

RULES ON THE ELECTION OF THE BISHOP

of the

NORTHEASTERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

{Abbreviated name: NELCSA}

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RULES ON THE ELECTION OF THE BISHOP

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 *Eligibility*

- (1) The Bishop shall be elected by Church Synod from amongst the Pastors in active service of NELCSA or UELCSA or any other Lutheran Church from a list of nominees compiled by Church Council.
- (2) For the purpose of this Section the words “Pastors in active service” shall mean those who, at the time of the election:
 - (a) have been ordained in terms of the provisions of the Constitution of NELCSA and the Law on Pastors;
 - (b) have not had their rights, conferred upon them by their ordination, withdrawn;
 - (c) are subject to valid, legally binding arrangements with their respective Churches.

Section 3 *Term of Office*

The Bishop is elected by Church Synod and may be re-elected once.

- (1) Candidates 56 years and younger are elected for 6 years.
- (2) Candidates 57 years and older are elected for a period up to the Synod following the candidate's retirement age.
- (3) Exceptions may be permitted by Church Synod.

Section 4 *Nominations*

- (1) Every Pastor in active service of NELCSA and every congregation of NELCSA has the right to nominate a candidate.
- (2) Nominations shall be submitted to Church Council in writing within the stipulated time frame. Nominations require a seconder as well as the written consent of the nominee, according to Section 16 of the Rules of Procedure of Church Synod.
- (3) Church Council may make an additional nomination.

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.
- (2) The list of nominations shall be sent to each Synod Member at the latest together with the invitation to the Synod meeting at which the election will take place.
- (3) Church Synod may make up to three additional nominations.

Section 6 *Election Procedure*

- (1) The election shall be by secret ballot and requires a two-thirds majority of all members present. The result of each ballot shall be announced.
- (2) If more than two candidates are nominated and a two-thirds majority is not achieved in the first two ballots, the candidate with the least number of votes drops out until only two candidates remain.
- (3) Should a two-thirds majority not be obtained by either of the remaining two candidates in three further ballots, the election shall be postponed to the following day.
- (4) Synod may re-open the list of candidates in accordance with the provisions of these Rules and the Constitution of NELCSA.
- (5) Should a two-thirds majority also not be obtained in two further ballots, the Bishop will then be elected by an absolute majority in the final ballot.

Section 7 *Induction into office*

The term of office of the Bishop commences with his induction, which shall take place during the closing devotion of the Synod Meeting during which he was elected.

Section 8 *Hand-over of duties*

The hand-over of the official duties to the new Bishop shall take place not later than on the 1st day of the 4th month following his election. During this time the outgoing Bishop shall initiate the newly elected Bishop into the affairs of the Church and shall, in consultation with him, conduct the affairs of the Church until the official hand-over.

Section 9 *Bishop's Deputy*

- (1) The Bishop shall have a deputy. Church Synod shall elect the deputy for a period of six years from amongst the Pastors in active service of the NELCSA. The deputy may be re-elected once. Exceptions may be permitted by Church Synod.
- (2) An alternate for the deputy shall be elected. He may be re-elected once. Exceptions may be permitted by Church Synod.
- (3) The elections in terms of this Section shall be by absolute majority.

Section 10 *Commencement Date*

These Rules shall come into effect on the 16th October 2022.