

* Voting Alternatives Options

As of February 8, 2015

* To research and report to the UWM Board on options for a more inclusive process for voting on major issues/proposals and elections during UWM conventions and meetings

*** Task Team Objective**

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- * Voter Integrity
- * System/User Security
- * Inclusivity & Flexibility of Platforms
- * Hardware/Software/Network Requirements
- * Level of Technical Expertise to Install & Use
- * Cost

* Review Criteria

- * “As is” - voting at convention as a body
- * Two-step Approval/Ratification - approval by conference body at meeting and separate vote for ratification by a percentage of voting members (ministers and ministries) prescribed in by-laws
- * Remote voting using synchronous technology

*** Broad Options
Considered**

- * Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
- * Unitarian Universalist Association
- * Centers for Spiritual Living

* **Organizations
Interviewed**

*Systems Review

Word document

- * By-law changes will be required for remote voting regardless of option selected
- * Cost directly attributable to electronic voting does not include cost of live streaming A/V
- * Proxy voting is not allowed in the three systems reviewed
- * Introduction of remote voting did not significantly impact the attendance at convention

* Observations

- * Pre-convention dialogue sessions are needed to provide education on candidates and issues
- * Organizations using electronic voting rely on outside vendors to manage and control the process with executive in-house oversight
- * Use of both video livestreaming and VOIP audio is required for timely and effective synchronous communication

* Observations

- * UUA experience: Number of off-site delegates grew from 30 to 120 in 3 years; over 1000 on-site delegates each year
- * UUA experience: Off-site delegates pay ½ of full registration for business meeting

* Observations

- * CSL experience: Number of on-site attendees did not change with introduction of off-site voting
- * CSL experience: Revamped the event structure
 - * A: leaders and 'governors' - event with topic expert speakers and business meetings
 - * B: congregants - town hall meeting with open dialogue on running centers, etc.
 - * C: spiritual seekers who stay if they like what is offered
 - * Regional events with topics for C seekers and next day programs designed for B audiences.

* Observations

- * By-law changes
- * Vote distribution between Ministries and Ministers
- * Level of Technology available at Convention

*** Issues to be addressed by
other Ministry Teams/Board**

System	Voter Integrity	System/User Integrity	Inclusivity	Flexibility	Hardware/Software/Network Requirements	Level of Technical Expertise to Install	Level of Technical Expertise to Use	Cost
"As Is"	Only registered delegates present at the convention are to receive voting device, either clicker or paper ballot	The integrity of the system is dependent upon the verification by the door monitor of the individual's credentials before giving out the <i>device</i> and the confirmation that all <i>devices</i> are returned during breaks and at end of session.	Only those <i>delegates</i> present may vote.	This process allows for discussion and real-time amendments or changes to be made and voted on by all present. However, it does not provide for absentee or <i>distance</i> voting.	If <i>electronic devices</i> are used, each delegate will require a device and software/laptop/network is needed to control/tabulate. If paper ballots are used, no H/S/N needed.	If an electronic device is used a working knowledge of the system is necessary.	Requires short "how-to-use" at beginning of meeting for devices; visual examples and a short test vote is recommended. Also requires some programming and knowledge by the operators of the system	TBD – Cost of devices; the electronic devices can be rented or purchased. Rental – approx. \$3,000 per convention; Purchase much more expensive

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Lutheran Church- Two Step Ratification	1st step approval: Voting on site with ballot for all registered delegates; 2nd step ratification: Official ballot containing the approved motion mailed to all member congregations; returned ballot must be signed by minister. Election of President now being done electronically.	Accurate database required for mailing addresses and official representative for each congregation; addition of electronic voting for President of Synod also requires email addresses for each delegate. Software being used for election recognizes one IP address for each registered delegate. Loss of initial mailing and responses by USPS possible.	Ratification is required by 2/3 vote of all congregations	Paper only for debatable issues; election of officers is moving to electronic voting	For election of President only: Election-America.com ; each voting member must have their own electronic device or computer.	Expertise provided by software provider with minimal expertise required by Synod. Internet connection required to receive and record election voting.	For elections: Delegates use devices that they are familiar with or have access to.	Printing and Postage costs for ballots and mailings; staff costs to tabulate mail in responses for validation step. Election-America costs approximately \$1200

System	Voter Integrity	System/User Integrity	Inclusivity	Flexibility	Hardware/Software/Network Requirements	Level of Technical Expertise to Install	Level of Technical Expertise to Use	Cost
UUA	Each delegate is registered and if that delegate is voting off-site, will be sent a unique ID and password to an email submitted on the registration form.	The software being used will (MaestroConference.com and PollEverywhere.com) recognize a single IP address for each authorized ID/Password.	All members/registered delegates have an opportunity for synchronous discussion and real-time voting, including proposals amended on the floor of the business meeting.	End users may use smart phone, tablet, or computer for voting; audio is required for synchronous discussion and voting. The virtual setup mirrors the setup on the floor of the convention	No special hardware required for onsite voting since they will continue to use the colored card system in the hall. Remote voters may use PC, iPad, smart phone. PC's are required to manage the overall process on site. The off-site delegates used MaestroConference.com for synchronous conversation with the Assembly, working through a 'trained teller' for vetting and assignment to the correct microphone queue. UUA built a web portal to integrate the conference calling, voting, chat and live streaming. Live streaming required and is part of the overall conference A/V expense. It does include leasing special equipment to ensure that convention audio is tied into the conference calling system.	The web portal requires specific computer/web expertise to "build"; Expertise for the software and integration hardware provided by the software companies, A/V contractor and in-house technology staff, both paid and volunteer. (One group supporting those distance voters and one group supporting on-site voting.)	Moderate for end user; needs more definition	The budget for remote voting is \$15,000 annually. At this point that does not included live streaming. It does include leasing special equipment to ensure that convention audio is tied into the conference calling system. (\$800 for 5 days). It was estimated that it took approximately 200 staff hours to implement, including creation of the web portal. Present staffing includes 2 tech support persons, 1 'teller', 1 'director' to manage the process.

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CSL	<p>The number of voting delegates for each center is based on “committed giving” amount and the annual average attendance per week taken from a required annual report. Each center can have 1 to 8 delegates, with the minister being the primary delegate.</p> <p>Each center is notified of the number of delegates they have and are asked to submit name, email address and cell phone number to Simply Voting to be credentialed. Once the delegate has been entered into the delegate database, an email is sent directly to the delegate’s email with a password to be used for voting.</p>	<p>“Simply Voting “system will recognize only one device per email/password for security purposed. The exception to this is the voting room computers on site, which are programmed for multiple voters. Delegates now must be online during the business meeting in order to vote. Proxy voting is not allowed any more.</p>	<p>All member centers may have voting delegates. The number of delegates for each center is based on “committed giving” amount and the annual average attendance per week taken from a required annual report. The attendance number includes classes, youth programs and Sunday services. Depending on the giving amount and attendance, each center can have 1 to 8 delegates, with the minister being the primary delegate.</p>	<p>Electronic devices are required for voting. Voting system is now opened from 5p after the business meeting is concluded until 12 noon on the following day. Delegates must be online or physically in attendance at business meeting to vote.</p>	<p>Each delegate, whether on-site or off-site, is required to have a device - smart phone, iPad, computer - or use computers provided onsite in the Voting Room. On-site location should provide free Wi-Fi to facilitate voting for personal devices. The Voting Room, located on-site at convention, has 3 to 5 voting stations set up, similar to those used in US general elections, and 3 to 5 laptops to be used. The voting process is under the control of the Executive Director of Operations.</p>	<p>“Simply Voting” provides the expertise and software for credentialing and database management as well as actual voting process. Knowledge of computer setup and network connection is required to set up the Voting Room on site. Live streaming is required.</p>	<p>The number of volunteers needed to support voting dropped from 30 to 2 -3. The person that is the head of voting – ballot setup, credentialing, opening/closing voting – works for Simply Voting. Steve recruits young adults to monitor the Voting Room process and assist as needed. They each receive reduced registration as a benefit of helping.</p>	<p>Costs for Simply Voting: \$750 - \$800 for 1000 voters – buy blocks of 500 votes; Cost for live-streaming is included in the cost for the convention: \$40,000 - \$60,000. Costs for Voting Room at convention TBD</p>