod website no later than 30 days prior to the opening of the convention at which the elections shall take place.
6. The Synod's Privacy Policy is on the Eastern Synod website.
7. The Synod and National Church share delegate costs covering registration, travel, board and accommodation.

## **Section II Order of Elections**

1. Nominees in each delegate category shall be elected by a single ballot, based on the highest number of votes of the prescribed number of delegates needing to be elected.
2. If there is a tie vote between nominees for the last delegate position needed, a second ballot will determine the final delegate(s) needed based on the highest number of votes received.
3. Should there be insufficient nominations in any category, those vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as outlined in Section III of this policy.

## **Section III Election of Additional Delegates**

1. Synod Council, based on the recommendation of the Synod Council Officers, shall elect 5 rostered delegates and 5 lay delegates, taking into consideration proportionate geographical representation, gender and age balance.

## **Section IV Replacement of Delegates**

1. If an elected delegate(s) is unable to attend the national convention or becomes ineligible to attend, the Synod Council Officers shall appoint a replacement(s). When appropriately possible, the replacement shall be the nominee who received the next greatest number of votes during the balloting process at the relevant synod convention.

*Adopted:* Eastern Synod Council - December 2015

*Revised:* Eastern Synod Officers – January 2018; January 2021