



37th Northeastern PA Synod Assembly

HUNGRY FOR LIFE TOGETHER IN CHRIST

A Resolution Concerning a Constitutional Change for Eligibility to Serve as Dean of a Mission District

WHEREAS the current synod constitution states that a dean shall be elected “from among the rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament of the mission district (BLS12.01.d.2);” and

WHEREAS many current rostered ministers are stretched to serve multiple point congregations, not allowing for additional responsibilities; and

WHEREAS retired pastors are able to serve in roles such as interim ministry and synod staff; and

WHEREAS retired pastors have the ability to serve in this manner, and the understanding of the role; and

WHEREAS rostered ministers of Word and Service have taken a significant role in the life of congregations, and the greater church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA change the language in section BLS12.01.d.2 to read “from among the entire body of rostered ministers whose congregational membership is in a congregation of the mission district.”

Signature: Rev. Zach Labagh- Allegheny, Mohnton
West Berks Mission District Assembly, NEPA Synod
05/07/2024

*The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends “A Resolution Concerning a Constitutional Change for Eligibility to Serve as Dean of a Mission District” **be adopted as amended:***

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA substitute BLS12.01.d.2) as follows: "The Mission District Assembly shall elect a dean from among the rosters of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service, under call or retired, whose congregational membership is in a congregation of the mission district. It shall also elect a secretary, and such other persons as may be assigned by this synod's constitution and bylaws. They shall serve terms of three years, and shall serve no more than two terms consecutively."

Rationale: *This substitute motion from Reference and Counsel helps to clarify the language of the bylaw in consistency with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. This is accomplished by specifying the two rosters of the ELCA and incorporating rostered ministers who are either under call or retired as eligible candidates for Mission District deans. This substitute motion also shows the proposed change within the larger context of BLS12.01.d.2.*