

Floor Committee #18: Constitutional Matters

Subject: Synod and District Bylaws, Discipline and Appeals

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 162-168

Resolution No. 03

- WHEREAS 1) modern communication allows for shorter time periods for notification of an appeal; and
- WHEREAS 2) the current bylaws do not set time periods for notification of a disciplinary action and notification of an appeal; and
- WHEREAS 3) in current parlance “suspension” ordinarily implies a temporary punitive action, but a disciplinary action is permanent; and
- WHEREAS 4) current bylaws make no specific mention of how discipline is to be carried out as it pertains to WELS-affiliated ministries and those serving them; and
- WHEREAS 5) current bylaws do not define in detail the authority granted to the district and synod Boards of Appeals; and
- WHEREAS 6) under the proposed bylaw revisions the word "suspend" is retained in only one place, Section 8.00 (c); and
- WHEREAS 7) the phrase in the proposed revisions of Section 8.10 (e d), Section 8.30 (e d), and Article XXII, Section 3 4, which reads in all three: “with a copy forwarded,” could be misconstrued to mean a copy of "all correspondence and documentary evidence relative to a disciplinary action together with a summary report" of the action of a Board of Appeals; therefore be it
- Resolved, a) that the delegates of the 2023 synod convention adopt the additional revision of changing the word "suspend" in Section 8.00 (c) to "remove"; and be it further
- Resolved, b) that the delegates of the 2023 synod convention adopt the change of the phrase “with a copy forwarded” in the proposed revisions of Section 8.10 (e d), Section 8.30 (e d), and Article XXII, Section 3 4, to “with a copy of a summary report forwarded”; and be it finally
- Resolved, c) that the delegates of the 2023 synod convention approve the proposed revisions to Sections 8.00 through 8.60 of the Synod Bylaws and Articles XXI through XXV of the District Bylaws with the emendations described in Resolved a) and Resolved b).

Pastor Daniel Balge, chairman

Pastor Nathan Berg, secretary

ADOPTED