



# NALC

North American Lutheran Church

*Christ Centered  
Mission Driven  
Traditionally Grounded  
Congregationally Focused*

May 5, 2017

Dear NALC pastors and congregations,

We are writing about amendments to the NALC Constitution we are proposing to the NALC Convocation in Nashville this summer. The 2015 Convocation adopted a resolution that called upon the Deans and the Executive Council to study the NALC's procedure for electing a Bishop. We and Bishop Bradosky appointed a task force of six — three Deans and three of our members — to conduct the study. The task force completed its work last year, and presented its recommendations at our January meeting. We approved the task force's recommendations, which fall into two categories: 1) proposed amendments to the NALC Constitution; and 2) instructions and guidelines for the Nominating Committee, Elections Committee and Convocation planning team.

In summary, the proposed constitutional amendments would require:

- All nominations for Bishop be presented 60 days prior to a Convocation, and disallow nominations at a Convocation;
- Change the 90-day and 45-day deadlines for presenting nominations for the Executive Council and the Court of Adjudication to 60 and 40 days prior to the Convocation.

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There are four documents attached, which explain in greater detail the process leading to our decision, and the substance of our recommendations. The documents are:

1. The Report from the Task Force Studying the NALC's Procedure for Electing a Bishop describes the process used for the study, and the rationale for the proposed amendments and other recommendations;
2. The amendments to the NALC Constitution proposed for consideration at the 2017 Convocation;
3. Other recommendations related to the procedure for electing a bishop, but not requiring constitutional amendments;
4. A Minority Report submitted by one task force member who prefers to keep the current process for electing a bishop, which allows for nominations for Bishop at the Convocation.

Should the Convocation approve the proposed constitutional amendments, the amendments will then require ratification by a 2/3 supermajority of those NALC congregations which vote on ratification within six months of the conclusion of the Convocation.

The NALC places a high value on congregations being involved in all major decisions. Your congregation may have two opportunities to take part in this major decision in the next several months – through your congregational delegates at the Convocation, and through your congregational vote on ratification should the Convocation approve the proposed amendments.

We look forward to being with you in Nashville this summer. Blessings to you in Christ this joyful Easter season.

Yours in Christ,

NALC Executive Council

Rev. Mark Braaten, Tyler, TX  
Mr. Richard Jansak, Hendersonville, NC  
Ms. Rosemary Johnson, Ladysmith, WI  
Rev. Melinda H. Jones, Summerville, SC  
Ms. Lynn Kickingbird, Edmond, OK  
Rev. Kenneth Kimball, Waterville, IA  
Rev. Carl Rasmussen, Kirkland, IL  
Mr. Brian Sutton, Statesville, NC