

Nominations for President and Vice Presidents of the LCMS from the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

President and Vice-Presidents

3.12.1 Nominations for the offices of President, First Vice-President, and other vice-presidents in line of succession shall be made by the member congregations of the Synod.

(a) Each member congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two ordained ministers as candidates for president and two ordained ministers as candidates for First Vice-President, and four ordained ministers as candidates for other vice-presidents in line of succession.

(b) The Secretary of the Synod shall mail to each congregation of the Synod ballots for nominating these candidates.

(c) Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the president and the secretary of the member congregations and shall be sent to the Secretary of the Synod not later than four months prior to the opening date of the convention.

(d) The Secretary of the Synod, with the approval of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, may engage an external auditing firm to tabulate the nominations and shall report to the convention by means of the Convention Workbook the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who have received nominating votes for the offices of President, First Vice-President, and other vice-presidents in line of succession.

(e) Groups and individuals within and without the Synod are urged to refrain from circularizing the Synod or areas thereof relative to favoritism in nominations for President, First Vice-President, and other vice-presidents in line of succession.

3.12.1.1 Candidates for the offices of President and First Vice-President shall be in each instance the five ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the congregations, and the candidates for the offices of vice-presidents two through five shall be the twenty ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in nominating ballots of the congregations for other vice-presidents in line of succession.

(a) The Secretary of the Synod shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot. Each candidate shall reply within 10 days as to his willingness to serve if elected.

(b) In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate.

(c) In the event of a tie for the final candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as candidates.

3.12.1.2 The Secretary of the Synod shall publish in the Convention Workbook brief biographies of the five candidates for President, the five candidates for First Vice-President, and the twenty candidates for vice-presidents two through five. This report shall contain such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in the Synod, present position, offices previously held in a district or the Synod, year of ordination, former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or inter-church affairs, any other specific experience and qualification for the office, and, if the candidate so desires, also a brief personal statement.

3.12.1.3 The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment.

(a) The amendment procedure shall include merely a motion, a second, and a vote on the amendment, deliberately excluding verbal characterizations and discussion of the motion (except for the chair to ascertain that the requirements have been met as to eligibility, consent, and the filing of the biographical form).

(b) Delegates making nominations from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the candidates they wish to nominate.

(c) Such delegates shall immediately submit to the Secretary of the Synod this document and written pertinent information concerning their nominee(s) as detailed in Bylaw 3.12.1.2.

(d) After all such amendments have been voted on, the convention shall ratify the slate of candidates prior to each election.

3.12.1.4 Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

(a) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken.

(b) Thereafter, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

3.12.1.5 After the results of the election of the President have been announced, the convention shall then elect the First Vice-President according to the procedures outlined for the election of President in Bylaws 3.12.1.3 and 3.12.1.4.

3.12.1.6 After the results of the election of the First Vice-President have been announced, the convention shall then elect vice-presidents two through five as outlined in Bylaw 3.12.1.3. The rank of vice-presidents shall be determined by the order of their election or, if more than one is elected in the same voting, by the number of votes received by each.

(a) Should one or more of the candidates be elected to the office of President or First Vice-President, their names shall be removed from the ballot without requiring the addition of other names to the ballot.

(b) In the election, each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are offices to be filled. A candidate whose total vote equals or exceeds a majority of the number of delegates voting shall be declared elected.

(c) If more candidates receive a majority than there are offices to be filled, those receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.

(d) If not all offices are filled in such voting, the candidate or candidates receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated so that two candidates remain for each office to be filled and another vote shall then be taken.

(e) This procedure shall be followed until all the offices have been filled.