

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

National/Synodical Convention Cycle

2018 marked 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). For the purposes of this Policy, youth delegates are referred to as young adult delegates.

National Convention Size

The number of synodical delegates to ELCIC National Conventions is set at 150. According to the ELCIC Administrative By-laws, (Part VII, Section 7), there shall be “a maximum of ninety (90) delegates who shall be lay and a maximum of sixty (60) delegates who shall be rostered pastors or rostered deacons. Of these one hundred and fifty (150) delegates, synods shall make reasonable efforts to elect or appoint one-fifth (1/5) of such delegates who are sixteen (16) to thirty (30) years of age as of the first day of convention.”

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 was 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 - Young Adult - 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	7 delegates
Young Adult	3 delegates
Rostered	7 delegates
TOTAL	17 delegates

Selecting BC Synod delegates for ELCIC National Conventions

With the exception of the young adult delegate positions, delegates to ELCIC National Conventions will be selected at synod conventions in the year preceding a national convention. The young adult delegates will be elected by Synod Council at least 90 days prior to the ELCIC National Convention. Synod Council will solicit nominations from congregations for the young adult delegate positions in advance of the Synod Council meeting at which the young adult delegates are elected.

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	1 Lay delegates	1 Rostered delegate
Vancouver Island	1 Lay delegates	1 Rostered delegate
Southern Interior	2 Lay delegates	1 Rostered delegates
Lower Mainland	3 Lay delegates	4 Rostered delegates
From any region	3 Young Adult delegates	

Total = 17 delegates 7 Lay + 3 Young Adult + 7 Rostered

(Numbers are approximate due to mathematical rounding of numbers. The rostered delegate numbers may change should a young adult delegate be a rostered member.)

Eligibility for nomination as a delegate to ELCIC National Conventions

All nominees for young adult 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. This includes retired rostered ministers who are serving under appointment as interim ministers.

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.

Young adult delegates must be between the ages of 16 and 30 inclusive on the opening day of the ELCIC National Convention (normally held at the beginning of July). Persons who served as young adult delegates to the previous two ELCIC National Conventions will not be eligible to serve as young adult delegates to the next ELCIC National Convention.

Process for nominating delegates

All delegates — young adult, 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

With the exception of the young adult delegate positions, 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 postal service.

Nominating Committee prepares slate of nominees for BC Synod Convention

The BC Synod's Nominating Committee will review all nominations received 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.

Delegates will vote for as many people per electoral region as there are positions to fill. Election shall be by plurality. (For example, if three laypeople are to be elected from a certain region, then delegates may vote for up to three people from the slate of nominees. The three nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected.)

Should there be insufficient nominees for particular delegate positions, then Synod Council shall appoint delegates to fill these positions.

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. If needed, Synod Council may fill delegate positions on an “at large” basis.

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 in the fall of the year preceding the ELCIC National Convention. 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.