



# Nominations and Election of Synodical Delegates to ELCIC National Convention

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## Background

In 2015, the National Church adopted a new governance structure that included provisions to reduce the size of national conventions. Each synod was tasked with the responsibility of determining how it would elect its delegates.

## National / Synodical Convention Cycle

The current system of biennial conventions will be replaced with a triennial, or three year, cycle but not immediately as there will be a transition period. This transition period is to align the schedule of national conventions with the Anglican Church of Canada convention schedule thereby leaving open the possibility of joint gatherings. When the triennial system begins in 2018, the yearly sequence will be synod convention followed by national convention followed by a year in which there is no convention.

## The schedule from 2016 through 2023 will be:

2016	ABT Synod Convention
2017	National Convention
2018	ABT Synod Convention (three-year cycle begins for the synod)
2019	National Convention (three-year cycle begins for national convention)
2020	No convention
2021	ABT Synod Convention
2022	National Convention
2023	No convention

## National Convention Size

The total number of synodical delegates attending national conventions will be 150. The ABT synod share of this total is determined by the following:

- A base number of 10
- An additional number based on ABT Synod's share according to baptized ELCIC membership.

ABT representation must be allocated amongst lay, rostered and youth delegates in the following proportions:

- Rostered: 40%
- Lay: 53.3%
- Youth: 6.7%

For illustrative purposes, if ABT were assigned 30 delegates in total, the breakdown would be:

ABT Rostered delegates:	$.40 \times 30$	= <b>12</b>
ABT Lay delegates	$.533 \times 30 = 15.9$	= <b>16</b>
Youth delegates	$.067 \times 30 = 2.01$	= <b>02</b>

As it will not be possible for all congregations to send representation to a smaller-sized national convention, the purpose of this document, which was distributed and discussed by the Executive Committee, Conference of Deans, Synod Council and Fall 2015 Conference Conventions, and subsequently will come before Synod Convention as an amendment to Synod Bylaws, is to set out a process for selecting synod representatives. ABT delegates will be elected at the synod convention in the year preceding a national convention. As the 2017 national convention will be the first with the reduced format, we will have to elect our delegates to that convention at our synod convention in 2016.

Financial costs for National Convention delegates will rest with each synod. The registration fee for national conventions is expected to decline significantly in 2017 because of two factors: (1) a reduced number of delegates, and (2) an ability to access smaller, less expensive venues in less expensive cities. More savings will also accrue over the long run as the fee will now only have to be paid every three years instead of every two years. A budget line will be added to our Synod Budget with funds set aside each year to cover the costs for National Convention delegates, which will include the registration fee, travel costs and accommodations. Several current conferences plan to gather money towards the convention costs for the delegates.

There is an expectation that elected delegates would actively participate in a pre- and post-convention gathering, and be prepared to write and share a convention report with other delegates at the appropriate fall conference convention.

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## **Section I      Nominations for Delegates**

1. Six months in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the secretary of synod council shall call for nominations for lay, youth and rostered delegate positions. Nominations shall close 60 days prior to the opening of the convention at which the elections shall take place. (For the 2016 convention, the deadline will be **April 16, 2016**.) There will be no nominations from the floor for delegates to national convention during the synod convention. An official nomination form will be available online at the Synod website or through the Synod office with a separate form being completed for each rostered, lay and youth nominee.
2. Complete information including nomination process, conference, congregational membership and biographical details must be received at the synod office 30 days prior to the opening of the convention for the nomination to be accepted. (For the 2016 convention, biographies must be submitted to the Synod office no later than **May 16, 2016**.) Biographical information forms will be available online at the Synod website and through the synod office.
3. Eligible nominees shall be:
  - a) all rostered members, with a congregational membership within the existing conference boundary;
  - b) lay members in good standing in a congregation;

- c) youth members in good standing in a congregation who will be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the next national convention.
4. There shall be no restriction on the number of nominees who hold membership in any given congregation; however, congregations may be represented by only **one** delegate, with the exception of youth delegates. In the event of an election of more than one delegate from a congregation, with the exception of youth delegates, the congregation's church council will be advised of the election following the synod convention by the secretary of synod council. In consultation with the executive committee and/or the synod bishop and the elected delegates, the congregation's church council will determine by a majority vote who will serve as delegate.
  5. Nominations for lay and youth delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:
    - a) the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT synod congregations; or
    - b) the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation.
  6. Nominations for rostered delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:
    - a) the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT synod congregations; or
    - b) the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation; or
    - c) the nomination form is signed by 10 rostered leaders in good standing of the ABT synod.
  7. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be published in the convention docket.

## **Section II      Allocation of Lay and Rostered Delegates**

1. Each of the synod's conferences (as defined in the Synod Bylaws) shall be entitled to two rostered delegates and two lay delegates. (Assuming the ABT Synod is assigned 30 delegates in total.)
2. Elected delegates (rostered or lay) are eligible to serve at two, but not three, consecutive National Conventions.
3. Synod council, based on the recommendation of the executive committee and synod bishop will, at its next regularly scheduled meeting, appoint remaining allotted rostered and lay delegates.  
This will reflect proportionate geographical representation, gender balance, and pastor/diaconal minister representation.

### **Section III      Order of Election**

Nominees (rostered, lay and youth) receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot from each conference shall be declared elected. Where multiple positions are being filled for any one delegate category, nominees shall be declared elected on the basis of the highest number of votes received on the first ballot.

If necessary, second ballots shall be held to break ties.

### **Section IV      Replacement of Delegates**

In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend the national convention, or become ineligible to attend due to a change in roster status or a geographical/conference location change, the executive committee and synod bishop shall appoint a replacement. Whenever possible, the replacement shall be the nominee who received the next greatest number of votes during the balloting process at the relevant synod convention.