

**Continuing Resolutions
of the
West Virginia--Western Maryland Synod
(as amended by Synod Council on 6 September 2025)**

- CR1.01. When the election of the Synodical Bishop occurs during a regular synod assembly, the agenda shall include the following:
- (a) distribution of biographical information for each candidate prior to the third ballot;
 - (b) questioning of each candidate prior to the third ballot, the questions being generated by the conferences and vetted by the synod council; and
 - (c) a teaching period by each candidate prior to the fourth ballot.¹
- CR1.02. All nominees for bishop shall be informed prior to withdrawal that background checks will be performed on those candidates advancing to the third ballot and that disclosure will be made to the voting members of the Synod Assembly.²
- CR1.03. Those candidates for bishop advancing to the third ballot shall complete a disclosure form either provided by the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA or approved by the Synod Council which shall be published to the Synod Assembly prior to the third ballot; failure to complete the disclosure form shall be reported to the Synod Assembly, and items in the disciplinary files of the ELCA not disclosed by the candidate shall be reported by the Elections Committee to the Synod Assembly.³
- CR1.04. In the election of bishop, when a name is submitted in the first ballot, it shall be assumed to be the name of a pastor on the roster of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod unless indicated otherwise or no pastor on the roster of the synod is of that name.⁴
- CR1.05. When employing remote (mail/email) voting in the election of a bishop,
- (a) a voting window of no fewer than five days and no more than eight days, as directed by Synod Council, shall be offered to voting members;
 - (b) a general announcement that balloting has opened shall be published on the website, synod social media, and the Bishop's Roadshow, said announcement including instructions to voting members on how to secure a ballot if none was received;
 - (c) a reminder to vote shall be issued during the balloting window to voting members through their registration emails, and a general announcement shall be made following the pattern above;
 - (d) for a voting member with a registration email address used solely by said voting member, said registration email address shall be used for remote balloting;

¹ SA14.5.6.

² SC25.9.xx; awaiting codification of SC minutes.

³ SC25.9.xx; awaiting codification of SC minutes.

⁴ SC25.9.xx; awaiting codification of SC minutes.

- (e) those voting members who share an email address with another person or who do not have an email address shall be contacted directly by the Elections Committee which shall assist such voting members in casting their ballots, with the following provisos:
 - (1) if two such attempts at contact (made on different days) have failed, no further attempts are required, and the voting member shall be treated as one not casting a vote;
 - (2) a vote may be taken telephonically, by mail, or in-person by two or more members of the Elections Committee (or their designees).⁵
- CR2.01. An ordained minister on leave from call on the roster of this synod shall be granted voting membership in the Synod Assembly upon the consent of the Synod Council; such consent shall be applicable to the Synod Assembly in question; such consent may be renewed.
- CR2.02. Prior to each Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall consider and, at its discretion, seat with voice and vote in the immediate Synod Assembly those Ministers of Word & Sacrament (or the equivalent) who are serving synod congregations and who also belong to church bodies with which the ELCA has full-communion.⁶
- CR2.03. Prior to each Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall consider and, at its discretion, seat with voice but without vote in the immediate Synod Assembly to those Ministers of Word & Sacrament (or the equivalent) who are serving a synod congregation but have not been otherwise enfranchised.⁷
- CR2.04. Chairs of committees, commissions, and task forces who are not otherwise voting members of the assembly shall be seated with voice but without vote.⁸
- CR3.01. When there is a disagreement among people or factions within a congregation, as related to †S17.11 of the West Virginia - Western Maryland Synod Constitution, and the Consultation Committee is called in to consider the matter, the Committee shall deliver, in writing, a report to the congregation, within 60 days of the receipt, by the chair of the Committee, of the request for assistance.⁹
- CR3.02. If the Consultation Committee thinks it will be unable to finish the report within 60 days, the Committee must contact the synodical bishop as soon as possible to request extra time, up to 30 days, for a total of no more than 90 days from the receipt of the request for assistance, to finish the report. The exact amount of extra time is granted at the bishop's discretion and can be denied.¹⁰
- CR3.03. The synodical bishop, after being contacted by the Consultation Committee for a request for more time, has the right to grant, refuse, or amend the request based on his or her assessment of the situation and the work of the Committee.¹¹

⁵ SC25.9.xx; awaiting codification of SC minutes.

⁶ SC19.3.10.

⁷ SC19.3.12.

⁸ SC21.9.9.

⁹ SC19.1.17.

¹⁰ SC19.1.17

¹¹ SC19.1.17

- CR4.01. The bishop, vice-president, and secretary shall review and approve the minutes of the Synod Council after each session.¹²
- CR5.01. Synod Council and all other committees may, at the discretion of the chair, employ absentee voting so long as all members have been notified of the call for vote and have acknowledged that call for vote, a unit veto striking down the question.¹³
- CR5.02. To authorize the use of the Synod Council Handbook dated 9 September 2024 for orientation of Synod Council members, allowing minor edits by the bishop, and delegating to Executive Committee authority to make substantive revisions in the future without further Synod Council action.¹⁴
- CR6.01. The protocols for the Synodical Lay Worship Leadership Program, as found in the *Policy for Synod Lay Worship Leadership Program*, dated 6 February 2021, shall be synod policy.¹⁵
- CR7.01. The Committee on Elections shall have power to appoint and dismiss tellers for those elections under its oversight.¹⁶
- CR7.02. Memorials and Resolutions not germane to assembly business shall be submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel twenty (20) days prior to the assembly.¹⁷
- CR7.03. Resolutions submitted to Reference & Counsel shall be sponsored by at least two voting members of the Synod Assembly, a voting member being limited to sponsoring a maximum of five resolutions. For the purposes of this rule, when submission is in anticipation of the annual meeting of the Synod Assembly, verified registration as a voting member shall delineate standing.¹⁸
- CR7.04. For both resolutions and memorials reviewed by Reference & Counsel under B7.16 or CR7.02,
- (a) When the Reference & Counsel has recommended the adoption of the resolution/memorial, the committee's recommendation and text of the resolution/memorial shall be the main motion before the assembly;
 - (b) When Reference & Counsel has recommended the adoption of a substitute for the resolution/memorial, the committee's recommendation, including the committee's text, shall be the main motion before the assembly;
 - (c) When Reference & Counsel has recommended referral of the resolution/memorial, the committee's recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly.
 - (d) When Reference & Counsel has recommended that the assembly decline to consider a proposed resolution, the voting member's resolution, if then moved by that voting member and seconded, shall be the main motion and the committee's recommendation shall be received as information.
 - (e) When Reference & Counsel has recommended that the assembly decline to consider a proposed memorial, the memorial, if then moved by a voting member who is also a voting

¹² SC19.3.3.

¹³ SC19.9.2.

¹⁴ SC 9/13/24.

¹⁵ SC21.2.12

¹⁶ SC21.7.8.

¹⁷ SC21.7.9.

¹⁸ SC21.9.9; amended SC22.1.7 by the insertion of "a voting member being limited to sponsoring a maximum of five resolutions."

member of the memorializing body and seconded, shall be the main motion and the committee's recommendation shall be received as information.¹⁹

CR7.05. The Committee on Resolutions, except in cases where a report has been assigned to another committee or the committee is ordered otherwise by the assembly or the Synod Council, shall review all published reports and oral reports submitted to this Assembly. The committee may offer at its discretion such resolutions in response as seem appropriate.²⁰

CR8.01. There shall be a Bylaws Committee, which shall be a standing committee, the members of which shall be appointed by the Synod Council, with those duties and prerogatives normally associated with a bylaws committee, including, but not limited to, regular review of the governing documents of the synod, recommendation of amendment of the same to the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council, and execution of referrals by the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council.²¹

CR9.01. There shall be a fund in connection to the Mary Caroline Spray bequest of mineral rights to receive, hold, manage, invest, and disburse associated funds for home mission and church extension work; the Synod Council shall make determination for management, investment, and disbursement but may delegate the same; investment income generated by the fund (excluding investment income generated by monies held in general checking or general savings) shall accrue to the fund; legal fees and other costs associated with the fund and its activities may be paid with monies from the fund.²²

¹⁹ SC21.9.9; amended SC22.1.8 by correcting "B17.16" to "B7.16."

²⁰ SC21.9.9.

²¹ SC22.1.9.

²² SC25.6.56.