

# **BYLAWS OF OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

(Last revised: February 2022)

## **ARTICLE I**

### **CONGREGATION AND VOTING MEMBERSHIP**

#### **A. Admission into Congregation Membership**

1. Baptized into membership

Baptized members are all members who have been baptized according to the Trinitarian Formula, including the children of the membership rolls who have not yet confirmed their baptismal vows.

2. Communicant Membership

- a. By Confirmation - Confirmation itself being a reception into church membership, all who are thus received by this sacred act become communicant members.
- b. By Transfer - Persons coming with a communicant letter of transfer from a congregation in church fellowship, provided they conform in all respects to the requirements of membership for this congregation, shall be received by the pastor and approved in a subsequent meeting of the Voters' Assembly.
- c. By Profession of Faith - Other persons shall submit their application to the pastor, and having given satisfactory evidence of qualifications for communicant membership to the pastor, they shall be received as communicant members, to be approved in a subsequent meeting of the Voters' Assembly.
- d. Duties - Communicant members are expected to live a Christian life, participate in the worship of the congregation, and have no membership in societies and lodges which deny the distinctive nature of Christianity.

#### **B. Admission to Voting Membership**

1. Qualifications and Reception - An applicant must be a communicant member of the congregation and at least eighteen (18) years of age. An applicant for voting membership shall give notice of his or her intention to the Voters' Assembly. Upon majority vote of the voting members present, the applicant shall be declared a voting member, and be furnished with a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Voting privileges will take effect at the next Voters' Assembly.
2. Duties - It shall be the duty of every voting member to attend the Voters' Assembly. By failing to attend such meetings a member waives the right to cast his or her vote during that meeting. A voting member shall accept nomination for office, board, committee, appointment, etc., if possible, and generally participate in the business activities of the Voters' Assembly.
3. Privileges of Women - Women may hold voting membership in the congregation and serve as officers and as members of boards and committees as long as these positions are not directly involved in the specific functions of the pastoral office (preaching, the administration of the sacraments, church discipline), and as long as this service does not violate the order of creation, usurping authority over men. Accordingly, they shall not serve as Pastor, as a member of the Board of Elders, as President or Vice-President of the congregation.

#### **C. Termination of Congregation Membership**

1. Communicant Members

- a. Transfer to other Congregations in church fellowship - Communicant members desiring to join another congregation in church fellowship shall present their request for transfer to the pastor to whom authorization is granted to issue such transfers. Such transfer of membership shall be approved by the Voters' Assembly in a subsequent meeting.
- b. Joining other Churches - In cases where communicant members have joined other

congregations outside of the LCMS fellowship, they shall, upon recommendation of the pastor, be considered to have terminated their membership, and their names shall be removed from the membership list by a vote of the Voters' Assembly.

- c. Whereabouts Unknown and Simple Release - The names of members whose whereabouts are unknown and/or whose whereabouts cannot be established for a period of over one year shall be removed by the Voters' Assembly, and forthwith such membership is terminated.
- d. Excommunication and Self-exclusion - Any member who conducts himself or herself in an unchristian manner shall be admonished according to Matthew 18:15-20. If he or she refuses to amend his or her sinful life after proper admonition, he or she shall be excommunicated. If the member refuses to attend a Voters' Assembly, to meet with a small group appointed by the President and officially acting for the voters, to discuss his or her case, he or she has thereby excluded himself or herself. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of those present at a regularly called meeting shall be required for every resolution by the Voters' Assembly for excommunication. Excommunication or self-exclusion terminates membership.
- e. Status - A person whose communicant membership has been terminated has forfeited all rights of a member of this congregation and all claims upon the property of the congregation as such or upon any part thereof, so long as he or she is not reinstated into membership.

#### **D. Termination of Voting Membership**

- 1. The names of all persons who are no longer members of this congregation shall be removed from the list of voting members.
- 2. A voting member who is absent from the meetings of the Voters' Assembly for a full year without offering valid excuse shall have his or her name removed from the roster of voting members; however, he or she shall be advised, sufficiently in advance, before such action is taken. He or she may be reinstated by reapplying for voting membership if his or her name has been removed.

### ARTICLE II **VOTERS' ASSEMBLY**

#### **A. Regular and Special Meetings**

- 1. Regular meetings of the Voters' Assembly shall be held in February, May, September and November on a Sunday determined by the Church Council in the Council's previous monthly meeting. The May meeting shall be the annual meeting and will be scheduled for the third Sunday of the month.
- 2. The election of officers shall be conducted at the regular November Voters' Assembly. The budget shall be adopted, for July 1 through June 30 of each fiscal year, in the regular May meeting or in a special meeting held before July 1 each year.
- 3. Special meetings of the Voters' Assembly may be requested of the President by the President himself, the pastor(s), the Church Council, or upon the written request of any group of 12 voting members for the consideration of such matters as deemed necessary for review by the voters.
- 4. The dates of all Voters' Assembly meetings provided for herein may be changed, canceled, or postponed, because of extenuating circumstances by the Church Council or Voters' Assembly.
- 5. Every Voters' Assembly notice shall be given by any reasonable means including, but not limited to, traditional mail, hand delivery, email, electronic facsimile, announced at a Sunday service, in the Sunday bulletin, or in the monthly newsletter. An upcoming Voters' Assembly meeting must be announced at least six (6) days in advance of the meeting, ideally using multiple means of notice, such as listed above. In order to have a valid and a legal meeting, at

least one-fifth (1/5) of the voting members of the congregation must be present. However, for amending the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, the erection of buildings, the purchase or sale of property, or the removal of a pastor or teacher, or some other member from office, a quorum of one-third (1/3) of the voting members is necessary.

6. An annual or regular meeting of members does not need to be held at a geographic location and may instead be held by any means of electronic communication which allows the members to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members, pose questions, and make comments. Participation of a member by such electronic communication constitutes presence in person at a meeting.

## **B. Rules and Order of Business:**

Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed at all Voters' Assembly meetings, unless the Assembly approves some other format at a meeting.

A suggested order of business is as follows:

1. Opening Devotion
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Reception of New or Reinstated (Voting) Members
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Reports of Boards and Committees
6. Reports of Called Staff
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment with Prayer

## ARTICLE III **CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **A. Members:**

The Board of Directors shall be known as the Church Council, which shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, one Elder, one Trustee, one Board of Parish Education Board Member, one Board of Discipleship Board Member, and one Sioux Falls Lutheran School Board Member. The called workers, such as Pastor, Associate Pastor, DCE, etc., shall be ex officio members of the Council.

### **B. Duties:**

1. The Council will meet prior to each regularly scheduled and special Voters' Assembly to consider and discuss all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the congregation as presented by the various committees and to present recommendations to the Voters' Assembly. The Council shall act in matters committed to it by the Voters' Assembly. In cases of emergency, the Council should be prepared to meet between Voters' Assembly meetings. They shall be empowered to authorize non-budgeted expenditures not to exceed \$2,000 monthly, non-accumulative.
2. The Council, with advice from the Senior Pastor and the established Boards and committees, shall have the authority to develop and implement, from time to time, policy descriptions of church ministries and the procedures necessary to execute the vision and plans approved by the congregation. The policies developed by the Council shall be distributed to all Boards, Committees, and members requesting them. The policies shall not be in conflict with the state law or the church's Bylaws.
3. Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Council may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all the council members. Such consent and signature may be transmitted by any reasonable means including, but not limited to, traditional mail, hand delivery, email, or electronic facsimile.

4. Any written notice required to be provided to any office/council member may be sent by any reasonable means of transmission, including, but not limited to, traditional mail, hand delivery, email, or electronic facsimile.

## ARTICLE IV **OFFICERS**

### **A. Elected Officers:**

The elected officers of this congregation shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Elders, Trustees, Board of Parish Education Board Members, Board of Discipleship Board Members, and Sioux Falls Lutheran School Board Members.

### **B. Nomination and Election Process:**

1. A nominating committee appointed by the President with the approval of the Senior Pastor shall present a slate of candidates at the election meeting of the Voters' Assembly. To be eligible for office, a person must be a member of the Voters' Assembly.
2. The slate proposed should consist of at least two names for each office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The annual election shall be by ballot and shall take place at the November Voters' Assembly.
3. The officers-elect shall assume their respective duties upon installation into their respective offices. No person shall hold more than one office at any one time.
4. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Council shall appoint a successor to serve until the next annual election, at which time the Voters' Assembly will approve/reject this individual to complete the vacancy term by a majority vote.
5. Filling half or more of a term shall be considered as filling a complete term. Filling less than half of a term shall not be considered as filling a complete term.

## ARTICLE V **TERMS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

### **A. Terms:**

The terms of all elected officers shall be two (2) years, with the exception of the Sioux Falls Lutheran School Board Members serving three-year terms, and they shall hold office no longer than two (2) consecutive terms, unless additional terms are approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the voters attending a Voters' Assembly meeting.

### **B. President:**

1. The President shall assist all Boards, Committees, the Church Council, and the Voters' Assembly in establishing priorities and goals for both the physical and the spiritual needs of the congregation. He shall assist in implementing plans to meet these goals and in monitoring the results of such plans. The President shall prepare an agenda for and preside at all meetings of the Voters' Assembly.
2. The President, in consultation with the Senior Pastor, shall appoint the Nominating Committee and all other committees as directed by the voters. The President shall be the legal representative of the congregation, thus being empowered to appear in Court on behalf of the congregation, to close contracts, and to carry out all directives of the congregation. However, he may act only in such legal matters as are authorized by the Voters' Assembly or by the Church Council.

### **C. Vice President:**

1. The Vice President, in consultation with the President, shall preside at all meetings of the Church Council. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the office of President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice

President shall succeed in the office of President for the remainder of the term.

2. The Vice President shall also serve as chairman of the Financial Review Committee, as described in Article VI of these Bylaws.
3. The Vice President, working with the Treasurer, shall oversee a Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee of approximately three to five people, to be appointed by the Vice President and reviewed and approved by the Church Council annually. This committee is responsible for appropriate use of the financial endowments of the church, as well as any tuition assistance the church distributes, as described in Article VII of these Bylaws.

**D. Secretary:**

1. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the meeting of the Voters' Assembly and of the Church Council for the permanent record of the congregation.
2. The Secretary shall serve as congregational archivist and shall prepare, maintain, and preserve all official records.

**E. Treasurer:**

The Treasurer shall:

1. Pay all bills authorized by the congregation.
2. Receive all evidence of deposits and a breakdown of funds from the Financial Secretary of all monies contributed for the congregation and keep an accurate record of them.
3. Keep an accurate record of all disbursements.
4. Submit a report on the financial status of the congregation at each annual and quarterly meeting of the Church Council and Voters' Assembly.
5. Be bonded in a sum to be determined annually by the Voters upon a recommendation by the Church Council.
6. Prepare the annual proposed budget for submission to the May Voters' Assembly.
7. Oversee a Financial Secretary, to be approved by the Church Council, responsible for the following:
  - a. Recruit, appoint, schedule, and oversee volunteers to count and deposit all funds contributed for the congregation.
  - b. Keep accurate records of all funds contributed for the congregation.
  - c. See to it that all communicant members are annually supplied with envelopes.
  - d. Furnish the Treasurer with all bank deposit slips and a breakdown of funds counted.
  - e. Issue statements annually (and quarterly upon request) to members of their individual contributions for the congregation.
8. The Treasurer may appoint a person or persons to assist in the preparation of financial reports, but such appointment shall be subject to approval annually by the Church Council. Such assistant(s) shall not have authority to deposit, disburse or transfer congregation funds, and the ultimate responsibility for the preparation and accuracy of all financial reports shall remain with the elected treasurer.

**F. Board of Elders:**

A minimum of three (3) Elders must be elected to serve the congregation. Additional elders may be elected as deemed necessary by the Voters' Assembly. Their duties shall be to:

1. Assist the Pastor in baptisms, administering the sacraments, and in all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation.
2. Consider complaints and grievances of members of the congregation if Matt. 18:15-16 has been observed, and they shall report to the congregation those which cannot be otherwise adjusted, in accordance with Matt. 18:17-18.
3. Make every effort to encourage members who have been negligent in their attendance of services, in the use of the Sacraments, and the financial support of the church, to amend their

- sinful ways and fully enjoy the rights and privileges of their membership.
4. See to it that all services are conducted in such a manner so as to avoid needless disturbance and to foster an attitude conducive to worship among those in attendance.
  5. Assist the pastor in arranging for pulpit assistance, special services, and guest speakers.
  6. Supervise the ushers. The Elders may appoint a Head Usher, who shall see that ushers are provided for all church services and handle all administrative functions regarding the ushers, as directed by the Elders. The Head Usher's term shall be at the discretion of the Elders.
  7. Prepare a list of candidates when the congregation is to call a Professional Church Worker.
  8. Be an example of Christian conduct and conversation.
  9. They shall meet sufficiently to fulfill their duties and to report to each regular Church Council and Voters' Assembly meeting.
  10. The Elders shall elect a chairman of this Board.
  11. In the absence of the President and the Vice-President, the Chairman of the Elders shall perform the duties of the office of President.

#### **G. Board of Trustees:**

A minimum of three (3) trustees shall be elected to serve the congregation. Additional trustees may be elected as deemed necessary by the Voters' Assembly. The trustees shall:

1. Annually, or as often as required, inspect the property of the congregation and make recommendations to the Church Council and to the congregation concerning maintenance and improvement.
2. Be authorized to spend \$1,000 per month, non-accumulative, without authorization. In all budgeted items over \$1,000; the Trustees are authorized to accept any of the three (3) bids, if the decision is unanimous.
3. They shall meet sufficiently to fulfill their duties and to report to each Church Council and Voters' Assembly meeting. The Trustees shall elect a chairperson of this board.

#### **H. Board of Parish Education:**

A minimum of three (3) members shall be elected to serve the congregation. This board is responsible for nurturing all aspects of Christian education within the congregation, establishing goals, developing policy and supervising the total education for the congregation. To this end it shall be the duty of this board to:

1. Set objectives for educational units and encourage the development of Christian attitudes and skills, such as regular devotions and home Bible study, prayer, stewardship, witnessing, and Christian family living.
2. Provide leadership education for teachers, officers and other program workers. Develop a teacher training and leadership program to service the needs of the congregation now and in the future.
3. Select curricula and teaching materials for each age group or educational unit. The curricula shall be Christian, in full harmony with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, comprehensive, and functional. The Board may recommend certain texts and other educational material for approval of the Voters' Assembly.
4. Bring to the attention of the Voters' Assembly the needs for facilities and equipment for all educational units. Prepare an annual budget that properly finances all phases of Christian education in the congregation.

#### **I. Board of Discipleship:**

A minimum of four (4) members shall be elected to serve the congregation. This board is responsible for overseeing and encouraging outreach, fellowship, and stewardship. To this end, it shall be the duty of this board to:

1. Train our membership to be more effective witnesses for the Gospel.

2. Build up and strengthen our connections to one another through scheduled Fellowship activities.
3. Inform and train our membership of the blessings of Christian stewardship.

## ARTICLE VI **COMMITTEES, ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES**

### **A. Financial Review Committee:**

1. The financial records shall be subjected to an internal financial review annually.
2. The Church Council may request additional financial reviews as needed.
3. The internal financial review Committee shall consist of the Vice President, as Chairman, and two members appointed by the Vice President, which may include the Treasurer.
4. The suggested time to begin an internal financial review is July, after we have concluded the previous financial year.

### **B. Other Committees:**

1. The congregation and Church Council may establish such committees as its needs require.
2. All organizations or societies within the congregation shall be formed by permission of the congregation. Each organization and society shall present an annual report to the congregation concerning its membership and activity.

## ARTICLE VII **SPECIAL FUNDS**

### **A. General Provisions:**

1. Special funds may be created from time to time through the Bylaws or upon the recommendation of the Church Council with the approval of the Voters' Assembly.
2. Gifts, bequests, or offerings may be made upon special terms or conditions, or contain limitations or directions as to the investment or use of the substance of the gift or as to the use or accumulation of the income, provided that such terms, conditions, or limitations are acceptable to the congregation. Unless already permitted by these Bylaws, the Church Council shall consider the acceptability of such a gift at a regular or special Church Council meeting and make its recommendation to the next regular or special Voters' Assembly. Acceptance of such a gift shall be by a simple majority of the Voters' Assembly, but the gift shall not be cashed or accepted until so considered and approved.
3. All special fund gifts or offerings accepted by the congregation or provided for by these Bylaws shall be maintained and accounted for separately from any general fund accounts that are used to pay the general or budgeted expenses of the congregation. This account or these accounts shall be denominated as "Special Funds Account(s)". All special funds may be commingled within one account, if convenient, but the treasurer shall separately account for the principal of each established special fund at least quarterly. Interest generated on a combined special fund account shall be assigned proportionately to each special fund category on a quarterly basis.

### **B. Church Worker Endowment Fund:**

1. This congregation shall have a congregational fund to be known as Our Redeemer Church Worker Endowment Fund. This fund shall not be a separate entity but shall be a special fund of this congregation established to receive gifts and bequests on behalf of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, so as to provide continuing support for the recruitment, education, and maintenance of full-time church workers.
2. This fund shall be subject to the general provisions of these Bylaws relating to special funds.
3. The Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee (as described in Article V, Section C, of these Bylaws) shall manage this fund on a day-to-day basis. This committee

shall be responsible for investing and managing the funds and for making recommendations to the Church Council as to disbursements and expenditures of both the income and principal of such fund, within the restrictions set forth in these Bylaws:

- a. The principal of said endowment fund may not be expended, unless the Voters' Assembly otherwise authorizes an expenditure of such funds by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote.
  - b. All gifts to Our Redeemer Church Worker Endowment Fund shall become part of the principal.
  - c. Only the investment earnings of this endowment shall be used to provide scholarships.
  - d. No income or principal of the fund shall be used for normally budgeted operating expenses of the congregation, including but not limited to, the basic Christian educational obligation of the church.
  - e. No proceeds shall be used in a way that would cause the fund of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church to lose its qualifications as a tax-exempt organization (Internal Revenue Code 501© 3). All monies expended shall be used for charitable purposes as defined within the Internal Revenue Code.
4. Guidelines for Expenditure of Funds and Monies:  
The Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee shall take applications from those persons desiring financial assistance from the endowment fund or from any monies designated by the Voters' Assembly for church worker scholarships, according to such policies and procedures that the Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee may from time to time establish, with the approval of the Church Council, and which are within the basic guidelines set forth below:
- a. Students must demonstrate a desire to prepare for a church vocation such as a pastor, teacher, DCE, or other full-time professional church work as defined by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and only such students preparing for full-time professional church work are eligible.
  - b. The student must meet all college or seminary entrance requirements at the synodical institution of his or her choice.
  - c. First preference shall be given to students from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. In the years when there are no students from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church studying in a synodical school for a church vocation, the Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee may, in its discretion, recommend to the Voters' Assembly that assistance be granted to other students who meet this criteria.
  - d. The financial assistance may be in the nature of a scholarship, grant, or a loan, as recommended by the Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee and approved by the Church Council. The amount of financial assistance will be subject to annual review by the Church Council, who will make its recommendations to the Voters' Assembly. The recommendations of the Church Council shall stand approved and be implemented unless vetoed by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of the Voters' Assembly, or unless there are not sufficient funds to fully implement the recommendation.
5. The Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee may expend such other funds as budgeted by or specially approved by the Voters' Assembly for church worker recruitment in order to encourage and recruit young men and women for the pursuit of full-time church work or Christian education.

**C. Rev. Russell Grundmeier/Victor Heinz Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund:**

This congregation shall have a congregational fund to be known as Rev. Russell Grundmeier/Victor Heinz Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund. This fund shall not be a separate entity but shall be a special fund of this congregation established to receive gifts and bequests on behalf of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church so as to provide tuition assistance for students attending Sioux Falls Lutheran School.



1. This fund shall be subject to the general provisions of these Bylaws relating to special funds.
2. The Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee (as described in Article V, Section C, of these Bylaws) shall manage this fund on a day-to-day basis. This committee shall be responsible for investing and managing the funds and for making recommendations to the Church Council as to disbursements and expenditures of both the income and principal of such fund, within the restrictions set forth in these Bylaws:
  - a. The principal of said endowment fund may not be expended unless the Voters' Assembly otherwise authorizes an expenditure of such funds by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote.
  - b. All gifts to Rev. Russell Grundmeier/Victor Heinz Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund shall become part of the principal.
  - c. Only the investment earnings of this endowment shall be used to provide tuition assistance.
  - d. No income or principal of the fund shall be used for normally budgeted operating expenses of the congregation, including but not limited to, the basic Christian educational obligation of the church.
  - e. No proceeds shall be used in a way that would cause the fund of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church to lose its qualifications as a tax-exempt organization (Internal Revenue Code 501© 3). All monies expended shall be used for charitable purposes as defined within the Internal Revenue Code.
3. Guidelines for Expenditure of Funds and Monies:
  - a. The Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee shall take applications from those persons desiring financial assistance from the endowment fund or from any monies designated by the Voters' Assembly for tuition assistance, according to such policies and procedures that the Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee may from time to time establish, with the approval of the Church Council.
  - b. The Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee may expend such other funds as budgeted by or specially approved by the Voters' Assembly for church tuition worker recruitment in order to encourage and recruit students to attend Sioux Falls Lutheran School.

#### **D. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Fund:**

1. This congregation shall have a congregational fund to be known as Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Fund. This shall not be a separate entity, but shall be a special fund of the congregation established to receive gifts and bequests on behalf of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, so as to provide continuing support of the mission and ministry of this congregation, the South Dakota District, and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.
2. The Financial Endowments and Tuition Assistance Committee (as described in Article V, Section C, of these Bylaws) shall manage this fund on a day-to-day basis. This committee shall be responsible for investing and managing the funds. Any agreement entered into for the management of the fund shall be valid only if approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the voting members present at a duly called meeting of the Voters' Assembly.
  - a. The principal of said endowment fund may not be expended, unless the Voters' Assembly otherwise authorizes an expenditure of such funds by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote.
  - b. All gifts to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Fund shall become part of the principal.
  - c. Only the investment earnings of this endowment shall be used to provide for the daily support of the mission and ministry of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
  - d. No proceeds shall be used in a way that would cause the fund of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church to lose its qualifications as a tax-exempt organization (Internal Revenue Code 501© 3). All monies expended shall be used for charitable purposes as defined within the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE VIII  
**CALLING OF PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS**

**A. Nominations:**

At a meeting of the Voters' Assembly properly convened, the list of candidates from the roster of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod having been received and presented from the District President or District Executive Secretary, candidates to be considered for calling as a professional church worker, such as a Pastor, Associate Pastor, DCE, Deaconess, or teacher shall be submitted by the Elders. Any voter is entitled to make additional nominations from the floor. Upon nomination from the floor and acceptance of that nominee by the voters, the Voters' Assembly shall be called into recess until such time as the South Dakota District President reviews the nominee, gathers the necessary information and returns that information to the Voters' Assembly.

**B. Elections:**

The election of a professional church worker, such as a Pastor, Associate Pastor, DCE, Deaconess, or teacher from the list of candidates chosen by the congregation, shall be by ballot. The candidate receiving the majority of all votes cast shall be considered elected. The election shall, if possible, be made unanimous by a rising vote, and the call shall be sent to the Pastor, Associate Pastor, DCE, Deaconess, or teacher candidate elect.

ARTICLE IX  
**AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

Suggested amendments to these Bylaws must be presented in writing to a regular or special meeting of the Voters' Assembly, and may be voted upon at the next regular or special meeting of the Voters' Assembly. Amendments may be adopted by a majority vote of the Voters' Assembly, provided that it does not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation in effect at that time.