

**Minority Report**  
**of the**  
**NALC Election of Bishop Task Force**

Following careful review of our Constitution, the Scripture, past practices, and procedural considerations regarding the election of the Office of Bishop, our Church Body is best served by continuing to keep the election process as currently written and defined in the Constitution of The North American Lutheran Church. The intent of the election process, first and foremost, is to provide the greatest opportunity for the Holy Spirit to identify God's choice for the office. The one common exegetical, Scriptural truth in the calling and election of leadership in the Old and New Testaments is an openness to the variety of ways, and sometimes surprising ways, God makes known God's choice for the leadership of God's People.

In that there is not a prescribed scriptural model for the election of the Office of Bishop, our present NALC Constitution, Articles 8:05, 8:06 and 9:02, should be retained. It is possible to be both practical (for the sake of good order and transparency) and to be open to the surprising ways God sometimes makes God's choice known for leadership in Christ's Church.

Our present Constitution provides the greatest opportunity for good order and the work of the Holy Spirit to guide us, even in surprising ways that are consistent with the intent of Scripture, by providing for both nominations for the Office of Bishop to be received before and from the floor of the Convocation when an election is held.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman