

Proposed by Eric Mrozek:

WHEREAS Bylaw VII paragraph F requires that the Call Committee present at least four preferred candidates to the Voters, which has turned out to be problematic in today's environment with significantly fewer LCMS pastors available to be considered for a call;

WHEREAS the current bylaws make no explicit provision for potentially requesting a pastor from seminary, but at some point that might need to be considered;

WHEREAS Bylaw VII paragraph G states that when presenting candidates to the Voters in the election meeting, nominations will again be called for from the congregation, which means that such nominations would not have received any of the screening called for in paragraph F;

WHEREAS Bylaw VII paragraphs F and G both currently blend some screening tasks with the actual election process at the Special Voters Meeting, and it would be useful to separate those two concepts into their own paragraphs;

WHEREAS Executive Board membership in the Call Committee is defined in both Bylaw III (in the last sentence of the Purpose section) and Bylaw VII paragraph A, where Bylaw III explicitly cross-references Bylaw VII, but not *vice versa*, and it would be useful to cross-reference in both directions;

WHEREAS it would be useful to define how a vacancy on the Call Committee is determined, similarly to how it is determined for the Council in Bylaw IV paragraph E;

WHEREAS additional proposed changes to the formatting and punctuation to Bylaw VII Call Committee would help improve the clarity of the intent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaws VI and VII be changed as follows (with Bylaw III included for reference):

BYLAW III EXECUTIVE BOARD

Purpose: The Executive Board shall be an advisory body and will not have the authority to initiate policy, nor will it have any authority beyond that which has been conferred upon it in the Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Board shall meet only when called by the President or requested by the Pastor and directed by the Council. The Executive Board shall be charged with the responsibility of studying, researching and reviewing issues brought before it and advising the Council on its conclusions. The Executive Board makes only policy and action recommendations according to these findings. The Executive Board shall also be on the Call Committee as detailed in Bylaw VII, A.

Members: The Executive Board members shall be: The President of the Congregation, Vice President, Recording Secretary and the Treasurer. The Pastor shall be an ex officio

member of the executive committee and others may be invited to attend when their talents and expertise are judged to be of value to this committee.

- A- Issues referred to the Executive Board shall be deemed major in nature, or issues judged to be investigated, evaluated or executed by the Executive Board. Only the Council President, Pastor, Church Council or the Church Voters Assembly can refer issues to the Executive Board for action.
- B- The Executive Board may be given additional, non-policy-creating assignments by the Church Council, or, at the request of the Pastor that logically fall within the purview of this Board.

BYLAW VI CALLING MINISTERS & OTHER CALLED WORKERS

The Voters Assembly shall have the exclusive right to call ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, Vicars, Deacons and any other ministerial candidates, in accordance with Article VII of the Constitution. A two-thirds majority ballot vote of the Voters Assembly will be required for the election of Pastors and other called, ordained, or commissioned persons as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws (see also Bylaw VII, G).

BYLAW VII CALL COMMITTEE

Immediately when a vacancy occurs that requires the calling of a minister of religion, ordained or commissioned, the Church Council will announce the Call Committee to be in session and the Call Committee will remain in session until the vacancy has been successfully filled.

- A- The Call Committee shall have eight (8) members ~~and they shall be~~: The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be the President of the Call Committee and he will appoint three Elders to the committee. The Executive Board shall also be members of the Call Committee (see Bylaw III, Purpose), and the Executive Secretary shall become the recording secretary of the Call Committee-
- B- The President of the Call Committee may proclaim a position on the committee vacant whenever a member has been excommunicated from the Church, removed as a voting member of the Congregation, has left the Church for personal reasons, has not been able to accomplish their duties and has submitted a resignation letter, or has not been able to regularly attend scheduled Call Committee meetings. In the event that such a vacancy occurs ~~for any reason~~ on the Call Committee, the President of the committee will appoint another Elder to fill the vacancy.
- C- ~~The Call Committee shall notify the District in which this Congregation has been placed of the vacancy and will request assistance in temporarily filling the position, if needed. Per Article VII, D of the Constitution, when a vacancy occurs in an office of an ordained or commissioned minister, the Congregation shall notify the President of the District Office in which this congregation has been placed to receive assistance in temporarily filling the vacancy and to receive his counsel in calling a new pastor, teacher, or other church worker. The Call Committee may be the vehicle by which the Congregation provides this notification.~~
- D- The Call Committee will request recommendations from the ~~Pacific Southwest District. Missouri Synod office~~ President of the District Office in which this congregation has been placed for suitable candidates for the open position.

- E- Notice will be sent to the Voting Members of the Congregation and every voting member will be given the opportunity and privilege of making one or more nominations for the open position.
- F- In the screening process the Call Committee shall submit all names to the District President for information and evaluation. After receiving information and recommendations from the District Office, the Call Committee ~~shall select and present to the Congregation by means of a public announcement at least four preferred candidates, together with a biographical sketch of each. The list of candidates shall be publicly announced to the congregation on two successive Sundays or by mail at least one week before the meeting at which the call is to be considered. Barring any sustained protest, the candidates shall become eligible for calling consideration.~~ will select candidates to contact, solicit their interest level, and make arrangements to interview them. After due consideration, the Call Committee may further select preferred candidates and invite them to visit the Church. When a final list of qualified and interested candidates can be established, a Special Voters Assembly Meeting will be called in accordance with standing rules and practice. Four or more candidates are preferred, but depending on timing and circumstances it is acknowledged that this may not be feasible, so the minimum requirement shall be to have at least two candidates. The list of candidates, along with a biographical sketch of each, shall be publicly announced to the congregation on two successive Sundays before the meeting at which the call is to be considered, or by mail at least one week before the meeting. Barring any sustained protest, these candidates shall become eligible for consideration in the call meeting.
- G- ~~The Call Committee will contact the candidates, will solicit their interest level, and will make arrangements to interview the candidates and invite the candidates to visit the Church. As soon as a list of qualified and interested candidates can be established, a Special Voters Assembly Meeting will be called in accordance with standing rules and practice. In the Special Voters Assembly Meeting in which the call is to be considered, the list of The candidates will be presented to the voters and nominations will again be called for from the Congregation.~~ The election shall proceed by ballot, with the person receiving the fewest number of votes being dropped from the subsequent ballot. A two-thirds majority of all ballots cast shall be required to elect (see also Bylaw VI). If an agreement cannot be reached for an election, the ~~CC~~ Call Committee may be requested to submit a new list of candidates, in accordance with paragraph F above. After the election of a candidate the President may call for a unanimous acclamation.
- H- In the event a list of suitable candidates cannot be established for the position of ordained minister, the Call Committee may recommend requesting that a pastor be assigned from seminary. The Voters shall have the right to decide whether to make such a request.

The modified wording is:

BYLAW III EXECUTIVE BOARD

Purpose: The Executive Board shall be an advisory body and will not have the authority to initiate policy, nor will it have any authority beyond that which has been conferred upon it in the Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Board shall meet only when called by the President or requested by the Pastor and directed by the Council. The Executive Board shall be charged with the responsibility of studying, researching and reviewing issues brought before it and advising the Council on its conclusions. The Executive Board makes only policy and action recommendations according to these findings. The Executive Board shall also be on the Call Committee as detailed in Bylaw VII, A.

Members: The Executive Board members shall be: The President of the Congregation, Vice President, Recording Secretary and the Treasurer. The Pastor shall be an ex officio member of the executive committee and others may be invited to attend when their talents and expertise are judged to be of value to this committee.

- A- Issues referred to the Executive Board shall be deemed major in nature, or issues judged to be investigated, evaluated or executed by the Executive Board. Only the Council President, Pastor, Church Council or the Church Voters Assembly can refer issues to the Executive Board for action.
- B- The Executive Board may be given additional, non-policy-creating assignments by the Church Council, or, at the request of the Pastor that logically fall within the purview of this Board.

BYLAW VI CALLING MINISTERS & OTHER CALLED WORKERS

The Voters Assembly shall have the exclusive right to call ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, Vicars, Deacons and any other ministerial candidates, in accordance with Article VII of the Constitution. A two-thirds majority ballot vote of the Voters Assembly will be required for the election of Pastors and other called, ordained, or commissioned persons as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws (see also Bylaw VII, A).

BYLAW VII CALL COMMITTEE

Immediately when a vacancy occurs that requires the calling of a minister of religion, ordained or commissioned, the Church Council will announce the Call Committee to be in session and the Call Committee will remain in session until the vacancy has been successfully filled.

- A- The Call Committee shall have eight (8) members: The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be the President of the Call Committee and he will appoint three Elders to the committee. The Executive Board shall also be members of the Call Committee (see Bylaw III, Purpose), and the Executive Secretary shall become the recording secretary of the Call Committee.
- B- The President of the Call Committee may proclaim a position on the committee vacant whenever a member has been excommunicated from the Church, removed as a voting member of the Congregation, has left the Church for personal reasons, has not been able to accomplish their duties and has submitted a resignation letter, or has not been able to regularly attend scheduled Call Committee meetings. In the event that such a vacancy

occurs on the Call Committee, the President of the committee will appoint another Elder to fill the vacancy.

- C- Per Article VII, D of the Constitution, when a vacancy occurs in an office of an ordained or commissioned minister, the Congregation shall notify the President of the District Office in which this congregation has been placed to receive assistance in temporarily filling the vacancy and to receive his counsel in calling a new pastor, teacher, or other church worker. The Call Committee may be the vehicle by which the Congregation provides this notification.
- D- The Call Committee will request recommendations from the President of the District Office in which this congregation has been placed for suitable candidates for the open position.
- E- Notice will be sent to the Voting Members of the Congregation and every voting member will be given the opportunity and privilege of making one or more nominations for the open position.
- F- In the screening process the Call Committee shall submit all names to the District President for information and evaluation. After receiving information and recommendations from the District Office, the Call Committee will select candidates to contact, solicit their interest level, and make arrangements to interview them. After due consideration, the Call Committee may further select preferred candidates and invite them to visit the Church. When a final list of qualified and interested candidates has been established, a Special Voters Assembly Meeting will be called in accordance with standing rules and practice. Four or more candidates are preferred, but depending on timing and circumstances it is acknowledged that this may not be feasible, so the minimum requirement shall be to have at least two candidates. The list of candidates, along with a biographical sketch of each, shall be publicly announced to the congregation on two successive Sundays or by mail at least one week before the meeting at which the call is to be considered. Barring any sustained protest, these candidates shall become eligible for consideration in the call meeting.
- G- In the Special Voters Assembly Meeting in which the call is to be considered, the candidates will be presented to the voters. The election shall proceed by ballot, with the person receiving the fewest number of votes being dropped from the subsequent ballot. A two-thirds majority of the ballots cast shall be required to elect (see also Bylaw VI). If an agreement cannot be reached for an election, the Call Committee may be requested to submit a new list of candidates, in accordance with paragraph F above. After the election of a candidate the President may call for a unanimous acclimation.
- H- In the event a list of suitable candidates cannot be established for the position of ordained minister, the Call Committee may recommend requesting that a pastor be assigned from seminary. The Voters shall have the right to decide whether to make such a request.

The original wording was:

BYLAW III EXECUTIVE BOARD

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- B- In the event that a vacancy occurs for any reason on the Call Committee, the President of the committee will appoint another Elder to fill the vacancy.
- C- The Call Committee shall notify the District in which this Congregation has been placed of the vacancy and will request assistance in temporally filling the position, if needed.
- D- The Call Committee will request recommendations from the Pacific Southwest District. Missouri Synod office for suitable candidates for the open position.

- E- Notice will be sent to the Voting Members of the Congregation and every voting member will be given the opportunity and privilege of making one or more nominations for the open position.
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Barring any sustained protest, the candidates shall become eligible for calling consideration.
- G- The Call Committee will contact the candidates, will solicit their interest level, and will make arrangements to interview the candidates and invite the candidates to visit the Church. As soon as a list of qualified and interested candidates can be established, a Special Voters Assembly Meeting will be called in accordance with standing rules and practice. The candidates will be presented to the voters and nominations will again be called for from the Congregation. The election shall proceed by ballot, with the person receiving the fewest number of votes being dropped from the subsequent ballot. A two-thirds majority of all ballots cast shall be required to elect. If an agreement cannot be reached for an election, the CC may be requested to submit a new list of candidates, in accordance with paragraph F above. After the election of a candidate the President may call for a unanimous acclimation.