

## **Rationale for Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations As approved by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly**

In coordination with the following amendments, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

- strike “synodical” and replace with “synod”
- strike “the congregation” and replace with “this congregation” where appropriate
- make editorial changes so that the *Model Constitution for Congregations* follows the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the *Constitution for Synods*.

(Note: Provisions preceded by an asterisk are required)

### Chapter 4: *Statement of Purpose*

- \*C4.02.d. This provision matches 4.02.c.
- \*C4.05. Amended for Clarity.

### Chapter 5: *Powers of the Congregation*

- \*C5.04. Process of selecting voting members to a Synod Assembly is to be an election process.

### Chapter 6: *Church Affiliation*

- \*C6.04. This is a definite process, not a permissive process.
- \*C6.04.c 9.23. is not discipline but does result in terminating affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- \*C6.04.d Clarification – If the synod acts to protect or preserve the property of a congregation, the congregation ceases to exist.
- \*C6.05. Amended for clarity.
- \*C6.06. Amended for clarity.

### Chapter 7: *Property Ownership*

- \*C7.02. 9.23. is not discipline but does result in terminating affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- \*C7.03. Establishing the vote required to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination is not the responsibility of this church. Each denomination has its own standard for the vote required for affiliation. The two-thirds vote required for disaffiliation establishes that at least two-thirds of the voting members of the congregation at the meetings desire to disaffiliate. Votes required after that decision are the responsibility of the denomination being joined.
- \*C7.04. Amended for clarity.
- \*C7.05. This becomes a required provision.

### Chapter 8: *Membership*

- \*C8.02.c This reflects the limitation of voting for seasonal members in the congregation where they maintain their voting membership.

### Chapter 9: *Rostered Minister*

- \*C9.03. Amendments match the amendments in 7.31.02.
- \*C9.05. Amendments match the amendments in 7.46.
- \*C9.08. Amended for clarity.
- \*C.9.14. Change in roster status includes on leave from call, disability, or retired. Parochial records should be in the hands of the congregation’s secretary before the request for such status is approved.
- \*C.9.21. \*C9.01 speaks of the authority to call a pastor not a minister of Word and Sacrament. This provision is amended for consistency.
- \*C.9.23.c This provision matches 10.41.01.c.
- \*C9.26. Amended for clarity and is consistent with C9.08.

Chapter 10: *Congregational Meeting*

C10.01. Amended for clarity.

C10.08. This provision would authorize, where permitted by state law, electronic or telephonic meetings. It also recognizes the definition of a meeting in Robert's Rules of Order.

Chapter 12: *Congregational Council*

C12.01. Gives the congregation the choice of adding deacons who have been called by the congregation to have voting membership on the Congregation Council.

C12.02. Adds language that allows deacons to serve during their tenure as members of the Congregation Council.

C12.05.e Changes "benevolence" to the current term "mission support."

Chapter 13: *Congregation Committees*

C.13.05. Expands the use of a Call Committee to all positions where a congregational call is issued.

Chapter 15: *Discipline of Members and Adjudication*

\*C.15.11. Adds the possibility of referring a dispute to the †S14.18.d. process if it relates directly to the pastor.

Chapter 16: *Amendments*

\*C16.02. Clarifies the amendment process building to the clarification of C10.01.

Chapter 17: *Bylaws*

\*C17.04. Amended for clarity.

Chapter 18: *Continuing Resolutions*

\*C18.03. This is added so that the synod has a current copy of the congregations' constitution on file.