



Upstate New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Submitting Resolutions and Memorials for 2018 Synod Assembly

Synod Assembly may seem so far away (June 3 - 5, 2017), yet much planning has to be done, and some early deadlines exist. One early deadline is submitting Resolutions and Memorials for consideration by the Synod Council. **The deadline is January 6, 2018.** Resolutions and Memorials are formal ways we can get an assembly of people to consider new ideas or make changes. Most of us are familiar with motions/resolutions that are made at annual congregation meetings, local government meetings, service clubs, etc.

In Chapter 7, Synod Assembly of the synod's constitution *SB/L7.32, adopted at the 2015 Synod Assembly states:*

All resolutions to be proposed to the Assembly shall be directed to the Synod Council. The deadline for submitting such resolutions to the Synod Council is two weeks before its January meeting preceding the Synod Assembly. The Synod Council shall present such resolutions together with its recommendations to the Synod Assembly. All such resolutions shall be distributed to the voting members of the Synod Assembly a minimum of 15 days prior to the opening of the Assembly.

Resolutions received by Synod Council after the January deadline, may be addressed by the Synod Council and/or be directly referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee at Synod Assembly.

What is a *Memorial*, and how does it differ from a *Resolution*?

- **Memorials** address broad policy issues and are passed by Synod Assemblies for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly. Synod Councils are not authorized to adopt memorials for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. One of the responsibilities of the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with provision 12.21.c, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, is to "receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies." Once received by the churchwide organization, they are referred to the Memorials Committee, which is appointed by the Church Council to review and make recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with bylaw 12.51.21.
- **Resolutions** are requests from synods to the Church Council OR conferences to the Synod. Conference Assemblies, Synod Assemblies or Synod Councils may originate resolutions. As a practical matter, resolutions have a more narrow focus than memorials because they are requests for consideration or action by individual units or offices of the synod. Thus, for example, a request for the Synod Council (or Church Council) to recommend a parliamentary rule or action by a unit would be the subject of a resolution, but a request to change an synod (or ELCA) policy should be a memorial.

At the synod level, conferences may originate resolutions and submit them to the Synod Council for consideration by the Synod Assembly.