



North Pacific Union of Seventh-day Adventists®

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Rationale

For August 23, 2026

The proposed revisions to the North Pacific Union bylaws are not intended to alter the mission, representative structure or spiritual purpose of the union. Rather, they are targeted updates designed to strengthen governance, improve clarity, modernize operations and reduce unnecessary risk while preserving the constituency-based system of church leadership.

1. Removal of Outdated Walla Walla University Language

The current bylaws contain a separate section stating that WWU is “wholly operated and controlled” by the union. The proposed revision removes that section.

Rationale

- Better reflects current governance realities
- Reduces potential legal and liability concerns
- Maintains support for WWU without unnecessary ownership language

Actual Bylaw Revision

Delete Article 12, Section 3 in its entirety.

2. Executive Committee Attendance Policy Updated

The proposed revision replaces an automatic attendance-trigger removal system with a more balanced process distinguishing excused and unexcused absences.

Rationale

- Encourages active participation
- Recognizes illness, emergencies, ministry conflicts and legitimate circumstances

- Maintains accountability while allowing fairness

Actual Bylaw Revision

Replace Article 9, Section 11 prior language with:

- Attendance expectation stated
- Excused absences defined
- Unexcused absences defined
- Three consecutive unexcused absences, or five unexcused absences within rolling 24 months, may lead to recommendation for replacement

3. Strengthened Agenda Committee Process

The proposed revision clarifies the role of the agenda committee in preparing for constituency sessions.

Rationale

- Increases transparency
- Allows earlier review of proposals
- Helps delegates prepare in advance
- Preserves delegate rights through petition process
- Supports orderly session planning

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 8, Section 6 clarifies that the agenda committee shall:

1. Recommend meeting personnel.
2. Solicit agenda proposals at least four months in advance.
3. Receive all proposals, including any item supported in writing by 20% of delegates.
4. Distribute proposals at least three months in advance for comment.
5. Forward recommendations and proposed agenda to the executive committee.

The executive committee determines final agenda **except** any item supported by 20% of delegates must be included.

4. Delegate Representation Expanded

The proposed revision adds the North American Division executive committee members present at session to the existing delegate category.

Rationale

- Better reflects church governance structure
- Recognizes NAD participation in union life
- Creates consistency with General Conference representation

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 7, Section 2(b)(2):

Current delegates from General Conference expanded to include NAD executive committee members present, subject to existing cap.

5. Membership Expanded to Include Local Missions

The proposed revision broadens union membership language.

Rationale

- Provides future flexibility
- Recognizes potential mission structures
- Keeps options open if territorial organization changes

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 7, Section 1 changes *local conferences* to *local conferences and local missions*.

6. Delegate Privacy Improvements

Delegate lists would continue to identify delegates and affiliations but no longer require broad circulation of personal contact information.

Rationale

- Protects privacy
- Reduces unnecessary publication of personal details
- Preserves transparency of representation

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 8, Section 7(g) removes requirement to publish:

- Contact address
- Telephone number
- Email address

Retains delegate identity, status and affiliated entity.

7. Meeting Booklet Modernized to Meeting Materials

The proposed revision updates terminology and delivery expectations.

Rationale

- Reflects digital communication methods
- Reduces dependence on printed materials
- Modernizes session preparation process

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 8, Section 7 changes *meeting booklet* to *meeting materials* and provides for physical or digital distribution.

8. Clearer Leadership and Reporting Structure

The proposed revision clarifies department accountability under the executive committee and executive officers.

Rationale

- Reflects shared officer leadership model
- Clarifies lines of responsibility
- Supports better coordination

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 9, Section 9 changes *under the direction of the executive committee of the union and the president* to *under the direction of the executive committee and executive officers*.

9. Department Alignment Updated

The proposed revision updates structural alignment language.

Rationale

- Better reflects actual operating practice
- Recognizes NAD role
- Allows administrative flexibility

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 9, Section 9 changes from alignment only with GC to *GC and/or NAD*.

10. Financial Accountability Updated

The chief financial officer reporting language is strengthened.

Rationale

- Promotes consistency
- Aligns with denominational expectations
- Enhances transparency

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 10, Section 4 changes *statements as may be desired by the president or executive committee* to *financial statements at regular intervals in harmony with NAD policy*.

11. Association Officers Status Clarified

The secretary and treasurer of the NPUC Association are no longer committee members.

Rationale

- Clarifies governance membership
- Distinguishes invitees from voting/non-voting members
- Preserves participation without committee status

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 9, Section 2(f) changes *nonvoting members* to *invitees with voice but no vote*.

12. Regional Ministries Title Updated

The proposed revision updates terminology for this office.

Rationale

- Better reflects ministry purpose
- More current terminology
- Clearer public understanding

Actual Bylaw Revision

Article 11 changes *vice president for regional affairs* to *vice president for regional ministries*.

13. Modernized Language Throughout

The proposed draft updates terminology and style throughout the bylaws.

Rationale

- More professional governing document
- Easier to read
- Uses current governance language

Actual Bylaw Revision

Examples include:

- *Chairman* to *chair*
- *Vice chairman* to *vice chair*
- Chairmanship wording updated
- Gender-neutral wording improvements
- Formatting and punctuation corrections