



July 28 – August 2  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



**2025 Churchwide Assembly**  
**Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee – Report 1**  
*Amendments to Governing Documents Submitted by Voting Members*

**Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

**Amendments from Voting Members; to be removed from *En Bloc***

**Submission A**

**Submitted by:** Rev. Susan Salomone [Upstate New York Synod, 7D]

**Proposed:**

That 5.01.e. be removed from *en bloc* for separate consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

And that in the ELCA Constitution and all model constitutions, wherever the wording, “shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English” appears, add, “shall be all person(s) who are/is a member of a historically underrepresented group.”

**Submission B**

**Submitted by:** Rev. Pablo Quinones [Caribbean Synod, 9F]

**Proposed:**

That 5.01.e. and 12.41.11. be removed from *en bloc* for separate consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

**Submission C**

**Submitted by:** Rev. Matthew Riegel [West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, 8H]

**Proposed:**

That 22.11.b. be removed from *en bloc* for separate consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

And to amend 22.11.b. by striking “or a subsequent two-thirds of the members of the Church Council...[through the end of the paragraph].”

**New Amendments from Voting Members**

**Submission D**

**Submitted by:** Ms. Hannah Peterson [Chicago Metropolitan Synod, 5A]

**Proposed:**

That 5.01.E19. be brought for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

And, in subcategory 5.01.E19., to include the goal of this church to be at least 20 percent of the voting members of Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees be youth and young adults.

### **Submission E**

**Submitted by: Rev. Matthew Riegel [West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, 8H]**

**Proposed:**

That 14.32.01. be brought for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

And to amend 14.32.01. by striking “four-year” and inserting “three-year” (in its place).

### **Submission F**

**Submitted by: Mr. Brandon Graves [Northern Illinois Synod, 5B]**

**Proposed:**

That 13.22.03. be brought for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

And that the Presiding Bishop shall serve no more than two terms.

### **Submission G**

**Submitted by: Mr. Brandon Graves [Northern Illinois Synod, 5B]**

**Proposed:**

That 13.42.03. be brought for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

And that the Secretary shall serve no more than two terms.

### **Submission H**

**Submitted by: Ms. Rebecca Bass [Florida-Bahamas Synod, 9E]**

**Proposed:**

That 19.04.02.a. be brought for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

And that bylaw 19.04.02.a. be amended by striking “, with the recognition that such a person shall reside within the territory of the synod or in the area immediately adjacent to the territory in the case of border areas” from the text.

### **Submission I**

**Submitted by: Rev. Kari Niedermaier [Florida-Bahamas Synod, 9E]**

**Proposed:**

For 7.31.02.a.8 to be brought for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

And that bylaw 7.31.02 a.8. strike “embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.” And replace it with the following language “Unifying and reconciling the diverse body of Christ into which we are baptized, giving special honor to members of historically underrepresented groups.”

And that the same substitution is done in the following locations: 7.61.02.c. †S14.12.a.8., †S14.32.c., C9.03.a.8., C9.23.c.