

# RECOMMENDED Amendments to the Constitution for Synods

Our synod received these recommended provisions of the Constitution for Synods from the Churchwide Assembly. These will be presented to our 2021 Synod Assembly en bloc and may be adopted by a majority vote.

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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS AS APPROVED BY THE 2019 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY Recommended Provisions

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
August 2019

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

### CHAPTER 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those ~~designated as disabled~~ granted disability status, 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.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~congregations under development and~~ authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw ~~10.02.03, 10.01.04~~, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

### CHAPTER 8: OFFICERS

- S8.11.01.** When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.
- S8.14.** The ~~synodical~~ bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

### CHAPTER 10: SYNOD COUNCIL

- S10.08.** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.
- S10.078.01.** To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

### CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATIONS

S13.25. This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.

S13.40. ~~Synodically Authorized~~ Synod-authorized **Worshiping Communities**

**CHAPTER 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS**

S14.14. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.

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-president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

S14.42. 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-president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call

**CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS**

S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.