

RULES FOR THE ELECTION OF SYNOD MEMBERS

of the

**NORTHEASTERN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN SOUTH AFRICA**

{Abbreviated name: NELCSA}

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Rules for the Election of Synod Members

Section 1 *General*

In these Rules, unless the context indicates otherwise, singular shall include plural and vice versa and masculine shall include feminine and vice versa.

Section 2 *Basic Provisions*

- (1) Members of Synod of NELCSA are elected by the congregations in terms of Section 33(1) of the Constitution of NELCSA for a Synod period of six years.
- (2) After two periods in office a Synod member shall retire for the duration of at least one Synod period. Church Council may permit exceptions.
- (3) Synod members or their alternates who move away from their Congregation or Parish thereby relinquish their position as Synod members.
- (4) The relevant provisions for nominations and the election procedure of the Rules for the Election of Congregational Council Members also apply to the election of Synod Members.

Section 3 *Election of Lay Members of Synod*

- (1) Subject to the provisions of Section 3(2), each congregation or parish elects one Synod member.
- (2) The additional election entitlement of a congregation is determined by an election entitlement factor.
- (3) The calculation of the election factor is determined by applying the ratio of one third each of its membership, its financial contributions to NELCSA and the average attendance at services of its members to the relevant aggregate figures of the Church.
- (4) The number of additional members of Synod a congregation may elect is determined by the sum of the relevant election entitlement factors and shall not exceed two additional members.
- (5) The following basic provisions apply to the elections:
 - (a) Candidates must declare their willingness to stand for election either verbally or in writing.
 - (b) A deputy shall be elected for each Synod member.
- (6) If a Synod member relinquishes his position, his deputy shall take his place. The resultant vacancy shall be filled by election at the next General Meeting. This shall also apply where there is no existing deputy.
- (7) Synod members and their deputies are determined according to the number of votes that are cast in their favour and whenever a vacancy occurs, they shall move up in that sequence too.
- (8) If an elected Synod member is elected to Church Council, his deputy shall become Synod member. Section 3(7) shall apply accordingly.
- (9) If a member appointed in terms of Section 32(1) (e) of the Constitution of NELCSA is elected to Church Council, Church Council may appoint another person.

Section 4 *Election of Ordained Members of Synod*

- (1) The number of ordained Synod members per Circuit is determined by the election entitlement for each Circuit.
- (2) The election is held by the Pastors' Convention of each Circuit before Synod.
- (3) Section 3(7) to (9) shall apply.

Section 5 *Commencement Date*

These Rules shall come into effect on the 13th October 2019.