

TAB F

**AMENDMENTS
CONSTITUTION/
BYLAWS**

Proposed Constitutional Amendments Recommended by the Synod Council
(Proposed new wording is underlined; proposed deletions are denoted by strike-outs.)

- S7.22. This ~~The~~ synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with provision *S7.21.c. above. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with *S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.23. The presiding bishop of ~~this church~~ the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.
- S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with *S7.21. ~~Such authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria and procedures of the ELCA Division for Outreach and the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.~~
- S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:
- f. ~~Giving corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium, therefore, shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by this church shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.~~ Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.
- ~~S11.06. S11.05.~~ There may be an organization for women, an organization for men, an organization for youth, and such other organizations as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties, functions, and composition of such organizations shall be set forth as in the by-laws and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA. The organizations created under the authority of this provision are in addition to any organizations prescribed by this church.
- S13.40. Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities
- S13.41. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments Recommended by the Synod Council

(Proposed new wording is underlined; proposed deletions are denoted by strike-outs.)

S10.06.01. In the event that a member of the Synod Council nominated by a conference ceases to be a member of a congregation within the nominating conference, then such person's position on the Synod Council shall be declared vacant. The conference shall nominate at the next conference assembly a successor to fill the unexpired term. Such person shall take office immediately upon election by the Synod Council as provided in ~~S10.03.01.f.~~ S10.03.01.e. Such interim service shall not be considered a term for the purposes of bylaw S10.07.22.

S10.07.11. The Synod Council shall consist of the officers of the synod and fifteen other members, as follows:

- a. one representative from each conference,
- b. four ~~five~~ members-at-large, and
- c. one youth, ~~and~~
- d. one young adult.

~~S11.05.10.~~ S11.06.10 Southeastern Lutheran Holding Corporation

- a. The Synod Council shall elect a board of directors to the Southeastern Lutheran Holding Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA.
- b. The Southeastern Lutheran Holding Corporation shall report its activities to the Synod Council.

S12.01.11. The congregations of this synod shall be grouped into the conferences described below. All references to cities refer to the metropolitan areas of such cities, except as expressly provided otherwise.

- d. Conference 4. Northeast Georgia from outside of I-285, including Elberton and ~~Harwell~~ Hartwell.

Changes Made to the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

Several changes to the Southeastern Synod's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions became effective as soon as they were approved by the 2009 churchwide assembly. Such changes are listed in this section (pages F-3 through F-5) as a reference for voting members. No further action is required by the synod assembly regarding these changes. The new provisions and new wording within existing provisions are denoted by underlining; deletions are shown by the strike-out font.

*S6.04.B09. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

*S8.16. Conflicts of Interest

*S8.16.01 The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops:

a. Whenever a synodical bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in *S8.16.01.b. may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in *S8.16.01.c., the synodical bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synodical bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.

b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (*S14.13.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synodical bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.

c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synodical bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, or in-law (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

*S9.12 Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

*S10.01. The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

- *S11.01. There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and by-laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- *S11.05 The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom are members of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in *S15.31.
- *S13.19. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.
- *S13.20. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.
- *S14.13. The Call of a Congregation
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of a pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;
 - 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;
 - 6) the dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 7) suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.

*S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved selected by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.

Required Changes to the Constitution Not Previously Incorporated into the Document

Changes to required constitutional provisions *S8.15, *S14.17, and *S14.31 were approved by one or more churchwide assemblies prior to 2009 and have therefore been in effect since approval. These changes, which were inadvertently not incorporated into the synod's constitution at the appropriate time, are listed below as a reference for voting members. New wording is denoted by underlining; deletions are shown by the strike-out font.

*S8.15. The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected ~~synod~~ synodical bishop.

*S14.17. During service to a congregation, a ~~transition~~ an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The ~~transition~~ interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The ~~transition~~ interim pastor and any ordained ministers who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the ~~transition~~ interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the parochial records, for the period for which the ~~transition~~ interim pastor was responsible, are in order.

*S14.31. The provisions in the churchwide documents and such provisions as may be developed by the ~~Division for Ministry~~ appropriate churchwide unit governing associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church shall apply in this synod.

a. 2) Issuance of such a letter of call shall be in accord with criteria, policies, and procedures developed by the appropriate churchwide unit ~~Division for Ministry~~, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

c. The call of a congregation, when accepted by an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the individual, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop in accordance with policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit ~~Division for Ministry~~, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

