

Title: Lay Voting Member Elections

Primary Sponsor: Erik Long, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Springfield VA

Whereas, the 2022 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Model Constitution for Congregations (MCC), Article *C5.04, states:

“This congregation shall elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member.”; and,

Whereas, Article 12.04.h of the MCC includes as a duty of the Congregation Council

“To emphasize support of the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”; and,

Whereas, congregations who are only permitted the mechanism of a Congregation Meeting to elect Lay Voting Members face practical challenges of filling their allocation when the Congregation Meeting is many months before the Synod Assembly, and

Whereas, synods would benefit from higher participation by Lay Voting Members at synod assemblies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to amend *C5.04 of the Model Constitution for Congregations to read:

“This congregation shall elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the *(insert name of synod)* of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America. Election of voting members may be accomplished by vote of the Congregation Council.