

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE Report for 2020-21

Submitted by Pastor Richard Hertenstein, Committee Chair

This committee has the responsibility to review the synod constitution to be sure that it is up to date with the churchwide documents. It also is to review the constitutions of the congregations in the synod. When amendments are proposed, the committee will make recommendations to the synod council concerning wording, applicability and concurrence with constitutional requirements of the ELCA, the synod, and a congregation's own constitution.

Our constitutions are tools which, when used well, enhance our mission in serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This year, April 2020- March 2021 the committee reviewed proposed amendments to constitutions and/or bylaws of: Advent Lutheran, Morton; Faith Lutheran, O'Fallon; Faith Lutheran, Washington; St. Mark Lutheran, Washington; Salem Lutheran, Peoria; and First Lutheran, Murphysboro.

Finding no inherent conflicts, the committee recommended approval by the Synod Council.

In addition, several congregations were in the process of reviewing and updating their constitutions. At least one congregation filed updated bylaws with the synod: St. Peter's, Glasford.

The Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA approves amendments to the Model Constitution which gives us the pattern for our congregational constitutions and has several required portions. Each congregation should review their own constitutions to see if they need updating. Congregations are reminded that when they are considering making changes in their constitutions these changes are to be reviewed by the constitution committee and approved by the synod council. Congregations should also refer to the synod website to find resources to assist them in their process.

In general the process is: 1. Review your constitution; 2. Compare to the current Model Constitution; 3. Make necessary changes and amendments; 4. File with synod office; 5 Synod Constitution committee reviews your constitution and makes recommendation to synod council; 6 Synod Council acts on recommendation; 7. with approval from Synod Council changes are effective. (Please note that while the committee can advise and work with you on the wording you are using, congregations need to consistently file completed documents with the synod office.)