

Report of the Constitution Committee

The constitution committee of the Southeastern Iowa Synod ensures the currency, accuracy and integrity of the Southeastern Iowa Synod Constitution and the constitutions of its congregations.

One of the committee's responsibilities is to review amendments and revisions to congregational constitutions to check for conformity with the ELCA's Model Constitution for Congregations, where applicable, and to identify internal conflicts within the documents as they are amended.

The committee also will continue to review the Synod Constitution with an eye toward clarifying points that need clarification, and to keeping the document updated as per action by both the Synod and Churchwide Assemblies.

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly made quite a number of changes to Synod constitutions, many having to do with the changes in titles for rostered persons. All amendments to required sections of the Southeastern Iowa Synod Constitution were made upon receipt of these amendments from the ELCA Office of the Secretary. Amendments to other sections (i.e., sections not required) will be presented at the 2017 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, along with changes to the Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions.

The Churchwide Assembly also made similar changes to the Model Constitution for Congregations. Congregations are encouraged to make these changes to their constitutions, especially as amendments to required sections of the Model Constitution are binding on congregations. Members of this committee are available to help congregations in this process.

The members of the constitution committee are: Pastor T. Edwards Breed (chair), Sheri Gustafson, Lois Lembke, Pastor Tim Olson, Pastor Duane Miller (synod parliamentarian), Bishop Michael Burk, ex officio; and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Eric Carlson, advisor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor T. Edwards Breed, Chair

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS

2017 Synod Assembly

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS and CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS
of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Amendments to the Constitution for Synods as approved by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. These amendments are not required and may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote at one assembly under +S18.11.

- S7.22. ~~The~~ This synod may establish processes that permit retired ~~or interim rostered~~ ordained ministers, retired or interim associates in ministry, retired or interim deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and retired or interim diaconal ministers of this church, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with +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, or on leave from call,~~ 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~~ ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with +S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
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- S7.24. ~~Ordained ministers~~ Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters ~~of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod.~~ Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant an ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ~~ordained~~ minister's service in a congregation of this church.

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.

S8.55. Should the vice president, secretary or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be four years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a four-year term.

S10.03. The functions of this Synod Council shall be to:
...
d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service and of other ~~official rosters~~, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's action in this regard.
e. Issue letters of call to ~~ordained~~ rostered ministers and letters of call to ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers~~ as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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e. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of +S6.04. With the exception of ~~ordained~~ ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

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S13.11. When a ~~pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal~~ rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

S13.11. When a rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former ~~pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal~~ rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

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S14.10 Ministers of Word and Sacrament

S14.15. Each ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament, ~~associate in ministry, deaconess, and diaconal minister~~ on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S14.15. Each minister of Word and Sacrament, on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

- S14.17. No ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. ~~An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- S14.17. No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
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- S14.25. All ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the assemblies of the conference, cluster, coalition or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.
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- S14.30. ~~Official Rosters of Laypersons~~ Ministers of Word and Service
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- S14.33. The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
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- S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
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- S14.42. No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

Proposed Amendments to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Bylaws. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. (S18.21)

S7.11.01 The time and place for the next regular assembly of the Southeastern Iowa Synod normally shall be announced twelve (12) months prior to the assembly.

S7.22.01 ~~All retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses and retired diaconal ministers of Word and Sacrament and retired ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, who are in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly. All ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, who are serving in interim positions within this synod and who are in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.~~

S7.22.01 All retired ministers of Word and Sacrament and retired ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, who are in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly.

S7.22.02 For purposes of +S6.04, A~~all retired ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be counted as such ordained persons for purposes of +S6.04.;~~ A~~all retired ministers of Word and Service associates in ministry, retired deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church shall be counted as laypersons people for purposes of +S6.04.~~

S7.22.02 For purposes of +S6.04, all retired ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be counted as such; all retired ministers of Word and Service shall be counted as laypersons.

Proposed Amendments to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Continuing Resolutions. This synod may amend its continuing resolutions at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a majority vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting or by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council. (S18.31)

S7.11.A16 The Office of the Bishop, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will determine the time and place for the next regular assembly.