

2010 New Jersey Synod Assembly Letter from Secretary Roger Spencer

January 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and peace to you as the Light of the Epiphany enlightens our ways.

The Twenty-third Annual Assembly of the New Jersey Synod, ELCA, will be held at the Hilton East Brunswick, New Jersey, Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8, 2010. Items in this letter relate to the Assembly.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

I. We shall elect SEVEN persons (non-officers of the synod) to serve on the Synod Council. The categories to be elected are:

- Two (2) clergy, term ending 2013
- One (1) lay female, term ending 2013
- Two (2) lay male, term ending 2013
- Two (2) lay male, person of color/primary language other than English, term ending 2013

Members of the Synod Council (Synod Constitution, Chapter 10): The Synod Council does the legislative work of the Synod between Assemblies. Also, each member of the Synod Council may serve on one Synod Council-related committee and/or may serve as a liaison member of a Mission Team. Term: Three years.

The following members of the Council are completing second terms and **may not** be re-elected:

- The Rev. David B. Jost
- The Rev. Murdoch MacPherson
- Les Peters
- Catherine Salender
- José Sánchez

The following members of the Council are completing first terms and **may be** nominated for re-election:

- Warren Moo
- James L. Sites

As you consider persons to nominate, you may also find it helpful to know the other members of the Synod Council and their geographic cluster location. A link to the list of the current Synod Council members is included in this posting. Please note, there are no representatives from the Essex, Raritan and Southwestern clusters.

II. We shall elect FIFTEEN voting members to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, August 14-20, 2011, in Orlando, FL. (The Bishop attends ex-officio.)

- Five (5) clergy
- Three (3) lay females
- Four (4) lay males
- One (1) lay female youth
- One (1) lay female—person of color primary language other than English
- One (1) lay male—person of color primary language other than English
- 25% (4) members of the delegation shall not have previously served as an ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member or as a delegate to a predecessor church body convention

III. We shall elect FOUR persons (two clergy and two lay persons) to the **CONSULTATION COMMITTEE** (term ending 2016). Synod Constitution +S 11.02. and bylaw, Article III, Chapter 2. The bylaw reads in part:

“ . . . Consultation Committee shall meet with an accused and the accuser(s) in an effort to resolve the issues. If as a result of the consultation the charges are withdrawn, no further proceedings shall be required. If the charges are not withdrawn, the special Consultation Committee shall:

- 1) in the case of charges that do not anticipate disciplinary action, submit a report in writing to the bishop of the synod which sets forth the charges and the action or actions recommended by the special Consultation Committee; or
- 2) in the case of charges that may result in disciplinary action, refer the charges in writing to the Synodical Committee on Discipline for a hearing.”

IV. We shall elect FOUR persons (two clergy and two lay persons) to the **COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE** (term ending 2016). Synod Constitution +S 11.03. and bylaw, Article III, Chapter 2. The bylaw reads in part:

“ In each specific case that may result in discipline, the synodical committee, as thus constituted, shall, within 45 days after receipt of the charges, meet with the ordained minister and the accuser(s) and render its judgment. If the charges are sustained, the committee shall impose the discipline appropriate to the case.”

Nominations to the Consultation Committee and Committee on Discipline will reflect the guidelines for ratios of male/female and persons of color/primary language other than English. However, each committee will be 50% clergy and 50% lay, as is stated in the Synod Constitution.

Please use the 2010 Nomination Form to place persons willing to serve in these offices into nomination. Please return the form, via e-mail by February 8, 2010. However, a 2” x 2” picture of the nominee is needed also. (The Nominating Committee will meet on February 11.)

Note that this year we need a total of 60 nominations. (Each office must have two nominations.) **YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS BY MAKING NOMINATIONS IS THE KEY ELEMENT IN SECURING THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS.**

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

You are invited to submit Resolutions for consideration by the Assembly. “On time” resolutions will be included in the 2010 Assembly Bulletin of Reports. **Resolutions must be received by the Office of the Secretary by Monday, March 8, 2010**, in keeping with our Synod Bylaws requiring submissions “60 days in advance of the Assembly.” Please use the enclosed resolution form and return via e-mail. (Please be succinct and to the point, following the guidelines on the “Resolution Worksheet.”)

Please share this letter and documents with your Congregation Council so that resolutions might be forthcoming and you all might prayerfully consider and nominate persons from your congregation for this important work. Our synod is diverse in its make-up. You can help our nominations reflect that diversity.

God grant you a blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ,
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RWS/dad

Enclosures