

## Church Order and Related Matters

Chair: Matthew Ford  
Reporter: Ryan Braam

### **Council of Delegates**

#### *I. Materials*

A. Council of Delegates Report (section II, A, 12, a), p. 40

#### *II. Recommendation*

A. That synod adopt the following change to Church Order Article 45 proposed by Synod 2022 (II, A, 12, a) (additions indicated by italics):

Synod is the assembly representing the churches of all classes. Each classis shall *ordinarily* delegate one minister, one elder, one deacon, and one other officebearer to synod. *A classis may send no more than two delegates bearing the same office.*

#### *Grounds:*

1. This permits needed flexibility for classes in constituting their delegations to achieve full participation at synod.
2. Recent history has demonstrated a persistent difficulty in classes' sending a full delegation to synod.
3. The principles of Christian fellowship and unity call us to act in ways that promote justice and equality and maximize the voices present at synod, especially from minority-majority classes, rural or geographically distant classes, and smaller classes that have struggled to send a full delegation under the present system.
4. Retaining four delegates while allowing a maximum of two per office maintains diversity of office while also maintaining a full complement of deliberative voices at synod.

Ryan Braam, reporter  
Blake Campbell  
Erik DeLange  
Matthew Ford, chair  
Mary Gallegos  
Brandon Haan  
Michael Jager  
Michael Koetje  
Victor Laarman

Joshua Lee  
Brian Ochsner  
Ryan Poelman  
Daniel Roeda  
Michelle Rooker  
Clair Vander Neut  
Clyde Williams  
Dan Winiarski