

Advisory Committee 2, Synodical Services and Structure II, Rev. Cory Nederveld reporting, presents the following:

I. Response to Overture 20, recommendation 2: Seek Classis Nominations for Parliamentarian (minority)

A. Materials

Overture 20, recommendation 2, p. 465

B. Recommendation

1. That Synod, institute the following procedure to elect the parliamentarian:
 - a. Starting in Synod 2024, each Delegate shall nominate one person for the next Synod's parliamentarian. This will take place at the earliest available plenary session.
 - b. The officers will produce a list of the 8 most named nominees who are willing to serve. At the conclusion of Synod 2024, and at the end of each future Synod, this vote for the next Synod's parliamentarian will take place as one of the last matters of business before the conclusion of Synod.
 - c. The nominee with the second most votes shall serve as the alternate parliamentarian.
 - d. Instruct the Office of General Secretary to effect the necessary changes to the Rules for Synodical Procedure. This shall be reviewed and ratified by Synod 2025.

Grounds:

1. This encourages attention to the often neglected matters of church order. In recent years, there has been a growing interest and even excitement towards matters of church order. This will foster increased participation and attention in matters of church governance.
2. A synodical parliamentarian is an expert in the meeting procedures of Synod (Synodical Rules, Church Order) as well as Robert's Rules of Order. As such, it is not deemed to be an official denominational position, nor a teaching position. Thus, the synodical parliamentarian is a purely advisory role at Synod and may be called to assist in that capacity, holding office only during the proceedings of Synod.
3. The synodical rules only state that this position "could be filled by the faculty advisor for church polity," not that it must be (Rules for Synodical Procedure, III, B, 2, h). Thus the parliamentarian position may be filled by any appropriate candidate with the knowledge and experience required for the proceedings of Synod in the CRCNA(emphasis added).

- a. If the parliamentarian is a member of the assembly (a delegate), that person has the same rights as other members, but should strive to maintain impartiality, similar to the impartiality that is required of the chairman. In other words, the parliamentarian should ordinarily not be making motions, speaking in debate, or voting.
2. That synod declare this our response to Overture 20, recommendation 2.

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