



The LCMS Kansas District

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May 3, 2021

Dear Brothers in Christ,

With the District Convention timeline moving forward again, congregations are now being asked to confirm their elected delegates or make plans to elect delegates. The congregations of your multi-congregation parish have the opportunity to be represented not only by voting delegates (one pastor and one lay member) but also by one or more advisory delegates, per an **important change regarding delegates representing multi-congregation parishes**.

Article V of the 2018 Kansas District Bylaws addresses information with which you're likely already familiar (with relevant details underlined):

- (a) ... Each of the parishes/congregations of the District (a multi-congregation parish being considered as a congregational unit) shall be represented by one (1) pastor and one (1) lay delegate duly elected by the congregation at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the Convention.
- (b) The vote at all District Conventions shall be restricted to the duly elected and certified voting pastors and lay delegates of the congregations. Multi-congregation parishes shall determine the voting lay delegate who shall represent all congregations of that parish. If a congregation or parish has more than one called pastor who is eligible to vote, the congregation shall designate which pastor will cast a vote on behalf of the congregation.

This information remains accurate, but **recent changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod now allow for multi-congregation parishes to elect advisory delegates, as well**. The relevant information from the 2019 LCMS Handbook is included below:

Article XII.10 (meetings of districts)

The meetings of the districts of the Synod are composed of the following:

a. Voting Delegates

Every member congregation or multi-congregation parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by its pastor and the other by the lay delegate elected and deputed by the congregation or parish.

b. Advisory Delegates

Advisory delegates are all commissioned ministers, and those ordained ministers not presently serving as voting representatives of congregations, who are members of the Synod within the district. In addition, a congregation that is part of a multi-congregation parish, other than the congregation supplying the voting lay delegate, may elect and depute an advisory lay delegate.

Bylaw 3.1.2.1 (c) (voting delegates)

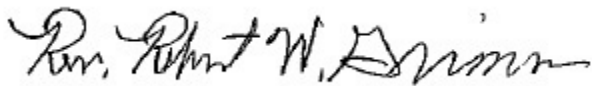
The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layperson from each member congregation or multi-congregation parish of the circuit, both of whom shall have been elected in the manner prescribed by the congregation or parish. Congregations of a multi-congregation parish not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory representative, with voice but no vote. A pastor serving a congregation in an assisting capacity (Bylaw 2.5.6) is not eligible to cast that congregation's pastoral vote.

In short, all congregations in a multi-congregation parish may now be represented by a delegate at meetings of the District, including circuit forums and the District Convention. If a congregation in a multi-congregation parish has not contributed the voting delegate, it may elect an advisory delegate, with voice but no vote.

All convention delegates for your multi-congregation parish, including voting and advisory delegates, should be reported on the appropriate Delegate Reporting Form. We've included forms for both voting delegates (green) and advisory delegates (purple) in this mailing. The forms are also available on the convention website at kslcms.org/convention.

If you have any questions about this change, please let me know.

In Christ,



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