

## For Your Reference

The following district bylaws stipulate the terms of office and which current office holders are eligible for reelection:

- All incumbents *eligible for reelection* shall be considered to be nominees. [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3.4 (d)]
- The offices of district president, district secretary, and of the circuit visitors shall be three (3)-year terms, without limit as to reelection. [District Bylaw 8.4.1]
- All other elected or appointed officers and members of other district organizational entities may serve a total of no more than three (3) successive full three (3)-year terms in the same office. They may be elected or appointed to the same office after an interval of three (3) or more years. [Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.2, District Bylaw 8.4.3]

With the exception of the district president, regional vice-presidents, and circuit visitors, “The district, assembled in convention, shall have the right to alter the slates of nominees, and voting delegates may make additional nominations from the floor with the prior consent of the nominee(s) and pertinent information about the nominee(s) provided in writing. [District Bylaw 8.1.4]

**With this packet, you are receiving nominating ballots for:**

- **District President** - each member congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster **of the Synod two** ministers of religion—ordained as candidates for president of the district. [District Bylaw 8.3.1 (a)] (*Additional copies may be name of this nomination form or a copy downloaded from the District Convention page of the District website.*)
  - The secretary of the district shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the convention in the convention workbook the names of all ministers of religion—ordained who have been nominated, in addition to those who appear on the slate of candidates. [District Bylaw 8.3.1 (c)]
- **Regional Vice-President** - Each member congregation **of a region** shall have been given opportunity to nominate **two** ministers of religion—ordained from the clergy roster **of the district with membership in a congregation in its designated region** as candidates for regional vice-president. [District Bylaw 8.3.2.1 (a)] (*Note: Region 1 congregations nominate clergy with residence in Region 1; Region 2 congregations nominate clergy with residence in Region 2; Region 3 congregations nominate clergy with residence in Region 3; Region 4 congregations nominate clergy with residence in Region 4*)
  - The secretary of the district shall receive such nominations (signed by the president and secretary of the nominating congregation). [District Bylaw 8.3.2.1 (c)]
- **District Secretary** - each member congregation and individual members of the Synod in the district shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the district **two** ministers of religion—ordained as candidates for secretary of the district. [Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (a)]
  - At least two candidates and at least one alternate shall be selected by the nominations committee (District Bylaw 6.1.1.2). The secretary of the nominations committee shall notify each candidate of their nomination. [District Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (d)]
  - The nominations committee shall have the right to provide additional nominations. [District Bylaw 8.3.3.1 (g)]
- **Regional Board of Directors Members (Ministers of Religion—Commissioned)** - each member congregation and individual members of the district shall have been given opportunity to nominate **two** ministers of religion—commissioned from the roster of the Synod **with membership in a congregation in the designated combined electoral regions** as candidates for regional commissioned member of the board of directors. [District Bylaw 8.3.4.1 (a)] (*NOTE: Nominations may be made from across regional lines, but the nominee must be a resident of the combined electoral region. For example, a congregation or church worker from Region 1 in Arkansas could nominate a commissioned minister from either Region 1 or Region 2 for the combined electoral Region 1/Region 2 position, as well as a commissioned minister from either Region 3 or 4 in Tennessee/Kentucky for the combined electoral Region 3/Region 4 position. However, a congregation or individual member can nominate no more than two total for one or both combined electoral regions, not a total of two candidates nominated per combined electoral region for a potential total of four nominations*)

- **Regional Board of Directors Members (Layperson)** - each member congregation and individual members of the district shall have been given opportunity to nominate **two** laypersons, **with membership in a congregation in the designated electoral region**, as candidates for regional layperson member of the board of directors. [District Bylaw 8.3.4.2 (a)] *(NOTE: Nominations may be made from across regional lines, but the nominee must be a resident of the combined electoral region. For example, a congregation or church worker from Region 1 in Arkansas could nominate a layperson or two from Region 1 for their region's position, and/ or a layperson from either Regions 2, 3, or 4 for the respective regional position. However, a congregation or individual member can nominate no more than two total for one or more electoral regions, not a total of two candidates nominated per electoral region for a potential total of eight nominations.)*

- The current layperson member of the Board of Directors who has served three successive full terms on the Board of Directors, and is thus ineligible for nomination/reelection to the Board of Directors at this convention is Dr. Fred Guengerich (Region 3). The District is grateful for his faithful service on the Board of Directors.

- **Circuit Visitors** - The procedures for the nomination, selection, and the election of the circuit visitors shall be those specified in the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.2]

- The nominations for circuit visitor from the congregations shall be received by each circuit's respective circuit visitor **no later than the day prior to the circuit forum**. [District Bylaw 8.3.7.2]

- **District Nominations Committee** - The nominations committee shall consist of a total of six (6) members, as follows:

1. Two (2) ministers of religion—ordained
2. Two (2) ministers of religion—commissioned
3. Two (2) laypersons

One of each category shall be from electoral regions 1 and 2 combined, and one of each category shall be from electoral regions 3 and 4 combined. [District Bylaw 6.1.1.1] *(NOTE: The bylaws do not currently place a limitation on how many individuals may be nominated by a congregation or an individual member of the Synod in the district for these positions. Those nominated may also be from a region different than the region of the congregation or individual proposing the nomination.)*

- **Synod Nominations Committee** - The procedures for the nomination, selection, and the election of the members of the Synod Committee for Convention Nominations shall be those specified in the *Handbook* of the Synod. [Synod Bylaw 3.12.3. through 3.12.3.8 and in the District Bylaws 8.3.6 ff]

1. One minister of religion—ordained or commissioned
2. One minister of religion---ordained or commissioned (*alternate*)

One minister of religion---ordained or commissioned shall be elected at the District Convention to serve as member and one as alternate to the Committee for Convention Nominations to the 2029 Convention of Synod. *(NOTE: Those nominated will be elected as member or alternate by the District Convention. The term of office is 6 months prior to the 2029 Synod Convention through the end of that Convention and will meet in St. Louis one or more times prior to the Synod Convention with responsibilities for selecting two or more candidates and at least one alternate for all elective offices, boards, and commissions to be filled by the Synod in Convention.)*

With the exception of the nominating ballots for Circuit Visitors, all other “Nominating ballots and receiving of ballots from the congregations and individual members shall be the responsibility of the secretary of the district, ballots to be received by the congregation and individual members six (6) months prior to the opening date of the convention, and from the congregations and individual members four (4) months prior to the opening date of the convention.” ***(In this year, that date is February 12, 2025.)*** [Bylaws 8.3.1 (b), 8.3.2.1 (b), 8.3.3.1 (b), 8.3.4.1 (b), and 8.3.4.2 (b)]

For more information on the responsibilities and duties of the various offices, please see the 2023 Synod *Handbook*, Section: 4. ff pertains to all matters of the Districts; and, in particular: 4.3 (Officers), 4.4 (District President); 4.5 (District Board of Directors); 4.7 (District Nominating Committee); 5.2 (Circuit Visitors). In the District Bylaws, Sections 3.2 (Officers), 4.1-4.3 (District Board of Directors), 6.1.1-6.1.2 (District Nominations Committee), and 8.1-8.3.5.5 (Elections). You may download the Synod's Handbook from <https://tinyurl.com/mryebvuc> and the District Bylaws are available for download at <https://tinyurl.com/3tk6s2uv>

If you have any questions regarding the nominations process, please do not hesitate to contact me at (931-801-2344, or by email at [pastorlpeters@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlpeters@gmail.com) or President Roger Paavola at (901) 373-1343 or by email at [rpaavola@midsouthlcms.com](mailto:rpaavola@midsouthlcms.com).