

May 2021 – Part I

Dear Sisters in Christ,

This newsletter will probably be the first and last longest newsletter ever created for the Month of May in the 30+ year history of the Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's Organization! Please bear with me, read it in different pieces at different times. **It is important that we have input back from you on your thoughts and questions regarding the enclosed information.** My plan is to write and send it out in at least two installments.

Normally, this newsletter would be filled with all the information and registration forms for the annual Synodical Women's Organization Annual Fall Convention and Retreat. As you know, in 2020 the coronavirus preempted these events from being held as we all pivoted in our daily lives from what was normal to being cautious on each of our parts to stay safe and to make sure that others were safe also. We all had the hope and dream that in 2021 we would see an end to all of this, but alas, due to the current uncertain climate, it seems that we will not be able to gather in person as an inclusive community in September 2021.

In recent issues, your executive board has made a conscious effort to keep you informed of changes that we were looking at to be able to hold this even in 2021. We have had members that have been reading books relating to Justice Issues and providing summaries for you to read and hopefully encouraging some to also read these books. We have shared what we hope provided encouraging articles and words for you during this period of time.

In the past, we have provided the May newsletter in the packets for Synod Assembly, and I have had the opportunity to speak to the attendees. This year there will be no newsletter included in the Assembly packets. However, this issue will be sent digitally to all on our mailing list, which will include the churches, the leaders in each SWO cluster unit, each pastor, clergy spouses, and those NGLSWO women who have digitally requested it. I sent a report for the Synod Assembly which Bishop Kathryn Finnegan will reference for all voting members. I will also include a copy of that report in this newsletter.

As I was struggling and praying as to what this newsletter would look like, a devotion from Daily Grace was received digitally on April 25 and it gave me the information that I was looking to share.

God's peace,
Melzee Jacobson, NGLSWO President

Already, but not yet

Apr 25, 2021 01:09 am

The whole world is experiencing the in-between time as we live through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scholars have named in-between times liminal space: a place of transition, waiting, and uncertainty. Occupying liminal space can be unpleasant, marked by confusion and struggle. We recognize that we aren't where we were before, but we also aren't where we are going. It's the tension of being in the in-between, an ambiguous and unclear existence.

We have no idea what the future will look like once this pandemic is over, both in our own lives and in our local and global communities. It is an uncomfortable and painful place to be.

To an extent, our whole existence as Jesus' followers is liminal space. We can see glimpses of God's kingdom on earth, but Jesus has not returned to earth yet. We live in a world where God's kingdom is here but not yet realized. We live every day in the tension of "already, but not yet."

This message is an excerpt from "*The uncertainty of in-between time*" by Becca Ehrlich in the March 2021 issue of Boldcafe. Today is the fourth Sunday of Easter.

Do you enjoy these free Daily Grace messages? If so, *donate now* to further the ministry. Use the "where needed most" line. Subscribe to [Gather](#) magazine for full articles excerpted in Daily Grace.

The post [Already, but not yet](#) appeared first on [Women of the ELCA](#).

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Churchwide Information

In this newsletter you will find information received from Women of the ELCA Churchwide Organization (CWO) regarding the Triennial Convention, proposed constitutional amendments pending action from the 10th Triennial Voting Members and proposed amendments pending action from the 11th Triennial Voting Members.

The following is a list of issues and circumstances that were considered when thinking about the fall event.

- Currently, in the Women of the ELCA Churchwide constitution (and the NGLSWO) there is no provision that allows us to hold conventions virtually instead of in person.
- The Eleventh Triennial Convention planned to be held in Phoenix, Arizona on July 14-16, 2020 was postponed to August 3-5, 2021.
- The gathering associated with this convention was cancelled.
- This memo was issued on February 3, 2017 to Voting members of the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) from Women of the ELCA executive director, Linda Post Bushkofsky regarding proposed constitutional amendments:

“The 2017 voting members are being called upon to approve certain amendments to the churchwide and Synodical Constitutions and Bylaws.

The first set proposes an amendment:

Allows our various churchwide and synodical convention and meetings to be held virtually.

The second set proposes an amendment:

Makes clear that the terms in office last until another person is elected to that office.”

- There is a requirement in the constitutions that a six-month notice is required.

Your voting members eligible to vote on these amendments are Nancy Snay from Gwinn and myself. Gail Schmidt was our other voting member but has since left the ELCA and is attending another church.

- Amendments proposed for action by the 11th Triennial Convention. Your voting members are Melzee Jacobson from Ironwood, MI, Pam Chouinard from Gladstone, MI and Elaine Kuhlmann from Arbor Vita, WI.
- Amendments that receive adoption will be in effect on adoption for both the Churchwide constitution and the Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's Organization (nglsw) constitution.
- COPIES OF THE CURRENT CHURCHWIDE CONSTITUTION AND THE TEMPLATE FOR THE SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION CONSTITUTION (*WHICH THE nglsw uses*) CAN BE FOUND ON THE WOMEN OF THE elca.org WEBPAGE.
- there could be adjustments to these proposed amendment during the triennial convention and all adopted complete amendments will be provided after the convention concludes.
- i would ask that all churches should post a copy of at least the northern great lakes synodical constitution and at least have a copy of the churchwide constitution on file for review. (even If there is no active women of the ELCA within the congregation at this time). If there is an active unit then the leader of that unit needs to have a copy of both constitutions for questions that may arise.) this will allow in depth understanding of how the larger organization(s) work.

Readers Guide to Proposed Constitutional Amendments

How to Use This Guide

This Readers Guide is to help you navigate the proposed amendments to the constitution for the churchwide women's organization and to the model constitution for synodical women's organizations. You might want to have the full text of the constitutions at hand as you go through this guide.

Section 1 of this Guide shows the proposed amendments to the churchwide women's organization (CWO)
Section 2 shows the proposed amendments to the model constitution for synodical women's organizations.

The Guide includes the title of each article for ease in navigation, followed by only the sections or items that include a proposed amendment.

The full sentence including the proposed amendment appears in black type.

Sentences not under consideration for amendment appear in gray.

Deletions are signified by strike-through type.

Insertions are signified by underlined type.

Staff notes, if any, appear in italic.

SECTION 1 – CWO CONSTITUTION PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE II—PURPOSE

SECTION 2. Functions and Responsibilities

Item 7.

Provide opportunities for the financial support of Women of the ELCA and ~~develop a system management of the assets and processes for planning and evaluation in order to ensure fulfillment of the mission of Women of the ELCA.~~ *This proposed amendment brings Item 7 into the present day.*

SECTION 3. Mission Statement

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. *It seems right to include our mission statement.*

ARTICLE III—PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

SECTION 11. Governing Documents

Each unit and synodical women's organization in its governing documents shall include the statement of

purpose (see Article II, Section 1) and such structural components as are required in this constitution. Whenever a synodical women's organization proposes to amend its constitution or bylaws, the synodical board shall submit the proposed amendments to the churchwide Executive Board for review and action. **Proposed amendments must be submitted by ~~February~~ March 15 for consideration at the ~~March~~ April Executive Board meeting and by September 15 for consideration at the October Executive Board meeting.**

This proposed amendment reflects current practice.

ARTICLE VII—RELATIONSHIPS

SECTION 1. Relationships within Women of the ELCA

Item 3.

Each synodical women's organization shall strive to provide for groupings of units into clusters or conferences whose boundaries shall normally coincide with the boundaries of clusters or conferences established by the synods of the ELCA. *This proposed amendment encourages but no longer requires clusters or conferences, reflecting current practice.*

ARTICLE IX—SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

SECTION 2. Relationships Item 2.

Each synodical women's organization shall strive to establish clusters or conferences of units within its territory. *This proposed amendment reflects the proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 1, Item 3 above*

SECTION 4. Officers

Item 1.

The ~~officers or leaders~~ of each synodical women's organization ~~shall~~ may be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer (or convener(s), coordinator(s), or co-chair(s), a treasurer, and a secretary/communicator), henceforth referred to as SWO leaders. *This proposed amendment offers flexibility in titles for SWO leadership, reflecting current practice.*

Item 2.

These ~~officers or SWO leaders~~ shall be elected by the convention of the synodical women's organization. Each ~~officer or SWO leader~~ shall be ~~a participant in a unit and~~ a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *This proposed amendment offers flexibility in unit participation.*

SECTION 5. Synodical Women's Organization Convention

Item 1.

Voting membership of the convention shall be the ~~four officers or SWO leaders of the synodical women's organization~~, the board members of the synodical women's organization, and one voting member from each unit. *This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in titles proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 1.*

SECTION 6. The Board of the Synodical Women's Organization

Item 2.

The board of the synodical women's organization shall consist of ~~the four officers~~ SWO leaders and ~~five to nine~~ three or more board members. *This proposed amendment offers flexibility in the number of board members.*

SECTION 7. Clusters, Conferences, and Committees

Item 1.

Each synodical women's organization shall strive to provide for groupings of units into clusters or conferences. Within each cluster or conference the synodical women's organization shall work cooperatively with the units to fulfill the purpose of Women of the ELCA through activities that *This proposed amendment reflects the proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 1, Item 3.*

d. provide opportunities for monetary offerings, stewardship education and ~~offerings~~ financial support of the total program of Women of the ELCA; and

ARTICLE X—CHURCHWIDE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. Functions and Responsibilities

Item 10. Engage in research in cooperation with the ELCA's Planning, Research and Evaluation unit; *This proposed amendment reflects current nomenclature.*

SECTION 4. Financial Policy Statement

d. The executive board shall approve the churchwide organization's budget, prepared by the executive director and staff, which includes support for the churchwide women's organization ~~and an annual Gift to the Church~~, and recommend it to the Triennial Convention for adoption. The executive board shall approve and adopt the budget in the years in which a convention is not scheduled. *This proposed amendment reflects current practice.*

ARTICLE XI—CONVENTIONS

SECTION 5. Voting Members of the Triennial Convention

Item 1.

The voting members of the Triennial Convention shall be the officers of the churchwide women's organization; the members of the churchwide executive board; the president, or SWO leader one convener, coordinator, or co-chair of each synodical women's organization; those women elected as voting members by the conventions of the synodical women's organizations; and those appointed as "at large" voting members by the churchwide organization. *This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in titles proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 1.*

Item 2. Each synodical women's organization ~~shall elect one voting member for every 25 congregational, intercongregational, or special units (or a fraction thereof) within the synodical women's organization, and e shall have three voting members: the president or one convener, coordinator, or co-chair; a woman of color or whose primary language is other than English, and a first-time voting member or a woman under the age of 45.~~ At least 10 percent of the voting member body shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. As defined in ELCA continuing resolution 5.01.C00, "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" shall be understood to mean African American, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native people. This definition, however, shall not be understood as limiting Women of the ELCA's commitment to inclusive participation in its life and work. *This proposed amendment simplifies the election of voting members.*

Item 3.

The ~~secretary of the~~ president or SWO leader of the synodical women's organization shall submit ~~to the secretary of the~~ churchwide women's organization at least six months before the Triennial Convention a certified list of the regular and alternate voting members elected by the convention of the synodical women's organization. *This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in titles proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 1.*

Item 5.

Each voting member of the Triennial Convention shall ~~be a participant in a unit and~~ a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *This proposed amendment reflects the*

flexibility in participation proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 2.

ARTICLE XII—OFFICERS

SECTION 1. President

This organization shall have a president elected by the Triennial Convention for one three-year term. The president shall be ineligible for election as an officer or executive board member in the succeeding triennium. The president shall be a ~~participant in a unit~~ and a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in participation proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 2.*

SECTION 2. Vice President

This organization shall have a vice president elected by the Triennial Convention for one three-year term with no reelection to this office. The vice president shall be a ~~participant in a unit~~ and a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *The vice president shall This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in participation proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 2.*

SECTION 3. Secretary

This organization shall have a secretary elected by the Triennial Convention for one three-year term with no reelection to this office. The secretary shall be a ~~participant in a unit~~ and a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *The secretary shall This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in participation proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 2.*

SECTION 4. Treasurer

This organization shall have a treasurer elected by the Triennial Convention for one three-year term with no reelection to this office. The treasurer shall be a ~~participant in a unit~~ and a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *The treasurer shall This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in participation proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 2.*

Item 4. Perform other duties as requested by the president or the executive board.

ARTICLE XIII—EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1. Composition

The executive board shall be composed of the four officers and ~~17 board members~~ one representative from the territory of each of the nine ELCA regions, plus two at-large members, to make a total of 15. Of the 15, at least 20 percent of whom shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, and at least 20 percent shall be under the age of 45 and/or persons of the LGBTQIA+ community. *This proposed amendment reduces the number of the churchwide executive board and encourages greater diversity among the members of the board.*

SECTION 2. Members and Terms

Item 1. The 15 board members shall be elected by the Triennial Convention for a three-year term. Each elected member shall be a ~~participant in a unit~~ and a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *This proposed amendment reflects the number in the previous article, as well as reflecting the flexibility in participation proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 2.*

SECTION 3. Purpose and Meetings

Item 2. The executive board shall meet at least two times each year, in person or electronically. *Additional meetings may be called by the president or by a two-thirds vote of the executive board.*

SECTION 4. Mail, Digital Technology, Conference Call, and Electronic Meeting ~~E-mail~~ Vote

Item 1.

In an emergency, as determined by the president and the executive director, a vote by mail, by ~~telephone~~

digital technology, conference call, or e-mail may be taken.

Item 3. In a ~~telephone~~ digital technology or conference call vote, if all board members participate, the vote necessary for adoption shall be a majority vote; if fewer than 100 percent of the board members participate, the vote necessary for adoption shall be a two-thirds vote in the affirmative of the total board.

Item 5. The results of the action taken by mail, ~~telephone~~ digital technology, conference call or e-mail shall be emailed immediately to all board members and shall be reviewed and adopted at the next meeting of the board.

The above proposed amendments to Article XIII, Section 3, Item 2, and Article XIII, Section 4, Items 1, 3, and 5, allow for the use of electronic meeting technology (e.g., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime and the like) now and in the future.

ARTICLE XIV – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCESS

SECTION 2. Guidelines for Nominations

Item 1. At least ~~40~~ 20 percent of the nominees shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, and at least 20 percent shall be persons under the age of 45 and/or persons of the LGBTQIA+ community. *This proposed amendment reflects the proposed amendment to Article XIII, Section 1.*

SECTION 3. Provisions

Item 1.

It shall be the responsibility of the executive board to assure that this organization maintains its commitment to inclusive representation. At least ~~40~~ 20 percent of the members of the executive board shall be persons of color and/or persons whose Proposed Amendments to Churchwide Constitution Page 5 primary language is other than English, and at least 20 percent shall be persons under the age of 45 and/or persons of the LGBTQIA+ community. *This proposed amendment reflects the proposed amendment to Article XIII, Section 1.*

Item 2.

Each nominee for an elected or appointed position in this organization shall be ~~a participant in a unit and a voting member of an ELCA congregation~~ and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in participation proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 2.*

Item 6.

Board members shall be elected in such a manner that at least one person is and no more than two persons are elected from the territory of each of the nine ELCA regions. ~~No more than one-half of the synodical women's organizations in a region shall have members on the executive board at the same time.~~ Further, no more than one shall be elected from any one synodical women's organization. *This proposed amendment clarifies the proposed amendment to Article XIII, Section 1.*

SECTION 6. Election of Board Members

The election of the ~~17~~ board members of the churchwide women's organization shall be by the Triennial Convention according to procedures set forth in this constitution and these bylaws. *This proposed amendment reflects the proposed amendment to Article XIII, Section 1.*

ARTICLE XV – CONFERENCE OF SYNODICAL PRESIDENTS

SECTION 1. Composition

The Conference of Synodical Presidents shall consist of one president or SWO leader of each the

~~presidents of the synodical women's organization and shall meet at least annually.~~ *This proposed amendment reflects the flexibility in titles proposed in Article IX, Section 4, Item 1.*

Proposed amendments approved by Churchwide Executive Board, December 2019

CHANGES AFFECTING THE NGLSWO CONSTITUTION IF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED AS IS

ARTICLE IV—RELATIONSHIPS

SECTION 1. Units

Item 2. This synodical women's organization shall **strive to provide for grouping units into clusters or conferences whose boundaries normally shall coincide with the boundaries established by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.** *This proposed amendment encourages but does not require clusters or conferences.*

SECTION 2. Clusters or Conferences

Item 3. A cluster or conference planning committee of at least three members, including a coordinator, shall be elected at the cluster or conference meeting. **Each member of a cluster or conference planning committee, including the coordinator, shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit.** *This proposed amendment encourages but does not require unit participation.*

ARTICLE V—FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1. Functions and Responsibilities

Item 9. ~~Foster the grouping of units in clusters or conferences and~~ **Assist in building supportive and interdependent relationships among individuals and units and shall strive to foster the grouping of units in clusters or conferences;** *This proposed amendment reflects the proposal in Article IV, Section 1, Item 2.*

ARTICLE VI—CONVENTIONS

SECTION 1. Convening

Item 2. Special conventions may be called by the president, convener(s), coordinator(s) or cochair(s) with the consent of the board of the synodical women's organization and shall be called at the request of two-thirds of the units within the synodical women's organization. *This proposed amendment, and several following it, offers flexibility in titles of SWO leadership.*

SECTION 2. Representation

Item 1. Voting members of a convention shall be the elected officers or SWO leaders and board members of the synodical women's organization and one voting member from each unit on the roll of this synodical women's organization. *This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.*

Item 3. The voting members at a special convention shall be those seated in the preceding regular convention, provided they have not ~~ceased to participate in the units they represented or are not been~~ **superseded by election of new voting members.** *This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in unit participation in Article IV, Section 2, Item 3.*

SECTION 3. Procedures

Item 1. The secretary or secretary/communicator shall give the units notification of the regular convention at least three months in advance. *This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in*

titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

Item 2. The secretary or secretary/communicator shall give the units notification of a special convention at least one month in advance. This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

SECTION 4. Nominations and Elections

Item 2. The Nominating Committee shall

- **nominate two persons for each vacancy (except when the nominating ballot is used for the offices of**
- **president and vice president, or convener[s], coordinator[s], or co-chairs); and**

This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

Item 5. The Nominating Committee in selecting nominees for the ~~officers~~ SWO leaders and board members of the

synodical women's organization shall follow these guidelines: *This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.*

b. no more than ~~one person~~ two persons from a unit shall be nominated (whether by the Nominating

Committee or from the floor); and *This proposed amendment offers more flexibility in SWO leadership.*

Item 7. In all elections, a majority of votes cast shall elect, except in the election of voting members of the Triennial Convention (and in the election of president; or president and vice president; or co-convener[s], co-coordinator[s], or co-chairs by the nominating ballot). This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

Item 8. (Optional) The president (or president and vice president, or co-convener[s], co-coordinator[s], or co-chairs) shall be elected by a nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election on the first ballot. Thereafter, only such votes as are cast for persons who have received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, two-thirds of the vote cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the highest number of votes on the second ballot and a majority of votes shall elect. This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

SECTION 5. Conventions and the Responsibilities of the Board

Item 4. The board shall make provision for convention committees such as

a. Committee on the Report of the President, Convener(s), Coordinator(s), or CoChairs; *This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.*

Item 5. Names and addresses of voting members and alternates shall be sent by the units to the president, convener(s), coordinator(s), or co-chairs, or her a designee at least 30 days prior to the convention. This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

SECTION 6. Nomination and Election of Voting Members of the Triennial Convention Item 1.

Nominations for voting members of the Triennial Convention shall be made by the units. Each unit shall submit the name of only one ~~of its participants~~ person, who shall be a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in the unit.

This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in unit participation in Article IV, Section 2, Item 3.

Item 2. A unit may submit the name of a nominee even though the synodical president (or convener,

coordinator, or co-chair), or a churchwide officer, or a churchwide board member (voting member by virtue of her office) is a participant in the unit.

Item 9. The president (or one convener, coordinator, or co-chair) of the synodical women's organization shall be a voting member of the convention by virtue of office.

The proposed amendments in Article VI, Section 6, Items 2 and 9 reflect the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

ARTICLE VII—BOARD OF THE SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. Composition and Authority

Item 1. There shall be a board of this synodical women's organization consisting of the elected ~~officers~~ SWO leaders, together with 5 elected board members. As nearly as possible, at least 10 percent of the board members shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, and no more than one ~~officer~~ SWO leader ~~or~~ and one board member shall come from the same unit. ~~*5, 6, 7, 8, or 9~~ This proposed amendment offers flexibility in the number of board members.

Item 2. ~~Officers~~ SWO leaders and members of the board shall be elected by the convention for a term of two years. Terms of one-half of those elected shall expire each year, except in the case of biennial conventions. This proposed amendment reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

SECTION 2. Meetings The board shall meet at least two times each year, in person or electronically. Special meetings may be called by the president, convener(s), coordinator(s), or co-chair(s), or, in the event of ~~her~~ death, resignation, or incapacity, by the vice president, co-convener, co-coordinator, joint co-chair, or other member of the executive committee. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. This proposed amendment offers reflects the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

SECTION 3. Mail, Digital Technology, ~~Telephone~~ Conference Call, and Electronic Meeting ~~E-mail~~ Vote

Item 1. In an emergency, as determined by the president, convener(s), coordinator(s), or cochair(s), a vote by mail, by digital technology, ~~telephone~~ conference call, or e-mail may be taken.

Item 3. In a digital technology or telephone conference call vote, if all board members participate, the vote necessary for adoption shall be a majority vote; if fewer than 100 percent of the board members participate, the vote necessary for adoption shall be a two-thirds vote in the affirmative of the total board.

Item 5. The results of action taken by mail, digital technology, ~~telephone~~ conference call, or email shall be e-mailed immediately to all board members and shall be reviewed and adopted at the next meeting of the board.

The above proposed amendments to Article VII, Section 2, and Section 3, Items 1, 3, and 5, allow for the use of electronic meeting technology (e.g., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime and the like) now and in the future.

SECTION 4. Officers in General

Item 1. The officers or leaders of each synodical women's organization ~~shall~~ may be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer (or convener(s), coordinator(s), or cochair(s), a treasurer, and a secretary/communicator), herein referred to as SWO leaders. Each shall be ~~a participant in a unit and a voting member of an ELCA congregation~~ and shall strive to be a participant in a unit.

Item 2. These ~~officers~~ SWO leaders shall be elected by the convention to a term of two years. All ~~officers~~ shall be eligible for one reelection to the same office position.

Item 3. Upon completion of her term(s) as president, convener, coordinator, or co-chair, the president, convener, coordinator or co-chair shall be ineligible for election as ~~an officer~~ a SWO leader, member of the governing council, or board member for two years.

Item 4. No elected person shall serve as ~~an officer~~, a SWO leader or board member for more than seven consecutive years.

Item 5. Should a vacancy occur ~~in any of the four offices~~ among the SWO leaders, the board of the synodical women's organization shall fill the same until the next regular convention. The election by the convention shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Item 6. The terms of the ~~officers~~ SWO leaders shall begin immediately following installation, except that of the treasurer, which shall begin February 1 following election.

Item 7. There shall be an executive committee consisting of the ~~four officers~~ SWO leaders, which shall act between meetings of the board of the synodical women's organization.

The proposed amendments to Article VII, Section 4, Items 1-7, reflect the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

SECTION 5. Duties of ~~Officers~~ SWO Leaders

Item 1. The president, convener, coordinator, or co-chair shall

Item 2. The vice president, co-convener, co-coordinator, or co-chair shall

a. act in the absence, disability, or resignation of the president, a convener, coordinator, or joint co-chair. She

shall assume the duties of that position ~~the president~~ until the vacancy is filled by the board of the synodical

women's organization at its next regularly scheduled meeting; and

b. perform such other duties as requested by the president, or a convener, coordinator, or joint co-chair or

the board.

Item 3. The secretary or secretary/communicator shall

d. keep a correct register of the roll of units, along with the names of the officers or leaders of these units;

The proposed amendments to Article VII, Section 5, Items 1-3, reflect the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

SECTION 6. Board Members

Item 1. There shall be three or more 5 members of the board elected by the convention of the synodical women's organization for a term of two years. Each board member shall be ~~a participant in a unit and~~ a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit. *5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 *This proposed amendment offers flexibility in the number of board members, as well as flexibility in unit participation.*

Item 3. No elected board member shall serve on the board in the capacity of ~~officer~~, SWO leader, and/or board member for more than seven consecutive years.

SECTION 7. Board Duties

Item 9. Fill vacancies among the ~~officers~~ SWO leaders until the next convention.

Item 10. Determine the fact of the incapacity of ~~an officer~~ a SWO leader or board member to perform her duties and determine if she shall be removed from her office in accordance with the policies and procedures of the churchwide Executive Board. For removal of ~~an officer~~ a SWO leader or board member, a two-thirds vote of the total board shall be required. A mail vote shall not be used to effect the removal of ~~an officer~~ a SWO leader or board member.

The proposed amendments to Article VII, Section 6, Item 3, and Article VII, Section 7, Items 9-10, reflect the proposal of flexibility in titles in Article VI, Section 1, Item 2.

Item 11. Act as Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Whenever a synodical women's organization proposes to amend its constitution and bylaws, the board of this organization shall submit prior to September 15 or ~~February~~ March 15 the proposed amendments to the churchwide Executive Board for review and action. *This proposed amendment reflects current practice.*

ARTICLE X—BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS

SECTION 2. Amendments

Item 2. Other amendments to this constitution shall be submitted to the churchwide Executive Board prior to ~~February~~ March 15 or September 15 for review and action. Upon approval, said amendments may be adopted by the synodical women's organization convention by a two-thirds vote at the regular convention after having been moved and presented in writing at the previous convention. (In case of a biennial convention, "at the previous convention" may be replaced with "to the units six months prior to the convention.") *This proposed amendment reflects current practice.*

Item 4. Other amendments to these bylaws shall be submitted to the churchwide Executive Board prior to ~~February~~ March 15 or September 15 for review and action. Upon approval, said amendments may be voted on at any duly called regular or special convention by a two-thirds vote of all voting members present, provided that a written notice of the proposed amendment has been given at the previous meeting. *This proposed amendment reflects current practice.*

Proposed amendments approved by Churchwide Executive Board, December 2019

The Constitution of the NGLSWO

Article VI – Conventions, Section 2 Representation

Item 2 of the current NGLSWO constitution states:

"Those congregations not represented by a unit shall be invited to send to the regular convention one representative who shall have a seat and a voice."

Commentary:

We have been working to have a representative from each congregation within the Northern Great Lakes Synod send a voting member to the annual convention.

Realizing that our synod is vast and that driving distances for some can seem unsurmountable. We have offered in the past that those driving a long distance could possibly carpool and drive to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Thursday and stay overnight for a minimal cost.

When we have the retreat following the convention, you could perhaps plan to attend the retreat that runs until noon on Sunday and then you would not have to drive home after the convention is over at 3:00 pm on Friday. Recently we have been able to save a block of rooms at hotels/motels in Iron River at a very reasonable price if

the group would like to use that type of a facility.

There is a minimal charge for the convention for voting members/guests of \$45.00 to include materials provided (convention booklet) and lunch on Friday. We even obtained permission in the past from Bishop Kathryn Finnegan to be able write to your church council to see if they would be willing to pay your registration at least for the convention and a Thursday night stay. Some of the women's church units offer to pay for the convention.

Currently there are 80 congregations in the Northern Great Lake Synod and we send information about the event to all 80 churches. Every woman who is a member of an ELCA congregation within the Synod is essentially a member of the NGLSWO. Women participate in many various ministries in their congregations, from Altar Committees to Serving Groups for funerals, to making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, etcetera. Currently the Women of the ELCA have a publication that details six different models of how a Women of the ELCA group can be utilized by a congregation. It can be found at womenoftheelca.org website. As we (you) move into the future, changes have been and will continue to change to meet the new visions of what women's ministries are in the congregations and how they can be inclusive for all of the women within the congregation. Let your Synodical Board members help you by supporting you in changing the face of your congregational group to meet the needs of the social structure in which we now find ourselves existing. Build the support that will be there for women of all ages and allow the passion and talents that each woman possesses be allowed to "Bloom where they are planted".

Help us to help you to let all the women of your church to see the vision of what the women of your congregation can accomplish as a team.

2020-2021 Northern Great Lakes Synodical Board Members		
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Please take the time to respond with any questions on the material/information presented

in Part I of the May 2021 Reflections Newsletter. It will greatly help the 11th Triennial Voting Members to represent everyone when voting on the proposed amendments in August.

Send to imlizrd@yahoo.com or mail to Melzee Jacobson, 527 E Margaret St, Ironwood, MI 49938. I will then get your responses to our vice-president Pam Chouinard and board member Elaine Kuhlmann.

Coming soon: Reflections May 2021 – Part II

1. Current updated job descriptions that cover duties from the current constitution plus duties that are specific synodical unit.
2. Ideas for what the women in your congregation can consider doing.
3. What can we do to create a new vision of a women's supporting community within our congregations?

**NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
WOMEN OF THE ELCA
527 E Margaret Street
Ironwood, MI 49938**

REFLECTIONS Newsletter – May 2021/Part I