

Office of the Secretary
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

September 15, 2010

To All Member Congregations of the Synod:

The 2010 convention adopted two resolutions to amend the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Article XIV of the Constitution details the amendment process:

- Amendments must not conflict with the provisions laid down in Articles II and VI of the Constitution.
- Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Synod assembled in convention.
- Each amendment must be voted on separately at the convention and receive a favorable two-thirds majority of votes cast.

The above requirements were all met and the approval process now continues during the months following the convention:

- Amendments adopted by the convention must be submitted to the congregations of the Synod by means of three announcements in the Synod's official periodicals.
- The amendments must be submitted directly to each voting congregation of the Synod on an official ballot provided by the Synod.
- After taking official action on this matter, congregations must use this official ballot to cast their affirmative or negative votes, returning it to the Secretary of the Synod.
- For final approval, amendments must receive a favorable two-thirds majority of all votes cast by congregations within six months of the date of the mailing of the ballots.

The proposed amendments will become effective only if they receive a favorable two-thirds majority of the votes cast. The purpose of this mailing, therefore, is to submit the constitutional amendments adopted by the 2010 convention to the voting congregations of the Synod, offer information regarding those amendments; and provide the official ballot to be used by the congregations to determine whether the amendments have been approved by the required two-thirds vote.

Please use the attached official ballot to submit your congregation's votes on the amendments with the required signatures, as follows: (1) Detach it from this instruction sheet, (2) refold it into thirds to allow the correct return address to show, (3) fasten it with tape, (4) affix postage, and (5) place in the mail. The deadline for this ballot to be received in the Office of the Secretary of the Synod will be March 15, 2011.

— CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT A —

Resolution 8-10, "To Amend Constitution Articles X and XI," received the required two-thirds vote during Session 12 of the 2010 convention [Yes: 796; No: 305]. It amended Articles X and XI by changing the title of "Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer" to "Chief Financial Officer" and made this an appointed position.

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Article X Officers

—A—

The officers of the Synod are:

1. A President
2. Vice-presidents, in line of succession, as prescribed by the Bylaws
3. A Secretary
4. ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer not in line of succession~~
54. A Board of Directors
65. Other officers, as specified in the Bylaws

—B—

1. The President, the vice-presidents ~~in line of succession~~, and the Secretary must be ~~ordained~~ ministers of religion ~~ordained~~ of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and, like ~~the Vice President Finance Treasurer~~, other officers, and the members of the Board of Directors, members of voting congregations.

(Paragraphs 2 and 3 remain unchanged)

Article XI Rights and Duties of Officers

(Sections A through D remain unchanged)

~~E. Duties of the Vice President Finance Treasurer~~

~~The Vice President Finance Treasurer is the custodian of all moneys and records normally related to the Office of Treasurer of the Synod and shall~~

1. ~~Keep an exact record of all moneys received and expended by the Synod;~~
2. ~~Administer the Synod's financial affairs according to its instruction;~~
3. ~~At any time submit to an examination of his books and accounts by an auditing committee when so ordered by the Synod or its officers.~~

~~FE. Composition and Duties of the Board of Directors~~

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of not fewer than seven voting members, to wit: the President, the Secretary, one pastor and four laymen. The First Vice-President ~~and the Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ shall be a nonvoting members.

(Paragraph 2 remains unchanged)

— **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT B** —

Resolution 8-27, "To Add a New Article XIV," was adopted by the required two-thirds vote during Session 12 of the 2010 convention [Yes: 762; No: 346]. It added a new Article XIV to the Constitution to clarify the relationship between the Bylaws and the Constitution, renumbering former Article XIV accordingly.

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

Article XIV Bylaws

The Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are consistent with and do not contradict the Constitution of the Synod, which controls and supersedes such bylaws and all other rules and regulations of the Synod. Bylaws, which may be adopted, revised, or eliminated by a simple majority vote of a national convention, are binding regulations for the Synod and its conduct and governance.