

# 2015 North American Lutheran Church Convocation

## Proposed Amendments to the NALC Constitution

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 ~~Joint~~ 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.

10.06 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 ~~Joint~~ 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.

12.01 The Bishop, with the consent of the Executive Council, shall appoint the ~~NALC~~ members of the ~~Joint~~ Commission on Theology and Doctrine, ~~a commission formed jointly by the NALC and Lutheran CORE.~~ At least two-thirds of the commission members shall be theologians who are members of a congregation of the NALC. Lutheran theologians who are not members of a congregation of the NALC may be appointed provided that they agree to honor and observe the NALC's Confession of Faith and practice in their work with the NALC. The Bishop, with the consent of the Executive Council, shall be empowered to define terms of office for the commission, to remove members of the commission, and to fill vacancies on the commission as vacancies arise. The Bishop shall be an ex officio member.

12.02 The ~~Joint~~ Commission on Theology and Doctrine shall consider topics of a theological nature, implement theological conferences as may be appropriate, draft statements of a theological nature, and may recommend the adoption of statements by the appropriate bodies of the NALC ~~and Lutheran CORE.~~ Additionally, the ~~Joint~~ Commission on Theology and Doctrine ~~shall will~~ provide ~~guidance to the NALC and Lutheran CORE on ecumenical matters and oversight and coordination for the inter-Lutheran and ecumenical ministry of the NALC, working together with the NALC executive staff. The Commission will also provide educational and other resources that will interpret the ministries of the NALC and Lutheran CORE.~~ guidance to the NALC and Lutheran CORE on ecumenical matters and oversight and coordination for the inter-Lutheran and ecumenical ministry of the NALC, working together with the NALC executive staff. The Commission will also provide educational and other resources that will interpret the ministries of the NALC and Lutheran CORE.

13.02 ~~A task force or committee, appointed by the Executive Council in consultation with the Joint Committee on Theology and Doctrine, shall provide oversight and coordination for the inter-Lutheran and ecumenical ministry of the NALC.~~

15.03 The Court shall have jurisdiction to decide (a) appeals from disciplinary decisions; (b) questions regarding interpretation of the NALC's governing documents put to the Court by a Convocation, the Executive Council, or a regional entity of the NALC; and (c) claims that any person, body, or entity has violated the governing documents of the NALC either through action or inaction, provided that such a claim may be brought only by a person affected directly by the challenged action or inaction. If the Court must answer a theological question to decide a matter, the Court shall refer the question to the ~~Joint~~ Commission on Theology and Doctrine. The Court shall be obligated to accept the guidance of the ~~Joint~~ Commission on Theology and Doctrine.