



August 13, 2014

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In addition to the participation of congregational delegates at Convocation, congregations are asked, at times, to ratify the action of the annual Convocation. As a result of the action of the 2014 Convocation, each congregation is asked to schedule a duly called congregational meeting for the purpose of voting “yes” or “no” on the Convocation’s unanimous action to amend Section 7.01 of the NALC Constitution as follows:

A Convocation of the NALC shall be held annually ~~in August~~.

The purpose of this amendment proposed by the Executive Council is to allow for leeway in scheduling the Convocation. Though it is our goal to schedule the Convocation in the first or second week of August each year, there might be a scheduling conflict at the host venue that requires meeting in July, as happened this year at The Citadel.

For your information, the 2015 Convocation will be held at the Hyatt Regency at Terminal C of the Dallas-Fort Worth airport on August 13-14. The theological conference will be August 11-12 and the Lutheran CORE Convocation August 10-11.

Congregational participation is a cornerstone of NALC governance. By requiring congregational ratification of certain key decisions, the NALC ensures that its members are aware of and broadly support those decisions. Participation in the ratification process is an important right and responsibility.

Under Section 17.03 of the Constitution, all constitutional amendments require ratification to take effect and a congregation’s ratification vote must be taken “in and through properly called congregational meetings.” Ratification may happen at any congregational meeting, in accordance with the congregation’s constitutional requirements. Normally, a simple majority is required, unless the congregation’s constitution stipulates otherwise. Ratification may only happen through congregational action at a congregational meeting. Congregations cannot delegate responsibility to their councils, pastors, or any other persons or groups.

The deadline for voting on ratification is within six months from the close of the 2014 NALC Convocation – January 25, 2015. However, congregations are asked to vote on ratification as soon as possible, perhaps at a brief, specially called meeting. Congregations are asked to vote on ratification prior to December 31, 2014. All congregations belonging to the NALC at the time of the 2014 NALC Convocation are entitled to vote on ratification.

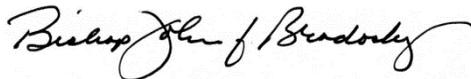
Each congregation has one vote on the proposed amendment, either “yes” or “no.” No amendments or changes may be made to the resolution passed by the Convocation. A congregation must ensure that its members have a clear way to express their preference for having the congregation vote either “yes” or “no” on the proposed amendment. The best way to accomplish this is probably to use a paper ballot with the wording in the included model ballot.

A form is included for a congregation to submit its ratification vote, which may be returned via mail or by fax as indicated on the report form. Congregations **must use** the prepared form to report their vote. E-mail communications and phone call messages are not acceptable.

Ratification will be fully accomplished once two-thirds of the congregations voting have voted “yes.” A quorum for a valid ratification vote is 50% of NALC congregations voting. The sooner a congregation votes on ratification, the better.

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry we share.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop John F. Bradosky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop John F. Bradosky