

Resolution 2023-02

Regarding Geographically-Constrained Positions on the Synod Council

WHEREAS the Sierra Pacific Synod anticipates that each of its geographically-constrained Synod Council members will serve as a liaison between the Synod Council and the conference from which they were elected; and

WHEREAS the Sierra Pacific Synod Constitution provision S10.06. states that "[i]f a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant"; and

WHEREAS the Sierra Pacific Synod Constitution +S10.01. and Continuing Resolution S10.01.A16. establish requirements which must be satisfied in order for a person to be elected to the Synod Council, including specifically that "[e]ach nominee to represent a Conference shall be a voting member of a congregation in that Conference"; and

WHEREAS the Sierra Pacific Synod bylaw S10.01.03. provides that members of the Synod Council appointed by the Council itself also "shall meet the qualifications for the position they are filling"; and

WHEREAS the last sentence of Continuing Resolution S10.01.B16., reading "[a] member elected as a representative of a Conference who subsequently moves out may continue to hold office until the end of that term, provided they continue to meet all other qualifications for office" stands in conflict with constitutional provision S10.06., bylaw S10.01.03., and the requirements for office established in S10.01.A16. when taken together; and

WHEREAS Sierra Pacific Synod Constitution +S18.31. allows the Synod Assembly to amend Continuing Resolutions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly amend Continuing Resolution S10.01.B16. by replacing the last sentence with "If a member elected or appointed as a representative of a Conference ceases to be a voting member of a congregation in that conference, the office shall at once become vacant. The vacancy shall be filled in accordance with S10.01.03 in conversation with the dean of said conference."

Offered by the El Camino Real Conference

Vetted by the Resolutions Committee on July 27, 2023

For reference, the amended Continuing Resolution S10.01.B16 would – in part – read thus:
Each Conference shall select two persons as nominees presented to the Synod Assembly; no additional nominations shall be permitted. The Assembly shall elect one of the two nominees of each Conference to serve on the Synod Council. ~~A member elected as a representative of a Conference who subsequently moves out may continue to hold office until the end of that term, provided they continue to meet all other qualifications for office.~~ If a member elected or appointed as a representative of a Conference ceases to be a voting member of a congregation in that conference, the office shall at once become vacant. The vacancy shall be filled in accordance with S10.01.03 in conversation with the Dean of said Conference.

Resource-Impact Note: The Resolutions Committee does not anticipate that adoption of this resolution would substantially impact financial, staff, or property resources at a congregational or synodical level. Were a Synod Council seat to be vacated under the provisions of this Resolution, one or more members of the Synod Council and the identified Conference Dean would experience a short-term demand of time and attention until a new Synod Council member is identified and installed.