

AGENDA 2.4.9

Constitutional changes: General Synod composition

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED that **Article 7 The General Synod** of the Constitution of the Church be amended as follows (words to be deleted – ~~striketthrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

ARTICLE 7. THE GENERAL SYNOD

- 7.1 The power of the Church shall be exercised through the General Synod, which shall be the highest constitutional authority of the Church, with power to direct and control those to whom it has entrusted tasks or has delegated authority.
- 7.2 The General Synod shall consist of
- 7.2.1 lay delegates of the congregations;
 - 7.2.2 pastor delegates;
 - 7.2.3 the members of the General Church Council;
 - ~~7.2.4 all executive officers who are serving the Church, unless already eligible under 7.2.1, 7.2.2, or 7.2.3;~~
 - 7.2.54 chairpersons of **B**boards unless already eligible under 7.2.1, 7.2.2, **or** 7.2.3, ~~or 7.2.4;~~
 - 7.2.65 all Bishops unless already eligible under 7.2.2, **or** 7.2.3, ~~or 7.2.4;~~
 - 7.2.76 one [1] secondary and one [1] primary school principal elected from each region of Lutheran Education Australia by the principals of that region;
 - 7.2.87 past Bishops of the Church; and
 - 7.2.98 three [3] pastors emeriti nominated by the General Church Council who shall comprise the voting members.

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

The proposed motion seeks to:

1. address conflicts of interest which arise when executive officers vote on matters in which they have a direct interest, or may be perceived to have an interest; and
2. apply good governance principles in making a distinction between governance and management.

The second proposed motion (Agenda 2.4.7) recognises that, while not having a vote, executive officers should have the right to speak and contribute to the matters being discussed by the General Convention of Synod.

The current Executive Officer positions are:

- Executive Officer of the Church
- Executive Officer – Local Mission
- Director, Child Youth and Family Ministry (Grow Ministries)
- Assistant to the Bishop – International Mission
- Director, Lutheran Archives
- Executive Director, Lutheran Education Australia
- Principal, Australian Lutheran College
- Director, Lutheran Media