

**Report of Committee on Agenda and Program**  
(PROPOSED VIRTUAL/ONLINE ASSEMBLY AGENDA)  
**2020 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD – ELCA ASSEMBLY**  
**July 25, 2020**

**Listen, God is Calling!**

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.”  
(Matthew 7:7)

2020 is the Thirty-Third Assembly of the South Carolina Synod – ELCA and the 195<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina. The 2020 Assembly will include several items of business for our consideration, including the election of a Bishop using the Ecclesiastical Ballot and the presentation of Nominations for other various offices and committees. We also plan to share together in Worship, Bible Conversations, and a Keynote Presentation.

*2020 has been a year like no other in our lifetime!* This is a year when each new day engages us in learning adaptation, resilience and faithfulness. In the midst of the incredible changes to our routines and lives which the Covid-19 pandemic has brought, we have the amazing opportunity to listen even more closely for God’s voice and direction in the way we do ministry together.

Plans for the 2020 SC Synod Assembly have required *deep* listening to God and to one another as well as a willingness to adapt and make changes to every way that we have ever done assembly before. This assembly has been planned and re-planned several times, including agenda plans for the original May Assembly, plans for a one-day July Assembly Agenda, plans for a Multi-Site Assembly Agenda and now, plans for a Virtual/Online Assembly Agenda. This whole “season” has been filled with learning, adapting and searching for the best possible solution for the people of the SC Synod. It has been our intention from the beginning to listen closely; and our deepest desire, if it was at all possible, to bring forth an assembly that kept everyone in the Synod safe, has integrity, and is faithful to Christ.

We are deeply appreciative to the Pastors and Staff members of St. Stephens, Lexington; Zion, Lexington and Pilgrim, Lexington, who offered to open their doors to the Synod and worked with us to consider and create a Multi-Site Assembly plan. Had the Covid-19 cases decreased in SC this could have been an excellent option. We are also appreciative for your patience with us throughout this entire season as we sorted through the details and sought to learn more about what the best options were for the SC Synod.

The SC Synod will be working with Lumi Global, a tech company, to conduct a Virtual Assembly since we cannot fully come together in person safely at this time. Lumi has provided voting technology at several churchwide assemblies throughout the years. In addition, Lumi has been used on over 800 virtual meetings including IBM, Coca-Cola and the American Medical Association over these past 3 months. This technology will be used to manage the voting which allows us to follow the Ecclesiastical Balloting process as well as all our voting needs.

Voting members will be using Zoom in conjunction with the Lumi online voting platform. If you would like to watch the Assembly proceedings as a guest, there will be a webcast on our SC Synod website. We have researched our options and this option has proven to be effective in other Association meetings where important elections and business has successfully taken place. We realize that this virtual Assembly will be very different than what we are accustomed to, but we are confident that we can get the business of the Assembly accomplished in accordance to our bylaws and procedures.

A detailed email will be sent to each registered voting member to share the secure links and information needed to participate. In advance of this assembly we will also host an orientation session for every voting member to assist everyone in getting comfortable with this platform. Voting Members will need to be registered no later than July 13 at 5:00 pm to receive your

credentials to attend this Assembly and to vote. Our staff will be in contact with each congregation to assist in getting Voting members registered correctly.

We look forward to this new and unique way of gathering to listen for the Spirit of God and to do the work of ministry together as the SC Synod.

**The deadline for Registration is July 13 at 5:00 pm. Our staff will be in contact with anyone who has previously registered for the July 25<sup>th</sup> Assembly first and will then begin assisting with new registrations.**

## **Saturday, July 25, 2020**

### **Session 1 – 9:00 am – 10:30 am**

**Order for Opening of Synod Assembly**

**Organization of Assembly**

**Reference & Counsel Introduction of Special Guests**

**Report of Synod Council (Part 1) Procedural matters affecting this Assembly**

**Preparation for Ecclesiastical Ballot for Bishop**

**Report of Registration**

**Discernment & Prayer**

**Ecclesiastical/1<sup>st</sup> Ballot for Bishop (3/4 votes needed to elect)**

**\*Report: Nominating Committee**

*\*Nominations from the floor of this Assembly must include a completed biographical information form. This form is available on the Synod webpage and we ask that anyone bringing a nomination from the floor complete this form in advance of the Assembly and be prepared to send it by email to [Jenny@scsynod.com](mailto:Jenny@scsynod.com) immediately following the Nominating Committee Report. Jenny will need to receive this completed form by no later than 10:22 am.*

**Bible Conversation 1**

**Introduction of New Leaders of the SC Synod**

**SC Synod Campus Ministry**

**10:30am – 10:40 am BREAK (Videos from SC Synod supported Institutions & Auxiliaries)**

### **Session 2 – 10:40 am – 12:10 pm**

**Report of Registration**

**General Elections: Ballot 1 (Majority needed to elect)**

**Report of Synod Council (Part 2) Proposed Budget & Treasurer's Report**

**\*Results of the Ecclesiastical Ballot**

*\*Those nominated will need to complete and submit either a Biographical Form or a Withdrawal Form by email to [Jenny@scsynod.com](mailto:Jenny@scsynod.com) immediately following this report of results. These forms are available on the Synod webpage. Jenny will need to receive one of these completed forms no later than 11:40 am.*

**Keynote Presentation**

**Reference & Counsel 1**

**Report of Synod Council (Part 3) Recommendations on Compensation Guidelines & Constitutional Matters**

**Report from Conduct of Elections: Nominees who are on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot for Bishop**

**Report of Registration**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot for Bishop (3/4 votes needed to elect; determines top 7+ ties)**

**General Elections: Ballot 2 (as needed) (Majority needed to elect)**

**12:10 – 12:40 pm LUNCH BREAK (Videos from SC Synod supported Institutions & Auxiliaries)**

### Session 3 – 12:40 pm – 2:10 pm

**Bible Conversations 2**  
**Results of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot for Bishop**  
**Report: Bishop Yoos**  
**Introductions: 7+ Candidates for Bishop**  
**Reference & Counsel 2** (as needed)  
**Report of Registration**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot for Bishop** (*2/3 votes needed to elect; determines top 3+ ties*)  
**Celebration of 6 SC Pastors 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination**  
**Report: Secretary**  
**Report: Vice President**  
**Results of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot for Bishop**  
**2:10 pm – 2:20 pm BREAK** (Videos from SC Synod supported Institutions & Auxiliaries)

### Session 4 – 2:20 pm – 3:50 pm

**Celebration Worship**  
**Q & A with 3+ Candidates for Bishop**  
**Report of Registration**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Ballot for Bishop** (*60% votes needed to elect; determines top 2*)  
**General Elections: Ballot 3** (as needed) (*Majority needed to elect*)  
**Bible Conversations 3**  
**Report: ELCA Representative**  
**Results of 4<sup>th</sup> Ballot for Bishop**  
**3:50 pm – 4:00 pm BREAK** (Videos from SC Synod supported Institutions & Auxiliaries)

### Session 5 – 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

**Report of Registration**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Ballot for Bishop** (*Majority votes needed to elect; determines Bishop*)  
**Report of Synod Council** (Part 4) Votes: Compensation Guidelines & Budget  
**Reference & Counsel 3** (as needed)  
**Results of 5<sup>th</sup> Ballot for Bishop**  
**Unfinished Business**  
**Reference & Counsel** (Final Resolution)  
**Closing of Assembly & Installation of Synod Council**

**Please note:**

Registered Voting members will need to have internet connection to access Zoom and Lumi, a computer or hand-held device to participate and vote at Assembly.

Each Voting member will be registered by their preferred email address and will have their own Credential number for voting, and will need to agree in their Registration to attend a Virtual/Online meeting.

S7.14 One half of the voting members registered for the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

All Assembly Committees will meet prior to Assembly using Zoom. Should Reference & Counsel need to meet during Assembly we have a separate Zoom session set up.

During Breaks we will share videos that we have received from our Institutions and Auxiliaries in the following order: Youth Gathering Coordinator, South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Center, South

Carolina Lutheran Church Youth, South Carolina Women of the ELCA, Novus Way, South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission, Newberry College, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Lutheran Homes, Lutheran Services Carolina, "Called to Common Good"

Conduct of Election will be working between Ballots for Bishop to support the election process and verify votes as they normally do for Assembly. Please be patient as they seek to serve the Assembly faithfully before the results are announced.

Offerings can be turned in electronically during Assembly, or checks sent in advance to the SC Synod office. Please add "Assembly Offering" in the memo line of checks.

***Proposed amendments to the budget may be submitted online no later than Saturday, July 25, 2020, at 10:15 am. For details, please see Budget Procedure notes from Synod Council at the end of this agenda.***

***Any additional Resolutions may be submitted online for the Committee of Reference and Counsel for consideration no later than Saturday, July 25, 2020, 10:15 am. For details, please see the notes from Synod Council at the end of this agenda.***

***The results of the Ecclesiastical/1<sup>st</sup> Ballot for Bishop will be announced and posted as soon as it is available. Our goal is 11:00 am. Each Pastor who is nominated is asked to complete either a Biographical Form or a Withdrawal Form and email it to [Jenny@scsynod.com](mailto:Jenny@scsynod.com) no Later than 11:40 am, Saturday, July 25, 2020. The forms are available on our website and we will put a link in the chat feature during the Results Report.***

**The deadline for submitting resolutions to Committee of Reference and Counsel is Saturday, July 25, 2020, at 10:15 am.**

**The deadline for submitting proposed amendments to the budget to the secretary is Saturday, July 25, 2020, at 10:15 am.**

THE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDS:

1. THAT NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR OF CANDIDATES FOR ANY ELECTIONS HELD AT THIS 2020 ASSEMBLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUESTED BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON THE OFFICIAL FORM PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE;
2. THAT THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECEIVE NO MOTIONS OR RESOLUTIONS AFTER **Saturday, July 25, 2020, 10:15 am**
3. THAT THE BAR OF THE SYNOD BE DESIGNATED AS THE REGISTERED VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THIS VIRTUAL/ONLINE ASSEMBLY
4. THAT THE BISHOP, AS PRESIDING OFFICER, BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO CALL FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA IN THE ORDER DEEMED APPROPRIATE, PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TIME MANAGEMENT, AND SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO BALLOTING, RESOLUTIONS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS DURING THE ASSEMBLY;
5. THAT PERSONS ON THE THIRD BALLOT FOR BISHOP BE GIVEN TWO MINUTES EACH FOR INTRODUCTIONS (cf. Synod Council's recommended "Rules of Procedure");

6. THAT PERSONS ON THE FOURTH BALLOT FOR BISHOP BE GIVEN FIVE MINUTES EACH TO RESPOND TO TWO PREDETERMINED QUESTIONS. (cf. Synod Council's recommended "Rules of Procedure");
7. THAT THE PROPOSED AGENDA BE A GUIDE FOR THE 2020 ASSEMBLY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Virginia S. Aebischer

THE SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING AS "RULES OF PROCEDURE"  
FOR THE 2020 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD ASSEMBLY:

**RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSEMBLY ACTION:**

**Recommends the adoption of the following "Budget Procedures" to guide the adoption of the 2021-2022 budget by the 2020 South Carolina Synod Assembly.**

**Budget Procedures**

- 1. Proposed amendments to the budget must be submitted online no later than *Saturday, July 25, 2020, at 10:15 am*. Each amendment or resolution to amend must be supported in writing by ten (10) signatures of voting members in this assembly. The secretary shall refer such proposed amendments to the Treasurer and the Finance Committee. During the consideration of the budget by the assembly, the Treasurer or Finance Committee shall report on the implication of each proposed amendment.**
- 2. Any amendment to the budget that increases a current program proposal expense, or adds a current program proposal to the budget, must include a corresponding decrease in some other current program proposal of the same amount; or an increase in revenues to offset the proposed expense.**

**Regarding Votes to Appropriate Funds not Approved by Synod Council:  
Chapter S10.04.**

**Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.**

*Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, South Carolina Synod*

**Constitutional Provisions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions  
to Guide Procedures and Elections**

*Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions  
South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
2020 South Carolina Synod Assembly*

**Bold = Constitutional Provisions**  
*Lightface type = Bylaws*  
*Italics = Continuing Resolutions*

**Chapter 7.  
SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

*S7.01.A11. Resolutions which could not have reasonably been submitted before the 15-day deadline may be*

*submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel after the opening of the assembly. A signer of the resolution, preferably its primary author, shall meet with the Committee of Reference and Counsel at the time appointed in the Rules of Procedure adopted for that assembly. Regardless of the recommendation of the Committee of Reference and Counsel, the consideration of such resolutions by the assembly shall require the approval by a two-thirds vote of voting members to place the resolution before the Synod Assembly. If a resolution is received after the deadline of 15 days prior to the formal opening of the assembly, the resolution shall be processed according to the provisions of this continuing resolution.*

**S7.14. one-half of the voting members registered for the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.**

**†S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.**

**S7.32. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.**

*S7.32.A14. The following rules of procedure shall be in force at meetings of the Synod Assembly:*

- a. Unless otherwise determined by vote of the assembly, all speeches in general discussion shall be limited to two minutes and no member shall be permitted to speak the second time on the same subject when others desire to speak.*
- b. A resolution of a general character which is not germane to the pending question or report shall be given by the proposer to a Committee of Reference and Counsel.*
- c. All reports published in the Bulletin of Reports shall be received as information by the assembly by virtue of that fact without vote.*
- d. All other reports shall be in writing and in such form as the assembly or the Synod Council may determine.*
- e. The minutes of each assembly shall be submitted to the Synod Council for approval.*
- f. The bishop and secretary shall, after making any necessary corrections therein, certify two copies of the printed minutes of each assembly as the official protocol of said assembly, and shall submit the same to the next regular assembly for approval and deposit in the archives.*
- g. Holy Communion shall be administered at each assembly.*

## **Chapter 8. OFFICERS**

**†S8.01. The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.**

**S8.10. Bishop**

**†S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

**†S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:**

- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.**
- b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament and its ministers of Word and Service.**
- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synod bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).**
- d. Ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as deaconesses and consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service.**
- e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.**
- f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has**

attested.

- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
  - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
  - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
  - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
  - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning this synod's life and work; and
  - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
  - 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
  - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers, and congregations of this synod;
  - 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
  - 4) Be a member of the Conference of Bishops and consult regularly with other synod bishops;
  - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
  - 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
  - 7) Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
  - 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;
  - 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee;
  - 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of this synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of this synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
  - 4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
  - 5) Coordinate the work of all synod staff members;
  - 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
  - 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of this synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;
  - 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synod rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which their retired or disability status took effect;
  - 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
  - 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
    - a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod;
    - b) the issuance of a certificate of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and
    - c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;
  - 11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a roster of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and
  - 12) Appoint a statistician of this synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

S8.12.01.

The bishop shall approve the nature of and personnel appointed for general religious services or public meetings sponsored by this synod.

*S8.12.A87. The bishop shall submit a written report, printed in the Bulletin of Reports, to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. In addition to this report concerning this synod's life and work, the bishop shall make an oral report to the Synod Assembly presenting a vision of the mission and ministry of this synod.*

†S8.13. **The synod bishop may appoint an attorney, admitted to the bar within the territory of the synod or the state where the synod is located, to be Synod Attorney. The appointment must be approved by the Synod Council and reported to the Synod Assembly and to the secretary of this church. The appointment continues until resignation or until a successor is appointed. The Synod Attorney provides legal advice and counsel to the synod officers and the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney is expected to be familiar with the governing documents and policies of the synod and, as necessary, to attend meetings of the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney serves without salary but may be retained and compensated for specific legal services requested by the synod.**

S8.14. **The bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.**

S8.14.01. There shall be two assistants to the bishop elected by the Synod Council on nomination by the bishop. The assistants may be recalled or dismissed on proper notice by action of the Synod Council. It shall set the term of office and responsibilities.

†S8.15. **The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synod bishop.**

#### **S8.50. General Provisions**

†S8.51. **The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be:**  
a. **The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.**  
b. **The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.**  
c. **The treasurer of this synod shall be elected to a six-year term and may be reelected.**

S8.51.01. The terms of office of the bishop and the vice president shall be arranged so that the terms are staggered and do not expire in the same year.

S8.52. **The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.**

†S8.53. **Each officer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, except that the bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.**

#### **Chapter 9. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

†S9.01. **The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

*S9.01.A08. The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synodical office prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:*

- a. Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.*
- b. Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected*



- officers, if possible.*
- c. *The Synod Council's Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.*
  - d. *All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of background checks are appropriate for each officer position.*
  - e. *The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council's Executive Committee. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.*
  - f. *The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.*

**S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.**

**S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.**

*S9.04.A94. An "ecclesiastical ballot" is an election process:*

- a. *In which on the first ballot the name of any eligible individual may be submitted for nomination by a voting member of the assembly;*
- b. *Through which the possibility of election to office exists on any ballot by achievement of the required number of votes cast by voting members of the assembly applicable to a particular ballot;*
- c. *That precludes spoken floor nominations;*
- d. *In which the first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot;*
- e. *In which the first ballot defines the total slate of nominees for possible election on a subsequent ballot, with no additional nominations permitted;*
- f. *That does not preclude, after the reporting of the first ballot, the right of persons nominated to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot;*
- g. *In which any name appearing on the second ballot may not be subsequently withdrawn;*
- h. *That does not preclude an assembly's adoption of rules that permit, at a defined point in the election process and for a defined period of time, speeches to the assembly by nominees or their representatives and/or a question-and-answer forum in which the nominees or their representatives participate; and*
- i. *In which the number of names that appear on any ballot subsequent to the second ballot shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the governing documents (or, if the governing documents are silent, in accordance with rules adopted by the assembly).*

**S9.08. All elections shall be by ballot. In all elections, other than for the bishop, vice president and the secretary, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.**

**S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.**

**†S9.12. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.**