



# PROPOSED RULES OF PROCEDURE

## *2023 NALC Mission Convocation*

1. The business of this Convocation shall be as outlined in the official agenda distributed to the Convocation.
2. The rules set forth in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised,” shall govern this Convocation in all applicable cases, to the extent consistent with these rules and the agenda adopted by this Convocation, and according to the constitution of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).
3. Once adopted, these rules shall not be amended or suspended — except by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at this Convocation.
4. The voting body for this Convocation includes as delegates: 1) all ordained ministers of the NALC, who are properly registered to attend; and 2) those laypersons who have been elected by congregations of the NALC as voting members, who are properly registered to attend.

4.1 **A QUORUM** for conducting business is 50% of all delegates (see 4.0) certified in accordance with the process established in advance by the Executive Council.

4.2 The Bishop or the Bishop’s designee shall preside over this Convocation.

5. Each NALC officer and each person serving in a position subject to election by a Convocation will have the right of voice and vote, at this Convocation.
6. **Motions from the floor.** All motions addressing subject matter not included in the agenda, AND all amendments to motions of a complex nature must be submitted in writing to the Committee on Reference and Council no later than 6 pm on Wednesday evening of the Convocation. See Rule 10 below.

### **7. Discussion during the Convocation**

- a. Unless otherwise determined by a majority of those attending the Convocation, all speeches during discussion shall be limited to **two minutes**.

- b. Delegates who wish to request to speak to a motion or make a point of personal privilege may do so at one of the microphones on the floor of the convocation stating *full name, congregation, "I would like to speak (for or against) the motion" or "I would like to make a point of personal privilege."* Those requesting to speak to a motion will be recognized by the Bishop in the order received, alternating those speaking for and against.
- c. Delegates may ask a question of the Chair in the same way, by approaching a microphone, stating their *full name, congregation, "Question for the Chair"* and their question. The Bishop will respond as appropriate.

## **8. Nominations**

*8.1 Nominating Committee.* The Executive Council shall submit to each Convocation for confirmation not more than five names of persons to serve as members of the Nominating Committee until the subsequent Convocation. The Nominating Committee oversees the nominating process for the elected positions of the NALC and solicits names of potential candidates from congregations. The Nominating Committee ensures that (1) all required information it deems necessary is disseminated, received, complete and in order; and (2) that each nominee, if elected, is willing to serve in the specified office for which s/he is nominated. Regarding open positions on the Executive Council, the Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at least two candidates for each open seat. The Nominating Committee submits to the Convocation a report that includes a complete ballot of candidates meeting all requirements including those in 8.2 below.

### *8.2 Nominating Process and Deadlines.*

- a. Nominations for the *Office of Bishop* shall be made by an NALC congregation or the Executive Council and all required information received not less than 90 days prior to the Convocation. A Convocational delegate may nominate an additional candidate *from the floor* on the first day of the Convocation *provided that* required information provided by other candidates *is received by* the Nominating Committee the first day of the Convocation and the latter is assured the candidate is willing to serve if elected, allowing a reasonable time to inform the voters prior to the first vote.
- b. Nominations for the election to open seats on the *Executive Council* and the *Court of Adjudication* may be made by an NALC congregation upon all required information having been received not less than 90 days prior to the Convocation. As an alternative, nominations for these positions may be made by a group of three delegates from three different NALC churches upon submission of letters of support and other required information 45 days prior to the Convocation.

## 9. Elections

9.1 For any ballot, a majority of the legal ballots cast shall be necessary for election.

9.2 For ballots *other than for Bishop*, if no candidate receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the least number of votes, plus ties, shall be eliminated. Thereafter, in each round of voting, if no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the least number of votes, plus ties, shall be eliminated.

9.3 For ballots *for the Court of Adjudication*, if no candidate receives a majority of votes, the two candidates with the most votes shall be elected.

9.4 *For ballots for Bishop*, if no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, all but the top four candidates by votes received, including ties, shall be eliminated. Thereafter, if no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes, plus ties, shall be eliminated until two candidates remain. When two candidates remain, voting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority.

9.4.1 Before the second ballot, the top four remaining candidates, plus ties, will give a 15-minute devotion, “The Missio Dei and the Future of the NALC” to include one of the key scripture texts of the convocation.<sup>1</sup>

9.4.2 If no one receives a majority of votes on the second ballot, the top three candidates, plus ties, remaining will have the opportunity to respond to written questions from the floor prior the *third* ballot.

9.4.3 If no candidate receives a majority of votes on the third ballot, voting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority of votes.

**9.4.4 The exception** to the above rule occurs only if there are just **two nominees** for Bishop. In that case, **before the first ballot**,

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<sup>1</sup> **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (ESV)

**Romans 10:13-16** <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” (ESV)

**Ephesians 2:19-22** <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” (ESV)

candidates will give a 15-minute devotion, “The Missio Dei<sup>2</sup> and the Future of the NALC,” to include one of the key scripture texts of the convocation, AND the two candidates will have an opportunity to respond to written questions from the floor. All of this will occur **prior to the first ballot.**

- 9.4.5 There will be a time limit of 20 minutes during the question-and-answer portion of the election of Bishop process. All questions shall be posed to all candidates.

## 10. Committee on Reference and Counsel

- 10.1 This committee will serve during this Convocation, and include the General Secretary, a member of the Court of Adjudication, a member of the Executive Council, and two additional delegates to the Convocation, one clergy and one lay, appointed by the Bishop.
- 10.2 Suggested items for consideration by the Convocation **outside the adopted agenda** shall be presented to the Committee **no later than 6:00 pm on the first day of the Convocation.** The committee will present a report to the Convocation in which the Committee will recommend a time for the Convocation to consider the proposals. This Committee will also receive and review all motions from the floor of a substantial or complex nature for grammar, clarity and to ensure it says what the offeror meant it to say, before the motion may be returned to the floor for action.
- 10.3 This committee shall sort the questions for the Bishop’s election, as there likely will be questions that are similar in nature.

11. A parliamentarian and assistant parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Bishop. A chair of elections, appointed by the Executive Council, shall oversee the elections process. Election observers shall witness each ballot. The NALC Communications Director will instruct the convocation members on voting technology.

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<sup>2</sup> Missio Dei (sounds like *miss-ee-oh day-ee*) is a theological term referring to the “Mission of God” in the world.