

Addendum to NELCSA Synod 2021 Minutes

Point 4 in the minutes was edited to include the wording of the changed Laws.

4. BILLS CONCERNING CHURCH LAWS

All Church Laws were sent to delegates by email and are taken as read.

4.1 Church Law No 2 / 2021

Addition of administrative tasks

Constitution, Section 30 (2) to be amended

Section 30 Leadership Structures

- (1) The leadership structures of the NELCSA are:
 - (a) Church Synod,
 - (b) the Bishop,
 - (c) Church Council.
- (2) They are responsible for ensuring that the NELCSA fulfills its commission in doctrine and life, in preaching and pastoral care, in maintaining order and in its administration. They guard its unity and freedom. They are assisted by the Ecclesiastical Council.
- (3) In order to fulfill its administrative tasks, the NELCSA maintains an administrative office and an archive where all relevant information is collected and processed. The bishop oversees the day to day running of this office.

Church Law No 2 is put to the vote:

Abstain 1

Adopted by majority

4.2 Church Law No 3 / 2021

Addition to Duties of Bishop

Constitution, Section 44 (1) to be amended as follows

Section 44 Duties of the Bishop

- (1) The Bishop is entrusted, inter alia, with the following specific tasks:
 - (a) He ensures that the Word of God is preached according to the Gospel and in accordance with the Lutheran confession and that the Sacraments are properly administered;
 - (b) He talks to the congregations, the Pastors and other Church co-workers; he advises, comforts and admonishes them in brotherly manner;
 - (c) He fosters fellowship and co-operation among the congregations and Church ministries;
 - (d) He endeavours to foster and reinforce contacts with other Churches;

- (e) He is the official representative of the NELCSA;
- (f) He shares experiences with the Deans and deliberates with them on common tasks;
- (g) He signs and promulgates Church Laws and regulations;
- (h) He formalizes the appointment of Pastors and other Church co-workers;
- (i) He concerns himself with the advancement of Pastors, other Church co-workers and theological students;
- (j) He convenes the General Pastors' Convention in terms of Section 59;
- (k) He fulfills the functions outlined in Section 30(3).

Church Law No 3 is put to the vote

Abstain 2

Against 1

Adopted by majority

4.3 Church Law No 4 / 2021

Addition to Election of Church Council Members

Constitution, Section 48, (1) be amended as follows

Section 48 Election of Church Council Members

- (1) The members referred to in Section 47 are elected by Church Synod for a period of 6 years, with the possible exception of the bishop, who is elected in accordance with Section 3 in the Rules on the Election of the Bishop, subject to Section 3 in the Rules on the Election of the Bishop, in the following manner:

Church Law No 4 is put to the vote

Adopted unanimously

4.4 Church Law No 5 / 2021 is withdrawn and will be presented at next Synod.

Constitution, Section 57 (2) to be amended as follows

Section 57 Circuit Conference

- (1) The Dean shall convene a Circuit Conference annually for the purpose of promoting co-operation between the congregations, the various church ministries within the Circuit, as well as for fulfilling joint tasks and those which extend across congregational boundaries.
- (2) Each congregation shall be represented by its Pastor, or the Lay Leader if it is a lay-led congregation, the elected Church Synod members and at least one other member appointed thereto by the Congregational Council.

4.5 **Church Law No 6 / 2021** is withdrawn

Law on Pastors, Section 60 (2) to be amended

Section 60 (2) to be amended as follows:

- (2) The removal from office can only be effected, if it concerns the conduct or lack of suitability of the Pastor. The decision is taken by Church Council ~~on recommendation of~~ in consultation with the Ecclesiastical Council. Section 58(9) shall apply.

4.6 **Church Law No 7 / 2021**

Congregational Code, Section 46, (4) e), Filling of a Pastor´s Post be amended as follows

Section 46 (4) e) Filling the Post

- (4) e) In case the congregation chooses to be presented with a candidate, Church Council shall present a candidate, provided that a suitable candidate is available.

Church Law No 7 is put to the vote

Adopted unanimously

4.7 **Church Law 8 / 2021**

Congregational Code, Section 48 (2) to be amended

Section 48 (2) to be amended as follows:

Section 48 The Pastor

- (2) His duties consist in the first instance mainly in conducting the public worship services according to the Rules of the Church, the occasional duties, pastoral care and religious instruction of the youth. Chapter 4 of the Law on pastors applies. Other duties of the pastor are described in Chapter 4 of the Law on Pastors.

Church Law No 8 is put to the vote

Abstain 1

Adopted by majority

4.8 **Church Law 9 / 2021**

Congregational Code, Section 56 (1) and (2) and Section 57A (1) and (2) to be amended as follows

Section 56 Lay Preachers

- (1) Congregation members may take over duties of public preaching during worship services as Lay Preachers. They are appointed by Church Council. Lay Preachers shall, in the first instance, do duty in their own congregation, but by invitation and after consultation with the local Pastor, they may perform duties in other congregations. They must be suitable for this service and be eligible to become Congregational Councillors.
- (2) ~~On approval of the Church Council~~ Congregation members may be appointed to this post by the Bishop Church Council if a corresponding proposal is made by the local Pastor and the Congregational Council. Prior to the appointment the Lay Preacher shall complete a training course under the supervision of Church Council. Lay Preachers are obliged to participate in in-service training courses.

Section 57 A Lay Administrators of Sacraments ~~Holy Communion Sacraments~~

- (1) Congregation members may take over the administration of Holy Communion during worship services as Lay Administrators of Sacraments ~~Holy Communion~~. ~~They are appointed by Church Council~~. Lay Administrators of Sacraments ~~Holy Communion~~ shall, in the first instance, do duty in their own Congregation, but by invitation and after consultation with the local Pastor, they may perform duties in other congregations. They must be suitable for this service and be eligible to become Congregational Councillors.
- (2) ~~On approval of Church Council~~ Congregation members may be appointed to this post by ~~the Bishop Church Council~~ if a corresponding proposal is made by the local Pastor and the Congregational Council. Prior to the appointment the Lay Administrator of Sacraments shall complete a training course under the supervision of Church Council.

Church Law No 9 is put to the vote

Adopted unanimously

4.9 **Church Law 10 / 2021**

Rules on the Election of the Bishop, Section 5, (1) be amended as follows

Section 5 List of Nominations

- (1) Having satisfied himself of the validity of the nominations, the President of Church Synod shall compile a list of names of all nominees. For each candidate the respective term of office will be stated clearly.

Church Law No 10 is put to the vote

Adopted unanimously