

Proposed Bylaw Changes



Change in the percentage of the total number on the combined retired rosters who may be selected as voting members to the Synod Assembly
(these are bylaws changes, requiring a two-thirds vote)

Under current Synod Bylaw S7.22.01., 10% of all retired rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service (clergy and deacons) may serve as voting members at Synod Assembly meetings. This percentage was established in the late 1980s. Since that time, the number of retired rostered ministers within our Synod has increased dramatically so that today 10% is double the number that could vote in the Synod Assembly in 1987. Currently there are 189 ministers on the retired roster.

The result of this growth in numbers is that, at Synod Assembly meetings, our Synod is often at risk of violating the ELCA requirements regarding the 60:40 balance between lay and clergy voting members (†S7.21.). We are especially concerned about this issue as we begin planning for the election of a new Bishop in 2020, when the voting process will be most rigorously followed.

At its meeting on January 19-20, 2018, the Sierra Pacific Synod Council voted to send the proposed change to S7.22.01. to the Synod Assembly for consideration. If approved, this change would be in effect starting with the 2019 Synod Assembly.

Additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

S7.22.01. Not less than 90 days prior to the convening of the Assembly, the Secretary of the Synod shall mail a letter to all retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the combined rosters of the Synod, asking if they are willing to serve as a voting member of that year's Assembly. From the list of those who reply affirmatively, the secretary shall designate a number equal to 105% of the total number on the combined rosters who shall be selected as voting members. The names of those replying affirmatively shall be placed in alphabetical order, and the persons selected shall be chosen alphabetically, moving down the list from the alphabetical point where the previous year's list of voting members left off. Alternates shall be designated by continuing down the list in alphabetical order, but alternates who are not seated as voting members will continue to be eligible the next year. The secretary shall notify all retired rostered persons of the results of this process.