

SYNODICAL SERVICES II

Chair: Rev. Scott VanderPloeg
Reporter: Rev. Chris Ganski

I. Council of Delegates

A. Materials

1. Council of Delegates Report, Section IV. G. 1. a & b, pp. 32-33
2. Council of Delegates Report, Section IV. G. 1. d, p. 34
3. Council of Delegates Report, Section IV. G. 2. a, including Appendix D, pp. 35-36; 81-91
4. Council of Delegates Report, Section IV. I, p. 36

B. *Privilege of the floor*: Michael L. Ten Haken, chair of the Council of Delegates; Greta Luimes, vice chair of the Council of Delegates; Zachary J. King, general secretary; and members of the executive staff as needed when matters pertaining to the Council of Delegates are discussed.

C. Recommendations

1. That synod accept the work done to revise the Church Order introduction as fulfilling the instruction of Synod 2024 (*Acts of Synod 2024*, pp. 139, 853) and ratify the changes to Church Order Articles 12-17 and 42 and their Supplements as recommended by Synod 2024 and indicated in Appendix D. (IV. G. 1. a & b), with the following amendment to Supplement, Article 12, B, 1:

- a. Positions regulated by Articles 9-10 Article 12-a of the Church Order. This includes....
[*The rest of this subpoint remains the same*]

Grounds:

- a. These proposed changes have been before the churches for discernment as required by Church Order Article 47.
- b. The introduction to the Church Order has previous synodical approval (*Acts of Synod 2010*, pp. 912-15).

2. That synod approve the updates to Church Order Supplement, Articles 82-84 (IV, G, 1, d).

Ground: This brings the process for reinstatement of disciplined pastors into harmony with the decisions of Synod 2024 regarding readmission of ministers released via Church Order Article 14 (*Agenda for Synod 2024*, p. 140; *Acts of Synod 2024*, p. 853).

3. That synod approve the updates to Church Order Supplement, Article 15 (IV, G, 2, a).

Grounds:

- a. These changes address issues related to financial support and pension considerations identified by the Study of Bivocationality Task Force and by the COD's conversations about pension matters (*Agenda for Synod 2023*, pp. 306-8; *Acts of Synod 2024*, pp. 623-24).

b. This revision harmonizes the two different versions of these changes adopted by Synod 2024 after input from the Pension Fund trustees (*Acts of Synod 2024*, pp. 851-52, 902).