

Date Approved by Synod Council: February 1, 2018

POLICY: Nominations and Election of BC Synod Delegates to ELCIC National Conventions

National/Synodical Convention Cycle

2018 marks the beginning of a three-year cycle for synodical and national conventions. The yearly sequence will be synod convention in year one, followed by a national convention in year two, followed by a year in which there is no convention.

According to the Bylaws of the BC Synod, "The process for electing lay, rostered and youth delegates to National Church conventions shall be determined by an elections policy adopted by the Synod Council" (BC Synod Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaw 9B, Section 1).

National Convention Size

The number of delegates to ELCIC National Conventions is set at 150. The breakdown by delegate category (ELCIC Administrative By-laws, Part VII, Section 7) for ELCIC National Conventions will be:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Lay | 80 delegates | 53.3% |
| Youth | 10 delegates | 6.7% |
| Rostered | 60 delegates | 40.0% |
| Totals | 150 delegates | 100% |

Geographical distribution of delegates amongst the synods of the ELCIC

Delegates will be allocated to the five synods of the ELCIC on the following basis (ELCIC Administrative By-laws, Part VII, Section 8):

- An initial 10 delegates will be apportioned per Synod for a total of 50 delegates.
- The remaining 100 delegates will be apportioned based on the baptized membership of each Synod, using figures from the parochial reports.

Delegate numbers for the BC Synod

The BC Synod has been allotted 17 delegates for the 2017 and 2019 National Conventions (10 delegates per synod plus an additional 7 delegates based on the baptized membership of the BC Synod). Using the Lay - Youth - Rostered Minister formula described above, the delegate numbers for the BC Synod are as follows. This example will change should the allotment of delegates for the BC Synod change.

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Lay | 9 delegates |
| Youth | 1 delegate |
| Rostered | 7 delegates |
| TOTAL | 17 delegates |

Selecting BC Synod delegates for ELCIC National Conventions

Delegates to ELCIC National Conventions must be selected at synod conventions in the year preceding a national convention.

Geographic distribution of BC Synod delegates

For the purpose of electing delegates to national conventions, the BC Synod will be divided into four electoral regions. As an example, should the allocation of delegates to the BC Synod be 17, the delegates from each electoral region will be as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| North | 2 Lay delegates | 1 Rostered delegate |
| Vancouver Island | 2 Lay delegates | 1 Rostered delegate |
| Southern Interior | 2 Lay delegates | 2 Rostered delegates |
| Lower Mainland | 3 Lay delegates | 3 Rostered delegates |
| From any region | 1 Youth delegate | |

Total = 17 delegates 9 Lay + 1 Youth 7 Rostered

Eligibility for nomination as a delegate to ELCIC National Conventions

All nominees for youth and lay positions must be baptized members in good standing of a BC Synod congregation.

Rostered ministers serving under call or appointment are eligible to be nominated.

Rostered ministers and lay people who served as delegates to the previous two ELCIC National Conventions will not be eligible to serve as delegates to the next ELCIC National Convention. Exceptions to this restriction may be made at the discretion of Synod Council.

Youth delegates must be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the opening day of the ELCIC National Convention (normally held at the beginning of July). Persons who served as youth delegates to the previous two ELCIC National Conventions will not be eligible to serve as a youth delegate to the next ELCIC National Convention.

Process for nominating delegates

All delegates — youth, lay and rostered — may be nominated by one of three methods:

1. By vote at a congregational meeting.
2. By vote at a congregational council meeting.
3. By any ten baptized members in good standing of BC Synod congregations.

Deadline for nominations

Nominations must be received by the BC Synod office no later than 60 days prior to the opening of the BC Synod Convention. Nominations must be made using the prescribed nomination form,

which includes biographical information. Nominations may be submitted electronically or by surface mail.

Nominating Committee prepares slate of nominees for BC Synod Convention

The BC Synod's Nominating Committee will review all nominations and prepare a slate of candidates for the BC Synod Convention, equivalent to three persons per position available. The Nominating Committee will be attentive to issues of gender and of congregational distribution over time. A list of nominees and their biographies will be included in the Bulletin of Reports, which is made available at least 30 days prior to the BC Synod Convention.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Synod Convention.

Elections

All BC Synod Convention delegates will vote for delegates from all of the electoral regions.

The nominee receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot shall be declared elected. Ties will be broken by a second round of balloting. The number of names appearing on the second and subsequent ballots will be restricted to the number of two for each position still to be filled.

Replacement of delegates

In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend the national convention or who become ineligible to attend due to a change in roster status or an Electoral Region change, Synod Council shall appoint a replacement. Wherever possible, the replacement shall be the nominee who received the next greatest number of votes during the balloting process at the BC Synod Convention.

Registration fees for delegates to national convention

Congregations of the BC Synod shall participate in a "fair share" assessment process to cover the cost of sending BC Synod delegates to the ELCIC National Convention. Each BC Synod congregation shall be assessed a convention fee based on the number of confirmed members in its membership. Under such a system, all congregations will contribute to funding the BC Synod delegation, whether or not that delegation includes a representative from their congregation. Using a "fair share" assessment process, the assessment fee per congregation increases as the confirmed membership number increases.

Synod Council will publish the assessment fee following its spring meeting in the year in which a Synod Convention is held. This assessment fee will be based upon the convention fee as established by the ELCIC National Church Council.

The assessment fee for Shared Ministries will be reduced, since these congregations contribute to multiple denominational structures. The assessment fee for mission congregations also shall be reduced. Synod Council will establish an appropriate assessment for these ministries.