

Presentation of Constitutional Amendments to 2015 Montana Synod Assembly

Bishop Crist presented three Constitutional amendments and several by-laws amendments at the 2014 Montana Synod Assembly. The amendments were prepared and recommended by the Montana Synod Council. Constitution changes require a 2/3 vote of a Synod Assembly, twice. The Constitutional amendments were voted on at the 2014 assembly and again at the 2015 assembly. By-laws changes require a 2/3 vote at one assembly, so they were voted on at the 2014 assembly and not included in this document.

The three proposed Constitutional changes are:

Old:

†S6.04.B09. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

New:

†S6.04.B09. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be young adults and youth.

1. Encourage member congregations to consider youth and young adults when appointing voting members to the Synod Assembly.
2. Authorize up to 20 additional voting members for Montana Synod Assembly meetings, with the following provisions:
 - a) These voting members shall be youth, defined as confirmed and less than 18-years-old;
 - b) One youth voting membership shall be reserved for each cluster,
 - c) Reserved memberships shall be held until 30 days prior to the Synod Assembly, at which
 - d) time all remaining voting memberships shall be assigned on a first-come/first-served basis.
 - e) The establishment of designated youth voting memberships should not discourage
 - f) member congregations from otherwise appointing youth as regular voting members. Such appointments shall not be accounted in the 20 youth voting memberships.
 - g) Costs for youth voting membership participation in the Synod Assembly shall be borne by the member congregation.

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**S9.03.** The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall consist of ~~twelve~~ **six** members who shall be ~~appointed~~ **appointed elected** by the Synod ~~Council Assembly to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~ **Council Assembly to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. and serve for three year staggered terms. In making appointments to the Nominating Committee the Synod Council shall give consideration to geographical, clergy/lay, male/female and persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English representation. In making nominations to the Nominating Committee, representational principles of geography, gender, lay/clergy, and age will be considered.**

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~~**S9.11.** The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the council of Region I.~~
 Delete S9.11. This constitutional provision is outdated, in that the Region I Council has changed its makeup to bishops and vice-presidents.