

Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly 2018 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

In action SC 17.11.11. on November 16, 2017, the Greater Milwaukee Synod Council voted to recommend to the 2018 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly an amendment to synod bylaw S7.22.01., and the creation of synod bylaw S7.22.02., as follows:

S7.22.01. All ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service, ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers~~ who are ~~retired~~, on leave from call, or designated as disabled ~~and whose names appear~~ on the rosters of this synod shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.

S7.22.02. All retired ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall elect 10 percent of their number to be voting members; all others shall be advisory members with voice but no vote. All retired ministers of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.

Rationale

Currently, all clergy who are retired, on leave, or on disability have voice and vote at the synod assembly. We have generally seen between 15 and 30 retired pastors register as voting members (roughly 12-25% of the retired roster) and we have also seen a decline in lay voting participation. The result of this is that we have been right at the required 60% lay and 40% clergy voting balance the past two years. With the number of retired clergy increasing, and the number of lay voting members remaining flat or declining, we are in danger of being in violation of the constitution if we were to have more than 40% clergy representation. This amendment would limit the voting participation to 10% of our retired clergy roster which allows us to function within our constitutional rules. All other retired clergy would be allowed to attend and have voice, but not vote.