

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010

## Faithful Transitions Blog: Sample Ballots

Steven King

It was requested that I post a “sample” ballot that might be used at special congregational meetings, where policy decisions and affiliation questions are being voted on. Printed below is a generic version of the format we used in my own congregation, worded in a manner that we thought would be absolutely clear. As you can see, we took three separate votes; the required percentage for passage was printed right on the ballot. We printed each ballot motion on a different color paper, so they would not get confused. If you find this format helpful, feel free to use these ballot sheets as a template.

Note: Documentation of the actual motions themselves were handed out on separate sheets for reference by those present at the meeting. Copies of these motions had been sent out previously along with the official notification of the meeting.

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CHURCH NAME — BALLOT SHEET, DATE / /

**Motion A - Re: Statement of Welcome and Teaching**

- YES** I vote to adopt this policy statement for our congregation  
 **NO** I vote to not adopt this policy statement for our congregation  
*This motion must be approved by a simple majority of the votes taken (50%+).  
Abstentions are not counted in the calculation.*

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CHURCH NAME — BALLOT SHEET, DATE / /

**Motion B - Re: Motion to Join LCMC**

- YES** I vote for \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church to become a member of  
LCMC: *Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ*  
 **NO** I vote for \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church not to become a member of  
LCMC: *Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ*  
*This motion must be approved by a simple majority of the votes taken (50%+).  
Abstentions are not counted in the calculation.*

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CHURCH NAME — BALLOT SHEET, DATE / /

**Motion C - Re: Motion to Disaffiliate with the ELCA**

- YES** I vote for \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church to initiate the process of  
disaffiliation with the ELCA: *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
 **NO** I vote for \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church not to initiate the process of  
disaffiliation with the ELCA: *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*This motion must be approved by a super-majority of the voting members present (66%+)  
Important: abstentions or unsubmitted ballots effectively count as a “no” vote.*

(From Faithful Transitions Blog - <http://faithfultransition.blogspot.com/>)