



Arizona-California  
**DISTRICT**

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

**2018 Arizona-California District Convention**

**Memorial 2018-01**

**Subject Proposed Amendment to the WELS Bylaws Limiting the Terms of Office for District Presidents & Vice Presidents**

- Whereas 1) God continues to bless the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (hereafter referred to as synod) with the gift of talented pastors; and
- Whereas 2) God desires that the church make the fullest use of the gifted and talented men he provides for the pastoral office, which obligates the church to provide the fullest opportunities possible for pastors to develop their skills, talents, and leadership abilities; and
- Whereas 3) allowing a greater number of pastors to serve in the offices of District President and Vice President will allow more pastors to serve in leadership positions, thus building a broader base of leadership for the church and improving the efficacy and productivity of the synod; and
- Whereas 4) allowing pastors to remain in these leadership position for extended periods may have the effect of detaching these pastors from the daily affairs, needs, and perspectives of full-time congregational work, while at the same time limiting opportunities to develop a larger pool of leaders for the synod; and
- Whereas 5) allowing more pastors to hold the office of District President and Vice President will help all congregations, in that these men can return to serve full-time in the local situation, and also then bring a broader district and synod perspective on many issues;
- Whereas 6) the synod has seen fit to limit the terms of Chairmen and Administrators to a total of twelve (12) years, therefore be it
- Resolved, a) That the AZ-CA District memorialize the synod in its 2019 convention to have the District Presidia be elected by their respective district conventions for terms of four years; and be it further
- Resolved, b) That this memorial to the synod state that a pastor may be nominated for one of the aforementioned district positions for consecutive or non-consecutive terms until and unless that person has previously served in any combination of the selfsame said position for a cumulative time of 12 years or more; and be it further

Resolved, c) That this memorial encourage the synod to implement this election structure over the course of the 2020 and 2022 district conventions; and be it further

Resolved, d) That the memorial stipulate that anyone who has previously held one of the aforementioned district positions at the time of implementation of this election structure may be eligible for election/re-election if they have not served in any combination of the aforementioned position for a cumulative time of 12 years or more. And be it finally

Resolved e) That the memorial state that those who are currently holding one of these offices at the time of the implementation of the election structure be allowed to serve one additional four-year term regardless of the number of years already in office.

Pastor Dan Baumler  
Pastor Ross Else  
Pastor Paul Schulz  
Pastor Steven Spencer