



1. The agenda and the rules of procedure will be adopted at the first session of the assembly. Once adopted, they may only be changed by a two-thirds vote of the assembly.
2. Official Voting Members are to be seated at tables on the plenary floor. Persons granted voice, but not vote [S7.23.] may also be seated on the floor. Visitors are welcome to sit on the floor but will be designated with a different name tag.
3. One-third of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum [S7.14.].
4. If the lack of a quorum prevents action on any item of business, the disposition of which is essential for the ongoing work of the synod, that matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for action, and the action of the Synod Council shall be binding on the synod.
5. Only Voting Members may make a motion using the following steps on how to make a motion:
 - a) The motion, amendment or referral must be in writing (forms available at the business table). Keep one copy, send one to the assembly chairperson.
 - b) When recognized by the chair, give your name, congregation, and city.
 - c) State your motion, "I move that".
 - d) As a general rule, every motion shall be seconded.
 - e) The chairperson will restate the motion as made and seconded before it is debated.
6. Unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the assembly, all speeches in general discussion shall be limited to two minutes, and no person shall speak more than twice on the same subject.
7. Rostered ministers serving under contract who are currently rostered in a different synod shall have voice, but not vote, at this assembly.
8. Only resolutions received at least 30 days prior to the assembly and distributed two weeks prior to the assembly shall come before the synod assembly with the exception of resolutions dealing with events or issues originating within 45 days prior to and including the assembly. These resolutions will be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee, if received prior to the assembly, or by the Committee on Reference and Counsel, if submitted at the assembly, to ascertain whether it is germane and should be brought forward to the assembly.
9. When reporting to the synod assembly the Committee on Reference and Counsel may move:
 - a) to adopt the resolution as submitted by *(name)*.
 - b) to adopt the resolution, proposed by *(name)* as amended by the Committee on Reference and Counsel.
 - c) to refer the resolution, submitted by *(name)* to the Synod Council for *(specify expectation)*.
 - d) to adopt the substitute resolution for the resolution submitted by *(name)*.
 - e) to decline the resolution as proposed by *(name)*.

In reviewing proposed memorials, resolutions, and main motions, the Reference and Counsel Committee may edit, prepare an alternative memorial, resolution, or motion,



or consolidate into a single proposed action multiple memorials, resolutions, or main motions on the same or similar subjects. Whenever the Reference and Counsel Committee recommends an edited or alternative memorial, resolution, or motion, the report to the assembly shall contain the text of the original motion.

10. No resolution shall be accepted by the Committee on Reference and Counsel after **May 5, 2026** without two-thirds vote of approval by the assembly.
11. For all elections other than the election for bishop, the following provisions apply:
 - a) The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates for each vacancy to be filled by election [S9.03.02, 9.05, 9.06, 9.07].
 - b) Any voting member may submit additional nominations to open positions. These should be submitted in writing to the Business Table by **12:00pm on Saturday, June 6, 2026**.
 - c) All elections shall be by ballot. In all elections except for the bishop, a majority vote is required for election. If no majority is achieved on the first ballot, the two persons receiving the highest number of legal votes shall be entered on the next ballot [S9.08].
 - e) The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.
11. The following process and procedures shall be followed for the bishop election:
 - a) The representative of the churchwide organization shall preside over the assembly whenever the assembly is in session and considering business related to the election of the synod bishop, or when the assembly is casting ballots in this election.
 - b) The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot. (S9.04)
 - c) On the first ballot, the names of the seven ministers, plus any tie for the seventh place, that were identified by the Nominating Committee, shall be listed. In addition, any voting member of the Synod Assembly may submit the name of any minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a nominee. If there is no election on the first ballot, biographical information on the additional nominees shall be obtained and distributed to voting members prior to the casting of the second ballot, except for those who have asked following the first ballot that their names not appear on the second ballot. (S9.04.i)



- d) All those who receive at least one vote on the first ballot when there is no election are eligible to move forward to the second ballot. Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are nominated as a write in on the first ballot that do not wish to remain in the election will need to withdraw no later than **9:00pm on Friday, June 5th**. You can withdraw by submitting a Withdrawal Form found at the Business Table or by sending an email to eandsynodelections@gmail.com. Biographical Forms and Photos for those remaining in the election should be submitted by 6:30am on Saturday, June 6th by email to eandsynodelections@gmail.com.
- e) Only after the first ballot may a nominee withdraw their name from further consideration.
- f) Prior to the third ballot for bishop, the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot will be invited to address the assembly, with speaking limited to five minutes each.
- g) Prior to the fourth ballot for bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period.
12. For the purpose of credentialing, check-in will close 15 minutes prior to any plenary session with a ballot for the bishop election.
13. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern parliamentary procedure of this Synod Assembly (S7.32), except as otherwise provided in the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or of the Eastern North Dakota Synod.