

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS OF THE 2017 METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 354 voting members meeting May 11-13, 2017 at the Westchester Marriott, in Tarrytown, New York, approved resolutions, elected members of the Synod Council, heard a congregational appeal, amended the Standing Rules of the Assembly, and adopted budgets.

General Resolutions Adopted

SA 2017:05.04 Synod Assembly Agenda

Resolved, that the prepared agenda for the Synod Assembly be constructed so as to schedule the report and deliberations of the Reference and Counsel Committee during the times when the most persons are expected to be present; *and be it further*

Resolved, that although the members of the Committee on Reference and Counsel may be introduced during the first plenary session, no report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel may be scheduled for the first plenary session, except when more than six Memorials, Resolutions or other legislative items have been received in advance of the Assembly, in which case a report may be scheduled for the first plenary; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the report of the committee on Reference and Counsel be allotted sufficient time for the Assembly adequately to consider every Memorial, Resolution, and other legislative item, including at least 20 minutes of deliberation per Memorial, Resolution, or other legislative item received in advance of the Assembly, as needed; *and be it further*

Resolved, that in the event that the time allotted to deliberations for Reference and Counsel prove insufficient to deliberate and vote upon every Memorial, Resolution, or other legislative item, that all further agenda items other than celebration of the Holy Communion will be delayed or removed from the agenda, until completion of the deliberation and voting; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel be completed before commencement of the final plenary session of the Assembly, except insofar as nothing shall prevent the extension of previously scheduled deliberation and voting into the final plenary session if necessary.

SA 2017:05.05 Synod Council Elections

Resolved, that the Nominating Committee be instructed not to provide any additional candidate in the instance that a Conference nominates only one candidate for any position assigned to it in the rotation.

SA 2016:05.06 Conversation with Church Partners

Resolved, that this assembly direct our synod council and our bishop to initiate and create opportunities in 2018 and 2019 for conversations among lay and rostered leaders in our sister synods and global mission partners that will seek to cultivate and nurture listening to one another's stories, concerns, and fears, especially concerning issues of human sexuality and the call for full inclusion of all on the gender spectrum, and be it further

Resolved, that this assembly direct our bishop to work with the bishops of our sister synods and global mission partners to explore further opportunities to build bridges of understanding between the pastors and congregations in their charge, and be it further

Resolved, that any progress made, events executed, and/or methods developed that work toward promoting deeper understanding be shared with *Living Lutheran*, as well as local news organizations, as a witness to our unity in Christ and as a model for others to follow.

Amendment to Standing Rules of the Assembly

SA 2017:05.01 Addition of Paragraph G

G. Process for Appeals of Decisions under §S13.24

1. *(for 2017)* A congregation shall have until the time at which the agenda for a meeting of the Synod Assembly is approved by the Assembly to submit a written statement of its appeal of any decision under §S13.24 to the Synod Vice-President so that time to hear the appeal may be properly docketed.

(effective following the adjournment of the 2017 Assembly) A congregation shall submit a written statement of its appeal of any decision under §S13.24 to the Synod Secretary no later than thirty days prior to the next meeting of the Synod Assembly.

2. When an appeal of a Synod Council decision under §S13.24 is made to the Assembly, the Assembly shall docket time for at least two reports from the Consultation Committee appointed by the Synod Council, ordinarily on separate

days of the Assembly meeting. The Assembly shall not vote on the appeal until it has heard the final report of the Consultation Committee.

3. Following the first report of the Consultation Committee, members of the Assembly may submit written questions to the Consultation Committee, which shall respond in later reports to the Assembly.
4. During the final report of the Consultation Committee, the Assembly chair will recognize members of the appealing congregation to speak to the Assembly regarding the appeal.
 - Each speaker from the congregation will have no more than three minutes.
 - No additional speakers will be recognized after 15 minutes has elapsed.
 - When there are multiple factions within the appealing congregation, the Assembly chair may confer with the Consultation Committee so as to recognize speakers in a way that divides this time as equally as possible among members of the various groups.
5. At the conclusion of the final report of the Consultation Committee, the question before the Assembly will be, "Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to _____ (name of appealing congregation) be sustained?"
6. Each voting member of the Assembly recognized to speak will have no more than three minutes to speak for or against the motion to sustain the action of the Synod Council. No additional speakers will be recognized after 20 minutes has elapsed. During the debate:
 - A motion to amend, postpone, or refer this question shall not be in order.
 - A motion to call the previous question or change the limits of debate beyond the limitations stated in this procedure shall not be in order.
 - Members of the Assembly will be recognized for questions on the content and substance of the motion during the debate.
7. Before the Assembly votes, the Assembly Chair shall restate the question, "Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to _____ (name of appealing congregation) be sustained?" and clearly indicate the intent of each vote.
 - A "yes" vote shall *sustain the action of the Synod Council to exercise Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution.*
 - A "no" vote shall *overturn the action of the Synod Council to exercise Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution.*

Congregational Appeal

SA 2017:05.03

Resolved, that the action of the Synod Council in exercising Section S13.24 of the Synod Constitution to take charge and control of the property of Eltingville Lutheran Church, Staten Island NY is sustained.

Budget Resolutions Adopted

SA 2017:05.07 Ratified a Revised Budget of \$5,776,740 for Fiscal Year 2017

SA 2017:05.08 Adopted a Proposed Budget of \$5,691,460 for Fiscal Year 2018

Elections Completed

SA 2017:05.02

First Ballot

Synod Council

The Rev. Garry Squire

The Rev. Justin Johnson

Ms. Karen Woolley

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary