

3.3 Elected Officers of the Synod

President

3.3.1 The President of the Synod shall be a full-time executive and shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors of the Synod.

(a) He shall not be in charge of a congregation or hold a chair at any educational institution but may be called as an assistant pastor, provided such services do not interfere with his official duties as President.

(b) He shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Synod, be empowered to engage sufficient staff to carry out the duties of his office.

Powers and Duties – Ecclesiastical

3.3.1.1 As the chief ecclesiastical officer of the Synod, the President shall supervise the doctrine taught and practiced in the Synod, including all synodwide corporate entities.

3.3.1.1.1 The President of the Synod has ecclesiastical supervision of all officers of the Synod and its agencies, the individual districts of the Synod, and all district presidents.

(a) He shall see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out. After the national convention has determined triennial emphases for the Synod, he shall, in consultation with the Council of Presidents, identify specific goals for the national office that will support and encourage ministry at the congregational level.

(b) In the districts of the Synod, he shall carry out his ecclesiastical duties through the district's president.

(c) He shall at regular intervals officially visit or cause to be visited all the educational institutions of the Synod to exercise supervision over the doctrine taught and practiced in those institutions.

(d) He shall meet regularly with the Council of Presidents and, as deemed necessary, with individual district presidents or small groups of district presidents to see to it that they are in accordance with Article II of the Constitution, adopted doctrinal statements of the Synod, and doctrinal resolutions of the Synod. He shall receive regular reports on this subject from the district presidents. In cases of doctrinal dissent, Bylaw section 1.8 shall be followed.

3.3.1.1.2 The President shall be the chief ecumenical officer of the Synod.

(a) He shall represent the Synod, in consultation with the appropriate board or commission, in official contacts with all partner churches by aiding, counseling, and advising them and by strengthening the relations with and among them.

(b) He shall develop protocol documents between the Synod and partner church bodies according to which the Synod and its agencies will work together with its partner churches in foreign mission fields, which documents are also to be respected by agencies, auxiliaries, and recognized service organizations.

(c) He or his representative shall represent the Synod in official contacts with other church bodies.

Powers and Duties – Administrative

3.3.1.2 The President shall oversee the activities of all officers, executives, and agencies of the Synod to see to it that they are acting in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

(a) He shall at regular intervals officially visit or cause to be visited all the educational institutions of the Synod and thereby exercise oversight over their administration as it relates to adherence to the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

(b) He shall meet regularly with the Council of Presidents and, as deemed necessary, with individual district presidents or small groups of district presidents, to see to it that their administration is in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. He shall receive regular reports on this subject from the district presidents.

(c) He shall call up for review any action by an individual officer, executive, or agency that, in his view, may be in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

(1) If he deems appropriate, he shall request that such action be altered or reversed.

(2) If the matter cannot be resolved, he shall refer it to the Synod's Board of Directors, the Commission on Constitutional Matters, and/or the Synod in convention as he deems appropriate to the issues and party/parties to the matter involved.

(3) This provision in no way alters the President's constitutional duty to report to the Synod those who do not act in accordance with the Constitution and do not heed his admonition, as prescribed in Constitution Art. XI B 2.

(d) He shall serve as leader of the Administrative Team (see Bylaw section 3.5) and shall report to the Board of Directors on the activities of the team.

Powers and Duties – Ecclesiastical and Administrative

3.3.1.3 The President shall have responsibilities and duties that are both ecclesiastical and administrative.

(a) He shall report in person or through a vice-president or other officer of the Synod to all district conventions and to that end formulate the report that is to be made.

(b) He shall make provisions for new district presidents and members of boards and commissions of the Synod to be acquainted with their duties and responsibilities.

(c) He shall carry out his constitutional responsibility (Constitution Art. XI B 1–4) for the supervision of the doctrine and administration of all officers, executives, and agencies of the national office.

(d) He shall personally or by way of a representative have the option to attend all meetings of all commissions (except the Commission on Constitutional Matters), the boards of all synodwide corporate entities, and the Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans (Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services), including executive sessions (the President or his representative already serves as a voting member of the mission boards and serves as a voting member of the

Board of Directors of the Synod and the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House.

- (1) The President's representative shall normally be a member of the Administrative Team.
- (2) The President shall, in reasonable time, receive notice of such meetings, the proposed agenda, and minutes thereof.
- (e) Prior to his appointment of an executive director of a mission office, he shall engage in consultation with the appropriate mission board to reach concurrence on a slate of candidates for the position.
- (f) He shall engage in consultation with the governing board of each synodwide corporate entity to reach mutual concurrence on a slate of candidates for appointment to the position of chief executive.
- (g) As ecclesiastical supervisor, he shall provide leadership to all officers, agencies, and national office staff of the Synod. Through the Chief Mission officer, he shall supervise the duties listed in Bylaws 3.4.3-3.4.3.8.
- (h) He shall consult with the vice-presidents, as elected advisors, whenever important and difficult Synod, inter-Lutheran, and partner church questions arise.
- (i) He shall establish the duties and responsibilities of the First Vice-President in consultation with the First Vice-President.
- (j) He shall make an official report at each meeting of the Synod in convention.
- (k) He shall approve the draft of the *Convention Proceedings* before it is published by the Secretary of the Synod.
- (l) He shall have the right to authorize the vice-presidents to perform the duties of his office and hold them responsible for their performance. Accountability, however, shall always remain with the President.
- (m) He shall exercise executive power when the affairs of the Synod demand it and when he has been expressly invested with such power by the Synod in convention.
- (n) He shall be authorized, in the event that the affairs of the Synod require the exercise of executive power for a purpose for which there is no specific directive of the Synod, to exercise such power after consultation with the vice-presidents, the Board of Directors of the Synod, or the Council of Presidents, whichever in his judgment is most appropriate. Any member of the Synod shall have the right to appeal such action to the Commission on Constitutional Matters and/or the Synod in convention, whichever is appropriate. The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod is exempt from this bylaw.
- (o) He shall in the interval between meetings of the Synod in convention appoint special boards or committees whenever the purpose for which the Synod has been organized requires or when conditions arising in the course of time demand such action.

Inability to Serve

- 3.3.1.4 When the President is unable to serve, the duties and responsibilities of the Office of President shall be assumed by the First Vice-President.

- (a) The Board of Directors of the Synod shall determine when the President is unable to serve in that capacity because of prolonged illness or disability.

- (b) The First Vice-President shall remain as the acting president until that board determines that such illness or disability has been removed.

Vice-Presidents

- 3.3.2 The vice-presidents shall be elected advisors of the President and, upon the President's request or as provided by the Synod, shall assist him in discharging his responsibilities or represent him.

- 3.3.2.1 The vice-presidents shall, in the order in which they have been ranked, assume the presidency if the office is vacated or perform the duties of the President if he becomes incapacitated.

- 3.3.2.2 The First Vice-President shall be a full-time executive and a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors.

- (a) He shall be responsible to the President at all times for the performance of his duties.

- (b) He shall serve as the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry.

- (c) He shall serve as the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for the Commissioned Ministry.

- 3.3.2.3 Five regional vice-presidents shall also be elected in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws. They shall serve the Synod in a part-time capacity and shall be responsible to the President for the performance of their duties.

- 3.3.2.4 A vacancy in the office of First Vice-President shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking vice-presidents. The resulting vacancy or any vacancy in a regional vice-presidency shall be filled by appointment of the President in consultation with the district presidents within that region.

Secretary

- 3.3.3 The Secretary shall perform all the customary duties of a corporate secretary and shall serve as a voting member and the secretary of the Board of Directors of the Synod.

- 3.3.3.1 The Secretary shall carry out all required responsibilities relating to conventions of the Synod.

- (a) He shall carry out responsibilities with reference to the nomination and election of the President and vice-presidents as detailed in Bylaw section 3.12.

- (b) He shall serve as consultant to the local convention committee.

- (c) He shall publish the names of the members of the Committee for Convention Nominations in an official periodical of the Synod as soon as possible after they have been elected.

- (d) He shall carry out responsibilities with reference to the Committee for Convention Nominations as determined in the Bylaws.

- (e) He shall provide the Committee on Elections with copies of a manual of suggested election procedures.

- (f) He shall record the proceedings when the Synod meets in