



District Convention

Now You are the People of God

- Faithful Pastors
- Bold Witnesses
- Empowered Stewards

Questions and Answers

From the Board of Directors

The District Board of Directors is bringing various overtures to the Convention for consideration. These overtures include:

- Vision and Outcomes
- Board Governance
- Assistant to the President
- Term Limits
- Board Size

While you prayerfully study these issues, the Board of Directors believes it is important that everyone consider these issues based on fact. Please consider these Questions and Answers as you prepare for the Convention, January 22-25 in Grand Forks.

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Question #1

How many “executives” are there in the North Dakota District at this time?

There are two executives: the District President and the Executive Director.

Question #2

Why are each of these given the position of “Executive?”

2010 Synod Handbook 4.4.1 states that the District President “shall be the chief executive officer of the District and thus supervise the total program of the District.”

The District Bylaws (2.87-2.89) designate a position of “Executive Director to the Board.” This is not the same position of the District President.

Question #3

Is there a problem with having two “executives” in the District?

Having two executives in the District can be confusing in terms of roles, responsibilities, reporting, and accountability.

Question #4

To whom is the Executive Director currently accountable?

The District Bylaws are confusing in this regard. The Executive Director currently has a relationship to/with the District President, the Board of Directors, Divisions in the District, the District Treasurer, Office Personnel, and Congregations.

Question #5

Do other Districts have an Assistant to the President?

Yes. First of all, the Synod President has an Assistant to the President. This position has been utilized for many years. Many districts also have changed the position title of executive director to Assistant to the President.

Question #6

How would changing this position title help/affect the relationship between the District President and the Executive Director?

First of all, the relationship between the two is very good, as they work very well together and complement one another. The confusion lies in both positions having, at times, the same responsibilities, thus overlapping duties and responsibilities. There is also confusion in the current bylaws as to who is accountable to whom? Working more closely as a team, the District President and Assistant to the President can more effectively carry out the Vision and Outcomes of the District.

Question #7

Would this change the Executive Director’s job description?

No. The Board of Directors is recommending alleviating the executive director of some responsibilities that can be done by others for cost effectiveness. The remaining duties are much the same as currently outlined in the Bylaws, but filtered through his relationship to the District President. The proposal would make the Assistant to the President accountable to the District President, and the District President accountable to the Board.