



## 2020 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

6.05 Prior to each ~~annual~~ Convocation, the NALC shall calculate for each congregation a benevolence share of the proposed NALC annual budget based on congregational size and resources.

### Article 7 – ~~Annual~~ Biennial Convocation

7.01 A Convocation of the NALC shall be held ~~annually~~ biennially.

7.02 Delegates with voting privileges at a Convocation shall be the ordained ministers of the NALC and at least an equal number of laypersons. Each congregation of the NALC shall elect **at least** one lay delegate to the Convocation for every 750 baptized members, or fraction thereof, of such congregation. For purposes of determining the number of lay delegates that a congregation may elect, associate members (those holding primary membership in another congregation) shall not be counted. In the event that the total number of lay delegates elected pursuant to the preceding sentence is less than the total number of ordained ministers, the Executive Council shall apportion additional lay delegates based on the relative size of the congregations of the NALC. **The Executive Council shall apportion additional lay delegates based on the baptized membership of congregations so there is approximately an equal number of lay and clergy delegates to the Convocation.** To the extent appropriate to maintain good order, and subject to any action by the Convocation, the Executive Council may adopt procedures relating to the timing of delegate selection and to verifying the credentials of all delegates.

7.04 The responsibilities of the ~~annual~~ biennial Convocation shall include: election of the Bishop, the Executive Council, and any other position requiring election; adoption of a budget for the subsequent calendar year; consideration of teaching statements; reception of reports; and other items of business as may be determined by the Executive Council or by the Convocation.

9.08. In the event of vacancy in the office of Bishop, the Executive Council shall appoint a Bishop to fill the vacancy on an interim basis. The next ~~annual~~ Convocation shall elect a Bishop, who shall take office for a four-year term beginning the following October 1. In the event of vacancy in the office of Recording Secretary or Treasurer, the Executive Council shall appoint an interim to fill the vacancy until the following October 1, when the successor elected by the Executive Council shall take office for a four-year term. If the vacancy in the office of Recording Secretary or Treasurer occurs in September of any year, the Executive Council may choose to extend the term of an interim until October 1 of the next calendar year, when the successor would begin a four-year term.

9.09 The Executive Council is empowered to suspend the Bishop by a three-quarters vote of all members, excluding the Bishop, for cause, as outlined in the provisions for discipline in Section 14.01, in consultation with the Court of Adjudication and the Commission on Theology and Doctrine. The Executive Council will appoint an interim Bishop to exercise the office until the next ~~annual~~ Convocation. The next ~~annual~~ Convocation may subsequently remove the suspended

Bishop by a two-thirds vote and set in motion a process for the election of a successor according to Article 8. In case of death or disability precluding the exercise of the office, the Executive Council may appoint an interim Bishop to serve until the next ~~annual~~ Convocation.

10.02 The terms of elected members shall be staggered such that ~~one~~**two** ordained ministers and ~~one~~**two** lay members will be elected at each ~~annual~~ Convocation. Each term shall begin on the October 1 immediately following the ~~annual~~ Convocation and shall end on the September 30 four years later. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Council may appoint an interim replacement, who will serve until the next October 1. The next ~~annual~~ Convocation shall elect a permanent replacement, who shall serve the remainder of the term to which the original holder of the seat had been elected. ~~If necessary to create or maintain staggered terms, an annual Convocation may elect an Executive Council member for a term of less than four years.~~ **To the limited extent necessary to assure that an equal number of seats will be open at each Convocation or that the seats open at each Convocation will be evenly split between those held by ordained ministers and those held by lay members, the Executive Council as a provisional matter may change the number of seats open for election at a particular Convocation and may shorten the term to which a particular member is to be elected.**

10.05 The duties and function of the Executive Council shall be to:

- e. Ensure and approve long-range planning for the NALC to be presented at the ~~annual~~ Convocation.
- j. Adjust the budget approved by the ~~annual~~ Convocation as prudence dictates in response to changed financial circumstances.
- l. Report all actions to the next ~~annual~~ Convocation.

10.06 The Executive Council is empowered to suspend any member of the Executive Council by a three-quarters vote of all members for cause, in consultation with the Court of Adjudication and the Commission on Theology and Doctrine. The Executive Council may appoint an interim replacement until the next ~~annual~~ Convocation. The Executive Council is empowered to suspend or remove any other elected officer by a three-quarters vote of all members.

11.01 Congregations shall join in collaboration **as Mission Districts** to fulfill most effectively the ministry and mission of the NALC, normally based on common geographic boundaries. Such organization shall be done in consultation with the Bishop and subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

11.02 Each ~~regional group~~**Mission District**~~of congregations~~ shall adopt appropriate governing documents that are consistent with the governing documents and practice of the NALC and shall include election of a Dean, adoption of a budget, and provision for supervision, mutual support of member congregations, and procedures necessary for carrying out its mission and ministry.

11.03 The Deans, who shall be ordained ministers of the NALC, shall be accountable to the Bishop and work with the Bishop by conducting similar functions in their respective areas. Deans shall serve as pastor to ordained ministers, their families, and congregations **in their Mission District**, and will conduct a ministry of teaching and visitation with ordained ministers and congregations. Deans may continue to serve under the call of a congregation.

15.01 There shall be a Court of Adjudication consisting of seven members, each elected to a four-year term by the ~~annual~~ Convocation. Each term shall begin on the October 1 immediately

following the ~~annual~~ Convocation and shall end on September 30 four years later. Terms shall be staggered so that ~~two~~**four** seats will be open each year, except that every fourth year, only one seat will be open. If necessary to create or maintain staggered terms, an annual Convocation may elect a Court member for a term of less than four years **at one biennial Convocation and three seats will be open at the next**. The Nominating Committee, after soliciting names from congregations, shall place in nomination one or more names of candidates for each seat that needs to be filled effective on the upcoming October 1. Supporting biographical information shall be made available to the members of the NALC no less than 90 days prior to the Convocation. Three or more delegates representing at least three congregations may together submit an additional nomination in writing. To be in order, the nomination, together with supporting biographical information, must be submitted to the Nominating Committee no later than 45 days prior to the Convocation. If more than one seat is open for the same term of years, the seats shall be filled using a single ballot that includes all candidates. Those receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. No member of the Court shall serve on the Nominating Committee. **To the limited extent necessary to assure that the number of seats open at each Convocation is as close to equal as possible, the Executive Council as a provisional matter may change the number of seats open for election at a particular Convocation and may shorten the term to which a particular member is to be elected.**

17.02 A minimum of twenty-five delegates to an ~~annual~~ Convocation may propose an amendment to the Constitution. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at such Convocation as well as the subsequent ~~annual~~ Convocation. Amendments approved pursuant to this Section 17.02 shall be submitted to congregations for ratification after approval by a second consecutive ~~annual~~ Convocation.