

Procedure for Electing Synodical Delegates to ELCIC National Conventions

Effective Date: May 1, 2015

Approved by: Synod Council (SC Motion # SC 2015-25)

Approved by: Synod Convention

Review Date:

Background – (Assumes 2015 National Convention adopts proposed administrative bylaws)

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 MNO synod share of this total is determined by the following:

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

MNO representation must be allocated amongst lay, active rostered and youth delegates in the following proportions:

- a) Active Rostered: 40%
- b) Lay: 53.3%
- c) Youth 6.7%

For illustrative purposes, if MNO were assigned 23 delegates in total, the breakdown would be:

MNO Rostered delegates:	$.40 \times 23 = 9.2 = 9$
MNO Lay delegates	$.533 \times 23 = 12.3 = 12$
Youth delegates	$.067 \times 23 = 1.5 = 2$

As it will not be possible for all congregations to send representation to a smaller-sized national convention, the purpose of this policy is set out a process for selecting synod representatives.

Policy

Section I Nominations for Lay and Youth Delegates

1. Six months 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 youth delegate positions. Nominations shall close 60 days prior to the opening of the convention at which the elections shall take place.
2. Nominations will be accepted provided:
 - a) the nomination form is signed by 10 members of good standing of MNO synod congregations; or
 - b) the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation.
3. Eligible nominees shall be:
 - a) lay members in good standing at a congregation that was not represented at the previous national convention by a lay delegate
 - b) youth who will be less than 21 years of age as of opening day of the next national convention and who did not serve as youth delegate to the previous national convention
4. There shall be no restriction on the number of nominees who hold membership in any given congregation.
5. A list of all nominees shall be published in the convention docket.

Section II Nominations for Active Rostered Delegates

1. Active rostered members shall be eligible for nomination provided they did not serve as an MNO delegate to the previous national convention.
2. All active roster members who are eligible to serve as a delegate shall be nominees for rostered delegate positions in their respective electoral regions.
3. Active rostered members shall be assigned to the electoral region based on where their congregational or synodically recognized ministry membership resides.

Section III Geographical Allocation of Lay and Active Rostered Delegates

1. Each of the synod's electoral regions (as defined elsewhere in the Synod Policy manual) shall be entitled to one active rostered member and one lay delegate. To address issues of proportional fairness, the Winnipeg Metro region shall be allocated one additional active rostered delegate and one additional lay delegate.
2. Any remaining lay or active rostered delegate positions shall be allocated on an at-large basis.
3. Congregations may not be represented by more than one non-youth delegate.

4. Delegate position that go unfilled at the regional level shall be reassigned and elected on an at-large basis.

Section IV Order of Elections

1. The election of delegates shall proceed in the following order:
 - a) Active roster delegates – regional representatives
 - b) Active roster delegates – at large
 - c) Lay delegates – regional representatives
 - d) Lay delegates – at large
 - e) Youth delegates
2. The nominee receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot shall be declared elected. Where multiple positions are being filled for any one delegate category, nominees shall be declared elected on the basis of the descending order of votes received on the first ballot. If necessary, second ballots shall be held to break ties.
3. Unsuccessful nominees on regional ballots will be placed on the ballot for at-large delegate positions.
4. Nominees appearing on any given ballot shall be adjusted to meet the provisions of Section I-3 of this policy regarding eligibility to serve.

Section IV Replacement of Delegates

1. In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend the national convention or become ineligible to attend due a change in roster status or relocation to another synod, Synod Council shall appoint a replacement according to ELCIC national convention policy. Whenever possible, the replacement shall be the nominee who received the next greatest number of votes during the balloting process at the synod convention.
2. In cases where rostered vacancies occur, council may appoint a rostered member who attended the previous convention provided no other eligible candidates are available.
3. If a candidate cannot be found to fill an electoral region vacancy, council may appoint an additional delegate as an at-large delegate.