

## CCMS OPINION

### VACANCY PASTORS VOTING AT DISTRICT AND SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS

September 23, 2018

A request for a Ruling on the following matter from President Timothy Teuscher was received by the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure.

#### REQUEST FOR A RULING

##### Background and Question:

Currently District Constitutions and Bylaws, in keeping with the 2014 LCC Handbook, do not allow a vacancy Pastor to vote at District Conventions. However, at the 2017 Convention of Lutheran Church-Canada permission for a vacancy Pastor not serving another congregation to vote at Synodical Conventions was enacted in the new Constitution and Bylaws of Lutheran Church- Canada, specifically in the Statutory Bylaws, **Bylaw 8.03**.

The question, therefore, is:

**“Can a vacancy Pastor, not serving another congregation, cast the vacant congregation’s pastoral vote at the District Convention and at the Synodical mini-convention where the District Convention will be suspended for a time, the Synod “Convention” initiated, where the Synodical President is in charge and where voting will take place for the Regional Pastor, the Circuit Counsellor, and lay members of the Regional Mission and Ministry Council?”**

##### RULING:

A vacancy Pastor not serving another congregation **is not** permitted to vote at the District Convention he is attending but **is** permitted to vote at the Synodical meeting that will occur within the time-frame of the District Convention, on the matter of electing a Regional Pastor, a Circuit Counsellor, and lay members of the Regional Mission and Ministry Council.

##### ADDENDUM NOTE:

According to the Statutory Bylaw 8.05: “No pastor may be appointed as a delegate by more than one Member Congregation.” Therefore, if a pastor is serving his own congregation and also a vacant congregation, he, as the vacancy pastor, is not eligible to cast the pastoral vote for the vacant congregation.