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**Central / Southern Illinois Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

# Constitution and Bylaws

Updated August 14, 2023

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**Central / Southern Illinois Synod  
524 South Fifth Street  
Springfield IL 62701  
Toll free Number 1.844.330.2747  
Phone: 217.753.7915 / Fax: 217.753.7976  
www.csis-elca.org**

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## Introduction

Placement together of those constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions that pertain to the same matter is recommended.

Each is separately codified, but all are preceded by the letter “S” denoting that they are part of the synodical constitution.

- a. Constitution provisions are codified by two sets of numbers, as in S9.08. or +S10.01
- b. A bylaw related to S9.08. would be codified as S9.08.01., and to +S10.01. as S10.01.01. A bylaw under a required provision would not carry the dagger “+” that designates a required constitutional provision.
- c. Continuing resolutions also are codified by three sets of numbers, except that the third set is preceded by a capital letter. Thus, a continuing resolution might be numbered +S6. to designate the chapter; +S6.04. to designate the subject matter within the chapter; and the third set might be numbered B.09. in the codification +S6.04.B09. to indicate by the “B” that is the second continuing resolution regarding that subject and by the “09” that it was adopted in 2009.

### Types of constitutional provisions

Three types of constitutional provisions are found within each synod’s constitution.

- 1. Required provisions are designated by a dagger “+.” Such required provisions:
  - a. May only be adopted or amended by the Churchwide Assembly;
  - b. May not be altered or amended by the Synod Assembly; and
  - c. Are to be introduced “at once” into the synod’s constitution upon notification of the amendment or adoption of the provision (+S18.11.)
- 2. Recommended provisions are provided in this Constitution the Constitution for Synods, as approved by the Churchwide Assembly. Such recommended provisions may be adopted by majority vote at one meeting of the Synod Assembly (+S18.12.).
- 3. Other provisions may be initiated in and adopted by each respective synod (+S18.13.) but such provisions may not conflict with required constitutional provisions or with Churchwide constitutional provisions and bylaws. Synodical constitutional amendments become effective upon ratification by the Church Council or Churchwide Assembly.

98 **Chapter 1.**  
99 **NAME AND INCORPORATION**

- 100  
101 +S1.01. The name of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be Central/  
102 Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
103  
104 +S1.02. For the purposes of this constitution and the accompanying by-laws, the Central/Southern  
105 Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as  
106 "this synod" or "the synod."  
107  
108 +S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod  
109 shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.  
110  
111 S1.11.01. Place of incorporation and location of office. This synod shall be incorporated under the  
112 laws of the State of Illinois and its office shall be located in Springfield, Illinois, or elsewhere  
113 in the territory of this synod as the Synod Assembly may from time to time determine.  
114  
115 +S1.21. The seal of this synod is the following impression: The seal of this synod shall be in the  
116 form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon "Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the  
117 ELCA" and the words, "Corporate Seal, Illinois".  
118

119 **Chapter 2.**  
120 **STATUS**

- 121  
122 +S2.01. This synod possesses the powers conferred upon it, and accepts the duties and  
123 responsibilities assigned to it, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of*  
124 *the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which are recognized as having governing  
125 force in the life of this synod.  
126  
127 +S2.02. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or "this church") as used herein  
128 refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions:  
129 congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran  
130 Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to  
131 which specific references may be made herein.  
132  
133 +S2.03. No provision of this constitution shall be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of  
134 this church.  
135

136 **Chapter 3.**  
137 **TERRITORY**

- 138  
139 +S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the  
140 counties of Adams, Alexander, Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark,  
141 Clay, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham,  
142 Fayette, Ford, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Iroquois,  
143 Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Johnson, Kankakee, Lawrence, Livingston, Logan,  
144 McDonough, McLean, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Massac,  
145 Menard, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Pike, Pope, Pulaski,  
146 Randolph, Richland, St. Clair, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Stark, Tazewell,  
147 Union, Vermilion, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White, Williamson, Woodford in the State  
148 of ILLINOIS, to be consistent with ELCA 10.01.  
149

- 150 S3.01.01. Synod membership – deletions from territory. The following ELCA congregations, located  
 151 within the geographic territory of this synod as defined in the Constitution of this synod,  
 152 shall not be included in the territory of this synod:  
 153 a. (Name and location of congregation.)  
 154
- 155 S3.01.02. Synod membership – additions to territory. The following ELCA congregations, located  
 156 outside the geographic territory of this synod as defined in the Constitution of the synod,  
 157 shall be included as members of this synod:  
 158 a. (Name and location of congregation.)  
 159
- 160 +S3.02 "Determined by the Churchwide Assembly" as stipulated by +3.01, is understood to include  
 161 the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area  
 162 agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.01. and 10.01.03.  
 163

164 **Chapter 4.**  
 165 **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

- 167 +S4.01. This synod confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
 168
- 169 +S4.02. This synod confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of  
 170 God for the Salvation of all who believe.  
 171 a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and  
 172 through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.  
 173 b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God,  
 174 revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in  
 175 creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person  
 176 and work of Jesus Christ.  
 177 c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God.  
 178 Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce  
 179 God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to  
 180 create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.  
 181
- 182 +S4.03. This synod accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the  
 183 inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and  
 184 life.  
 185
- 186 +S4.04. This synod accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of  
 187 the faith of this synod.  
 188
- 189 +S4.05. This synod accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel,  
 190 acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the  
 191 teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.  
 192
- 193 +S4.06. This synod accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the  
 194 Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small  
 195 Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid  
 196 interpretations of the faith of the Church.  
 197
- 198 +S4.07. This synod confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the  
 199 ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and  
 200 sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.  
 201  
 202  
 203  
 204

205 **Chapter 5.**  
206 **NATURE OF THE CHURCH**

- 207  
208 +S5.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this synod  
209 are to be carried out under His rule and authority.  
210  
211 +S5.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to  
212 serve Christian Unity throughout the world.  
213  
214 +S5.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for  
215 worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal  
216 community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations.  
217 This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and  
218 representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the  
219 broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic  
220 continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers  
221 and congregations in our day.  
222  
223 +S5.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World  
224 Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel  
225 of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.  
226

227 **Chapter 6.**  
228 **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- 229  
230 +S6.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and  
231 sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.  
232  
233 +S6.02. To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:  
234 a. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith  
235 alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and  
236 transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.  
237 b. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith  
238 in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the  
239 understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.  
240 c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the  
241 aged, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and  
242 reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and  
243 welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with  
244 the poor and oppressed and committing itself to their needs.  
245 d. Worship God in proclamation of the word and administration of the sacraments and  
246 through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.  
247 e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to  
248 see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use  
249 the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.  
250 f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and  
251 by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity  
252 which the Spirit gives.  
253  
254 +S6.03. This synod, in cooperation with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary  
255 responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In  
256 fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod  
257 shall:  
258 a. Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers in the synod;  
259 b. Plan for, facilitate, and nurture the mission of this church through congregations;

- 260 c. Strengthen interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the  
 261 churchwide organization, and foster relationships with agencies and institutions  
 262 affiliated with or related to this church as well as ecumenical partners.  
 263 d. Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public on the territory of  
 264 the synod.  
 265
- 266 +S6.03.01. The responsibilities of the synod include the following:  
 267 a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and  
 268 ministers of Word and Service, in the synod, including:  
 269 1) approving candidates for rostered ministry in cooperation with the appropriate  
 270 seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synod committees;  
 271 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining rostered ministers on behalf of this church;  
 272 3) consulting in the call process for rostered ministers.  
 273 b. providing for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with  
 274 churchwide standards and policies, including:  
 275 1) nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;  
 276 2) seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this  
 277 church;  
 278 3) making provision for pastoral care, call review, and guidance;  
 279 4) encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship  
 280 of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their  
 281 effectiveness of service; and  
 282 5) supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities,  
 283 seminaries, and social ministry organizations.  
 284 c. providing for discipline of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and;  
 285 ministers of Word and Service; as well as for termination of call, appointment,  
 286 adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this church's constitution.  
 287 d. providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.  
 288
- 289 +S6.03.02. In planning for, facilitating, and nurturing the mission of this church through congregations,  
 290 the responsibilities of the synod include the following:  
 291 a. developing of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and  
 292 assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;  
 293 b. leading and encouraging of congregations in their evangelism efforts;  
 294 c. assisting members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world;  
 295 d. encouraging congregations to respond to human need, work for justice and peace,  
 296 care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society;  
 297 e. providing resources for congregational life;  
 298 f. grouping congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions  
 299 for mission purposes.  
 300
- 301 +S6.03.03. In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the  
 302 churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions  
 303 affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical partners, the  
 304 responsibilities of the synod include the following:  
 305 a. promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the  
 306 churchwide organization, and entering into relationships with other synods in the  
 307 region;  
 308 b. fostering organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or  
 309 ethnic communities;  
 310 c. developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating  
 311 in their mission planning, and providing supportive funding;  
 312 d. supporting relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of colleges,  
 313 universities, and campus ministries;  
 314 e. maintaining relationships with and providing supportive funding on behalf of seminaries  
 315 and continuing education centers;  
 316 f. fostering supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries;

317 g. fostering supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary  
318 schools operated by congregations of the synod;  
319 h. fostering relationships with ecumenical and global companions;  
320 i. cooperating with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and  
321 supporting regions to carry out those functions of the synod which can best be done  
322 cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.  
323

324 +S6.03.04. In interpreting the work of this church on the territory of the synod, the responsibilities of  
325 the synod include the following:  
326 a. encouraging financial support for the work of this church by individuals and  
327 congregations;  
328 b. participating in churchwide programs;  
329 c. interpreting social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by  
330 the churchwide unit or office which assisted in the development of the statement, and  
331 suggestion of social study issues;  
332 d. providing ecumenical guidance and encouragement.  
333

334 S6.03.05. Definition of related or affiliated organization. An organization that is related to or affiliated  
335 with this synod has a status of relationship or affiliation arising either by action of the ELCA  
336 binding upon both the organization and this synod or by mutual actions of the organization's  
337 governing body and the Synod Assembly.  
338

339 S6.03.62. Characteristics of a related or affiliated organization. An organization related to or affiliated  
340 with this synod is characterized by the following:  
341 a. It is of a kind described in provisions 8.31. (seminaries of this church), 8.32. (colleges  
342 and universities related to this church), 8.33. (institutions and agencies related to this  
343 church that minister to people) or 8.41. (inter-church agencies, institutions and  
344 councils) of the ELCA Constitution.  
345 b. It is eligible to receive partnership funding or other support from this synod.  
346 c. It is not under the control of this synod, and this synod has no liability for it with  
347 reference to any other individual or organization.  
348 d. Its governing body has representation from this synod provided by persons who are  
349 elected, appointed or ratified for that purpose by the Synod Assembly or Synod  
350 Council.  
351 e. It furnishes this synod with regular periodic reports covering its work and activities  
352 which are pertinent to its status of relationship or affiliation.  
353

354 +S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution and By-laws, the Synod Council shall  
355 establish processes that will ensure that at least 60% of the members of the synod's  
356 assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be  
357 laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, at least 45% of the lay members of assemblies,  
358 councils, committee boards, or other organizational units shall be woman and, as nearly  
359 as possible, at least 45% shall be men; and that, where possible the representation of  
360 rostered ministers shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes  
361 that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10% of its assemblies, councils, committees,  
362 boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary  
363 language is other than English.  
364

365 +S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10% of the membership of the voting members of  
366 the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod  
367 be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this  
368 goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod,  
369 the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age  
370 of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a  
371 voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or  
372 appointment for service.  
373

- 374 S6.04.03. Definitions. For purposes of implementing S6.04. of the Constitution of this synod, these  
375 definitions shall apply:
- 376 a. Persons of color - this phrase means and includes Black, Hispanic (other than white),  
377 Asian-Pacific and Native American persons.
  - 378 b. Persons whose primary language is other than English - this phrase means and  
379 includes persons who communicate in English, but customarily use another language  
380 for worship or at home or work.
  - 381 c. For membership criteria purposes - a retired or ordained minister shall be considered  
382 a member of the clergy.
- 383
- 384 S6.04.04. Application of the S6.04. criteria numerically. If any criterion of S6.04. of the Constitution  
385 of this synod results in one or more fractional numbers for any portion of membership of  
386 the Synod Council or a committee of this synod, the smallest of such fractional numbers  
387 may be rounded up or down to the next whole number, and such whole number and  
388 corresponding adjustments, up or down, from fractional to whole numbers for other portions  
389 of the membership properly expresses such criteria. The S6.04. criteria shall not change  
390 the total number of members specified in or pursuant to the by-laws for the Synod Council  
391 or for a committee of this synod. The S6.04. criteria shall not be numerically applied to a  
392 committee or other body which consists of Synod Council members only, has fewer than  
393 five (5) members, or is a committee, subcommittee or working group whereof the members  
394 are selected only from one or several committees of the synod which meet the S6.04.  
395 criteria.
- 396
- 397 S6.04.05. Application of the S6.04. criteria to the Synod Assembly. Implementation of S6.04. of the  
398 Constitution of this synod with reference to the voting members of the Synod Assembly  
399 shall include these processes:
- 400 a. Prior to Synod Assembly meetings:
    - 401 1) The Synod Council shall determine the voting membership formula with revisions  
402 as may from time to time be necessary in compliance with S6.04. and S7.21. of  
403 the Constitution of this synod.
    - 404 2) Synod personnel responsible for the arrangement and administration of Synod  
405 Assembly meetings shall publicize the voting membership formula, including  
406 notice of its requirements to each congregation.
  - 407 b. The Synod Assembly shall not seat as a voting member any person who does not meet  
408 an applicable requirement of the voting membership formula.
  - 409 c. Prior to each Synod Assembly meeting the Synod Council shall file a current written  
410 description of the voting membership formula in the Appendix to these By-laws.
- 411
- 412 S6.04.06. Application of the S6.04. criteria to the Synod Council and committees of this synod.  
413 Implementation of S6.04. of the Constitution of this Synod with reference to the Synod  
414 Council and committees of this synod, shall include these processes:
- 415 a. Prior to Synod Assembly meetings at which elections for Synod Council and synod  
416 committee positions are held, the nominating committee shall:
    - 417 1) Determine and specify each such position in compliance with S6.04. of the  
418 Constitution of this synod and related by-laws, and
    - 419 2) Ascertain pertinent personal information about prospective nominees and slate for  
420 each position those nominees whose qualifications meet the specifications for that  
421 position.
  - 422 b. The Synod Assembly shall require all floor nominations for a position for which a  
423 specification applies to include only prospective nominees who meet that specification,  
424 and shall decline to entertain a nomination if the personal qualifications of the  
425 prospective nominee do not meet the specifications for that position.
- 426
- 427 +S6.05. Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this  
428 synod or any synod units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly  
429 constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly,  
430 council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a



431 court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the  
432 validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council,  
433 committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.

434  
435 +S6.06. References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this  
436 church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being  
437 interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility  
438 of these expressions in God’s mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as  
439 described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-  
440 ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

441  
442 **CHAPTER 7.**  
443 **SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
444

445 +S7.01. This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority.  
446 The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of  
447 Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly’s own resolutions, and the  
448 constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

449  
450 S7.01.01. Synod Assembly Committees and Officials. The Synod Assembly shall have committees  
451 and officials as provided in this section. A majority of the members of each assembly  
452 committee shall be Assembly Voting Members, except where otherwise provided in these  
453 by-laws.

- 454 a. Committee on Reference and Counsel. The Synod Council shall appoint a committee  
455 of reference and counsel, consisting of at least five (5) members. The functions and  
456 responsibilities of the committee are to review and advise the Synod Assembly and the  
457 bishop, or other presiding officer, with respect to proposed changes or additions to the  
458 Constitution and By-laws, all resolutions including memorials, and other items  
459 submitted to the Synod Assembly which are not germane to items in the stated agenda  
460 of an assembly meeting.
- 461 b. Synod Assembly officials and other committees. Other officials and committees of the  
462 Synod Assembly (such as convention manager, parliamentarian, sergeant at arms,  
463 credentials committee, resolutions committee, and committee on minutes), as deemed  
464 necessary by the bishop or the Synod Council, may be appointed by the bishop with  
465 the advice of the Synod Council. The specific functions and responsibilities of each  
466 such official and committee shall be described in writing before appointment is made.
- 467 c. Special meetings of Synod Assembly. The officials and committees for special  
468 meetings of the Synod Assembly may be the same as those for the regular Synod  
469 Assembly meeting immediately preceding it.
- 470 d. Accountability. Officials and committees of the Synod Assembly are accountable to the  
471 bishop and to the Synod Assembly for due performance of their functions and  
472 responsibilities.

473  
474 +S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially.

475  
476 S7.11.01. The time and place of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly shall be determined  
477 by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be  
478 announced eleven months prior to the assembly.

479  
480 S7.11.02. Frequency, time-of-year and place of Synod Assembly meetings. Regular meetings of the  
481 Synod Assembly shall be held annually, normally during either the month of May or June  
482 each year, at a convenient place on the territory of the synod selected by the Synod  
483 Council.

484  
485 S7.11.03. Designation of Synod Assembly meetings. Regular meetings of the Synod Assembly,  
486 beginning with the first meeting after the constituting Convention, are to be designated

487 numerically in consecutive order. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly are to be  
488 designated numerically in consecutive order with reference to the preceding regular  
489 meeting of the Synod Assembly.  
490

491 S7.11.04. Report to Synod Assembly. Prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, the  
492 secretary shall prepare an Assembly Report. The report shall include the proposed agenda  
493 for the meeting, minutes of the preceding regular meeting of the Synod Assembly and of  
494 any special meetings of the Synod Assembly held following the preceding regular meeting,  
495 current reports of the bishop, the Synod Council, related and affiliated organizations,  
496 committees of the synod and conference deans and such other information as may be  
497 germane to the meeting. For meetings at which elections are held or a proposed budget is  
498 presented, the Synod Assembly report shall also include information concerning the  
499 elections and budget.  
500

501 S7.11.05. Arrangements for Synod Assembly meetings.  
502 a. The arrangements for agenda, program and worship at either regular or special  
503 meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be proposed by the bishop and approved by the  
504 Synod Council.  
505 b. At least fifteen (15) days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, the  
506 secretary shall distribute the proposed agenda for the Assembly meeting, minutes of  
507 the preceding regular meeting of the Synod Assembly and of any special meetings of  
508 the Synod Assembly held following the preceding regular meeting and current reports  
509 of the bishop and Synod Council to each congregation and to each voting member. All  
510 other portions of the Synod Assembly report shall be distributed to each congregation  
511 and to each voting member (upon request made in advance of the meeting) or if no  
512 request is made then on the first day of the meeting.  
513 c. All resolutions including memorials, shall be submitted to the synod secretary no later  
514 than thirty (30) days before the Synod Assembly meeting. The synod secretary shall  
515 refer such resolutions to the Reference and Counsel Committee. Such resolutions shall  
516 be distributed to each congregation and to each voting member with the final  
517 distribution prior to the Synod Assembly meeting.  
518 d. Each congregation shall be responsible for payment of the expenses of its voting  
519 members to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, including but not limited to  
520 costs of travel, housing, meals and registration.  
521

522 S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of  
523 the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the  
524 member congregations of the Synod Assembly, or by the action of any two synod  
525 conferences.  
526 a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held.  
527 The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the  
528 subject matter(s) described in the notice.  
529 b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is for the purpose of electing a successor  
530 bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting may be  
531 called by the Synod Council, in consultation with the bishop of the ELCA, by at least a  
532 two-thirds majority ballot vote of the Synod Council members present and voting.  
533

534 S7.12.01. Arrangements for special meetings of the Synod Assembly.  
535 a. At least fifteen (15) days prior to each special meeting of the Synod Assembly, the  
536 secretary shall distribute in writing to each congregation and to each voting member  
537 such information as may reasonably inform them of the purposes and issues of the  
538 special meeting.  
539 b. The allocation of the expenses for voting members to special meetings of the Synod  
540 Assembly shall be determined in advance by the Synod Council.  
541

- 542 S7.13. Notice of time and place of Synod Assembly meetings. Notice of the time and place of all  
543 meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod, in  
544 accordance with the by-laws.  
545
- 546 S7.13.01. Notice of time and place of Synod Assembly meetings.  
547 a. The secretary of the synod shall publish the time and place of each regular meeting of  
548 the Synod Assembly at least sixty (60) days in advance of the opening date of the  
549 assembly and shall furnish similar notice to each congregation or other group entitled  
550 to be represented by voting members at the assembly.  
551 b. The secretary of the synod shall furnish written notice of a special meeting of the Synod  
552 Assembly to all congregations and other organizations entitled to be represented by  
553 voting members to said assembly immediately upon the issuance of the call of said  
554 special meeting and shall publish the time and place of said special meeting at least  
555 fifteen (15) days prior to the opening date of the special meeting.  
556
- 557 S7.14. One-half (1/2) of members of the Synod Assembly who are registered and signed in for the  
558 Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.  
559
- 560 +S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60% of the voting membership  
561 shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows:  
562 a. All rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall be voting members of  
563 the Synod Assembly.  
564 b. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175  
565 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation  
566 with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall  
567 be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod  
568 Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from  
569 congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation.  
570 The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, at least 45% of the  
571 lay members of the assembly shall be woman and, as nearly as possible, at least  
572 45 % shall be men.  
573 c. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.  
574
- 575 S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and  
576 shall continue serving until the opening of the next regular Synod Assembly.  
577
- 578 +S7.21.02 In addition to the minimum number of lay delegates to synod assemblies, the congregation  
579 may include as a voting member at Synod Assembly, a youth or young adult age 21 or  
580 below who is a voting member of the congregation. If a special Synod Assembly is called  
581 and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members,  
582 where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may  
583 elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next regular Synod Assembly.  
584
- 585 S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers or those granted  
586 disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting  
587 members of the Synod Assembly, provided that such processes not result in fewer than  
588 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of  
589 †S7.21. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified  
590 above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of  
591 the Synod Assembly.  
592
- 593 S7.22.01. All retired ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod in attendance at  
594 the Synod Assembly shall have voice and vote at the Synod Assembly.  
595
- 596 S7.22.02 All retired ministers of Word and Service on the roster of this synod in attendance at the  
597 Synod Assembly shall have voice and vote at the Synod Assembly.  
598

- 599 S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official  
600 representatives may be designated by the presiding bishop, shall have voice but not vote  
601 in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those  
602 additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time  
603 designate.  
604
- 605 S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod  
606 Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the  
607 rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations  
608 shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless  
609 replaced by the election of new members for a special synod assembly, or until they have  
610 been disqualified by termination of congregation membership.  
611
- 612 +S7.25. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and*  
613 *Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, each voting  
614 member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.  
615
- 616 S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay  
617 representatives of authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been  
618 authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod  
619 Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.  
620
- 621 S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word  
622 and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been  
623 declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly the privilege of both voice and vote  
624 in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this  
625 church.  
626
- 627 S7.28. Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members  
628 of the Synod Assembly under +S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote  
629 as members of the Synod Assembly.  
630
- 631 +S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this  
632 Synod Assembly.  
633
- 634 S7.32. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod  
635 Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.  
636
- 637 S7.33. "Ex Officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless  
638 otherwise expressly limited.

## 639 **CHAPTER 8.**

### 640 **OFFICERS**

- 641
- 642 +S8.01. The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.  
643
- 644 **S8.10. The Bishop**  
645
- 646 +S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word  
647 and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
648
- 649 S8.11.01. When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the  
650 synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to  
651 another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod  
652 Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or  
653 if the special circumstances no longer apply.  
654

- 655 +S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:
- 656 a. Preach, teach, and administer the Sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith
- 657 of this church.
- 658 b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and
- 659 its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its
- 660 congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and
- 661 Service.
- 662 c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another
- 663 synodical bishop) of approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly
- 664 issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and
- 665 as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- 666 d. Ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and
- 667 accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word
- 668 and Service of this church.
- 669 e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of
- 670 call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the
- 671 rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
- 672 f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has
- 673 attested.
- 674 g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
- 675 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
- 676 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within
- 677 this synod;
- 678 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote
- 679 the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
- 680 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning the
- 681 synod's life and work; and
- 682 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- 683 h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
- 684 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the
- 685 sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
- 686 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the
- 687 resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers and
- 688 congregations of this synod;
- 689 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
- 690 4) Be a member of the Conference of Bishops and consult regularly with other
- 691 synodical bishops;
- 692 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion
- 693 and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
- 694 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory
- 695 leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
- 696 7) Be *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- 697 i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
- 698 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and
- 699 administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name
- 700 of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;
- 701 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of
- 702 the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive
- 703 Committee;
- 704 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide
- 705 organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod
- 706 in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
- 707 4) Direct and guide the work of the other officers;
- 708 5) Exercise supervision over the work of all synod staff members;
- 709 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
- 710 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod,
- 711 except as otherwise provided in this constitution;

- 712 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synod containing the names and  
713 addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under  
714 which they are serving or the date on which their retired or disability status took  
715 effect.
- 716 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers  
717 on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the  
718 constitution and bylaws of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through  
719 the Synod Council;
- 720 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:  
721 a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod;  
722 b) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who  
723 have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call  
724 under the jurisdiction of another synod; and  
725 c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer  
726 have been received;
- 727 11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a roster of the congregations of this synod  
728 and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and
- 729 12) Appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the reports of the congregations  
730 and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis,  
731 and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this  
732 church.  
733
- 734 +S8.13. The synod bishop may appoint an attorney, admitted to the bar within the territory of the  
735 synod or the state where the synod is located, to be Synod Attorney. The appointment  
736 must be approved by the Synod Council and reported to the Synod Assembly and to the  
737 secretary of this church. The appointment continues until resignation or until a successor  
738 is appointed. The Synod Attorney provides legal advice and counsel to the synod officers  
739 and the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney is expected to be familiar with the governing  
740 documents and policies of the synod and, as necessary, to attend meetings of the Synod  
741 Council. The Synod Attorney serves without salary but may be retained and compensated  
742 for specific legal services requested by the synod.  
743
- 744 S8.14. The synod bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize  
745 in the by-laws.  
746
- 747 S8.14.01. Assistants to the Bishop. After consultation with and upon recommendation of the bishop,  
748 the Synod Council may call or employ one or more, persons to serve as assistants to the  
749 bishop in the work of this synod. These assistants may be ordained ministers or lay  
750 persons. They shall be employees of the synod and perform such work assignments as  
751 may be designated by the bishop. Each assistant who is an ordained minister, as called,  
752 shall be on the roster of ordained ministers of this synod and shall serve an initial term call  
753 of not more than six years and each assistant who is a lay person shall reside on the  
754 territory of the synod and shall be employed for an initial period of not more than six years,  
755 provided that no period of call or employment shall extend beyond the then remaining term  
756 of office of the bishop. After the Synod Council receives the bishop's recommendations,  
757 the term of each ordained assistant's call or period of each lay assistant's employment,  
758 and the salary, emoluments and other remuneration to be received by each assistant shall  
759 be determined by the Synod Council and included in the provisions of the call or letter of  
760 employment. If the bishop so recommends, any assistant may serve successive calls or  
761 periods of employment as determined by the Synod Council, but the term of any successive  
762 call or length of any successive period of employment shall be not more than six years. If  
763 the office of bishop becomes vacant, each assistant shall resign effective as of the date  
764 when the successor bishop takes office.  
765
- 766 S8.14.02. Support staff. The bishop may employ such support staff members as are consistent with  
767 the needs of the synod and the fiscal limitations of the synod budget.  
768

- 769 +S8.15. The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the bishop, shall install into office,  
770 in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synod bishop.  
771
- 772 +S8.16 Conflicts of Interest.  
773
- 774 +S8.16.01. The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synod  
775 bishops:  
776 a. Whenever a synod bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in  
777 †S8.16.01.b. may require the bishop's determination or action with respect to a related  
778 individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synod bishop shall withdraw from personal  
779 involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding  
780 bishop shall then appoint another synod bishop from the same region to handle the  
781 matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise  
782 all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were  
783 the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.  
784 b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provisions  
785 7.46. and 7.75. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the*  
786 *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.18. and †S14.43.), candidacy,  
787 reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synod  
788 bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's  
789 ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.  
790 c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synod bishop, is a spouse, parent,  
791 son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including  
792 corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or  
793 sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a  
794 sibling).  
795
- 796 **S8.20. Vice-President**  
797
- 798 +S8.21. The vice-president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice-president shall be a  
799 layperson. The vice-president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.  
800 The vice-president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.  
801
- 802 S8.22. The vice-president shall chair the Synod Council.  
803
- 804 **S8.30. Secretary**  
805
- 806 +S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting  
807 member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a  
808 rostered minister.  
809
- 810 +S8.32. The secretary shall:  
811 a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be  
812 responsible for distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this  
813 synod may from time to time direct.  
814 b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments  
815 which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop.  
816 c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and  
817 documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.  
818 d. Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine (9) months before each regular  
819 Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod  
820 Assembly.  
821
- 822 **S8.40. Treasurer**  
823

- 824 +S8.41. The treasurer shall be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod  
825 Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The  
826 treasurer may be either a layperson or a rostered minister.  
827
- 828 S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:  
829 a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages,  
830 contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all  
831 times subject to the order of this synod.  
832 b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.  
833 c. Receipt and acknowledgement of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this  
834 synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular  
835 appropriations and orders of the several accounts as approved and directed by the  
836 Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the  
837 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the  
838 general work of this church.  
839 d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of the synod and informing  
840 the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.  
841 e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly  
842 audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this Synod for  
843 the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the  
844 minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.  
845
- 846 +S8.51. The terms of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:  
847 a. The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be  
848 re-elected.  
849 b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of four (4)  
850 years and may be re-elected. The officer shall serve until a successor takes office.  
851 c. The treasurer of this synod shall be elected to a term of four (4) years and may be  
852 re-elected. The treasurer shall serve until a successor takes office.  
853
- 854 +S8.52 The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election or,  
855 in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.  
856
- 857 +S8.53. Each officer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, except that the  
858 bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.  
859
- 860 +S8.54. Should the bishop die, resign, or be unable to serve, the vice-president after consultation  
861 with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene  
862 the Synod Council to arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the bishop  
863 until an election of a new bishop can be held or, in the course of temporary disability, until  
864 the bishop is able to serve again. Such arrangements may include the appointment by the  
865 Synod Council of an interim bishop, who during the vacancy or period of disability shall  
866 possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop. The term of the  
867 successor bishop, elected by the next Synod Assembly or a special meeting of the Synod  
868 Assembly called for the purpose of election, shall be six (6) years, with the subsequent  
869 election to take place at the Synod Assembly closest to the expiration of such a term and  
870 with the starting date of the successor term to be governed by constitutional provision  
871 S8.52.  
872
- 873 S8.55. Should the vice-president, secretary or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the  
874 bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange  
875 for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer  
876 can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again.  
877 The term of successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be four (4) years.  
878
- 879 +S8.56. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall determine whether an officer is  
880 unable to serve; the officer may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee by



881 requesting a hearing before the Synod Council. A meeting to determine the ability of an  
882 officer to serve shall be called upon the request of at least three members of the Executive  
883 Committee and prior written notice of the meeting shall be given to the officer in question  
884 at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the meeting.  
885

886 +S8.57 The recall or dismissal of an officer may and the vacating of office may be effected for  
887 willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this  
888 church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing  
889 the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action  
890 as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.

891 a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synod bishop shall be instituted by written  
892 petition by:

- 893 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected  
894 members present and voting;
- 895 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members  
896 present and voting;
- 897 3) at least 10 synod bishops; or
- 898 4) the presiding bishop of this church.

899 b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synod  
900 bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:

- 901 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected  
902 members present and voting;
- 903 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members  
904 present and voting; or
- 905 3) the synod bishop.

906 c. The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the  
907 secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road,  
908 Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.

909 d. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may  
910 temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with  
911 continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee  
912 of the synod.

913 e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the  
914 procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the  
915 decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod  
916 Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:

- 917 1) the Synod Council will submit a written report of their findings and the basis of their  
918 decision to the Committee on Appeals.
- 919 2) the Committee on Appeals, exclusive of any members who are disqualified, shall  
920 review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote  
921 of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant  
922 the petition.

923 f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal  
924 include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process  
925 described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22 as grounds for discipline.  
926 If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include  
927 those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.23.01. and as defined under the process described  
928 in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.21. and 20.22. as grounds for discipline.

929 g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in  
930 ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.

931 h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and  
932 continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary  
933 action, the following procedures shall apply:

- 934 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as  
935 the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with  
936 the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.22.14. except to the extent that those rules  
937 are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and

- 938 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified,  
 939 may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present  
 940 and voting.  
 941 i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been  
 942 sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office  
 943 shall be vacated.  
 944

945 +S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period not to  
 946 exceed 90 days, the bishop, after consultation with the presiding bishop and with the  
 947 consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period a minister of  
 948 Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an  
 949 acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop  
 950 other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates  
 951 for ordination.  
 952  
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 959

960 **CHAPTER 9.**  
 961 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**  
 962

963 +S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the  
 964 constitution and by-laws may require, according to procedures set forth in the by-laws. The  
 965 Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with  
 966 bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
 967 America.  
 968

969 S9.01.01. Elections by the Synod Assembly. The Synod Assembly shall elect the following:  
 970 a. Members of the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with Chapter 12 of the ELCA  
 971 Constitution.  
 972 b. The members of the Synod Council, including the youth member, and the young\_adult  
 973 member, except those members elected by the conferences of the synod.  
 974 c. The members of the Consultation Committee and the Committee on Discipline in  
 975 accordance with Chapter 20 of the ELCA Constitution.  
 976

977 S9.01.02. Elections at regular meetings of the Synod Assembly. The elections described in S9.01.01.  
 978 shall be held at regular meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the notice of each regular  
 979 meeting at which elections are held shall include reference to those elections.  
 980

981 S9.01.03. Terms of office. Members of the Synod Council, the synod program and covenant  
 982 committees and advisory committees are eligible for election to two consecutive full terms  
 983 for such position except as otherwise specified in the by-laws or where first elected to fill  
 984 an interim vacancy of more than half the current term of the position, in which case for  
 985 purpose of eligibility for reelection, the interim term shall be deemed to be a whole term.  
 986 Each election shall be effective as of the conclusion of the Synod Assembly electing the  
 987 person to such a position, except as provided in S8.52.  
 988

989 S9.01.04. Specifications for certain members of the Synod Council. In order to achieve equitable and  
 990 comprehensive compliance with the criteria of S6.04.04.a., the Nominating Committee  
 991 shall specify all of its nominations to positions on the Synod Council in terms of those

992 criteria and of any other criteria or qualifications which may from time to time be provided  
993 under continuing resolutions. No specification shall be made with reference to the officers,  
994 youth member and other members of the Synod Council elected by the conferences, but  
995 personal characteristics of the persons serving in those positions may be taken into  
996 account in determining whether the Synod Council meets the S6.04. criteria. Prior to each  
997 regular meeting of the Synod Assembly at which Synod Council members are elected, the  
998 Nominating Committee shall review, and if necessary, adjust the specifications. Such  
999 specifications shall be subject to review by the Synod Council. Prior to each regular  
1000 meeting of the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall file a written description of current  
1001 specifications in the Appendix to the by-laws.

1002

1003 S9.01.05. Interim elections and appointments. An interim vacancy shall be filled:

1004 a. In any position, other than the Synod Council, either by appointment or election, as the  
1005 case may be, by the person or entity which previously selected the person for that  
1006 position;

1007 b. In the Synod Council, other than the position of the Conference Dean, by the Synod  
1008 Council;

1009 c. In the position of Conference Dean on Synod Council by the clergy vice president of  
1010 such conference until the Conference Assembly fills the vacancy;

1011 d. For the remainder of the term during which the vacancy occurred.

1012

1013 +S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal  
1014 votes cast shall be necessary for election.

1015

1016 S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of up to fourteen (14) members who  
1017 shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod  
1018 Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which  
1019 nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

1020

1021 S9.03.01. Nominations. The Nominating Committee shall slate at least two (2) nominees for each  
1022 position to be filled by elections of the Synod Assembly except for the officers, the  
1023 Consultation Committee and the Committee on Discipline where the Nominating  
1024 Committee shall slate at least one nominee for each position.

1025

1026 S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths  
1027 (3/4) of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is  
1028 elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal  
1029 votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be  
1030 limited to the seven (7) persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes  
1031 on the second ballot, and two-thirds (2/3) of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for  
1032 election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three (3) persons (plus ties) who receive  
1033 the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60% of the legal votes cast shall  
1034 be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be  
1035 necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two (2) persons (plus ties) who  
1036 receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

1037

1038 S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for vice-president;  
1039 additional nominations may be made from the floor.

1040

1041 S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for secretary; additional nominations  
1042 may be made from the floor.

1043

1044 S9.07. If the treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for  
1045 treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

1046

1047 S9.08. In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest  
1048 number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding

- 1049 ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled.  
 1050 On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be  
 1051 necessary for election.  
 1052
- 1053 S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.  
 1054
- 1055 +S9.10. When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of  
 1056 the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the  
 1057 specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church  
 1058 Council.  
 1059
- 1060 +S9.11. The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its  
 1061 region.  
 1062
- 1063 +S9.12. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated  
 1064 as synod officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their  
 1065 election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be  
 1066 determined by the Synod Council.  
 1067

1068 **CHAPTER 10.**  
 1069 **SYNOD COUNCIL**

- 1070
- 1071 +S10.01. The Synod Council consisting of the four (4) officers of this synod, 10-24 other members,  
 1072 and at least one (1) youth and at least one (1) young adult, shall be elected by the Synod  
 1073 Assembly.  
 1074 a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation  
 1075 of this synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside  
 1076 outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when  
 1077 not otherwise provided shall be specified in the by-laws. A member of the Church  
 1078 Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from this synod, unless  
 1079 otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory  
 1080 member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.  
 1081 b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers  
 1082 and the youth member, shall be three (3) years.  
 1083
- 1084 S10.01.01. Synod Council. The Synod Council shall consist of the four (4) officers of the synod, a youth  
 1085 member, a young adult member and sixteen (16) other members. The sixteen (16) other  
 1086 members shall consist of six (6) clergy members and ten (10) lay members. The sixteen  
 1087 (16) other members and the young adult member of the Synod Council shall be elected in  
 1088 the following manner:  
 1089 a. Six (6) lay members shall be elected, one by each conference;  
 1090 b. Six (6) conference deans shall be elected, one by each conference; and  
 1091 c. Five (5) lay members, including the young adult member, shall be elected by the Synod  
 1092 Assembly from nominations submitted by the Synod Council. No more than two (2),  
 1093 but at least one (1), lay member shall be elected each year for position on the Council.  
 1094
- 1095 S10.01.02. Terms of Office. Terms of office for members of the Synod Council, other than the officers  
 1096 and the youth member, shall be three (3) years, and shall be staggered in such manner  
 1097 adopted by the Synod Council. The term of office for the youth member of the Synod  
 1098 Council shall be two (2) years.  
 1099
- 1100 S10.01.03. Youth member. The youth member shall be at least sixteen (16) years of age when his or  
 1101 her term of service begins and not more than twenty-one (21) years of age when the term  
 1102 ends. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages  
 1103 of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.  
 1104

- 1105 S10.01.04. Attendance at Synod Council Meetings. Members shall attend all regularly scheduled  
1106 Synod Council meetings. Two (2) consecutive unexcused absences is cause for a member  
1107 to be replaced. After review and recommendation by the Synod Council Executive  
1108 Committee the office of the absentee member may be declared vacant.  
1109
- 1110 +S10.02. The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim  
1111 legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions  
1112 which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not  
1113 precluded by provisions of this constitution or the constitution and by-laws of the  
1114 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
1115
- 1116 S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:  
1117 a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.  
1118 b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod  
1119 Assembly.  
1120 c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.  
1121 d. Provide for annual review of the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament and the  
1122 roster of ministers of Word and Service, and receive and act upon appropriate  
1123 recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration  
1124 and action under the constitution and by-laws of the ELCA, and make a report to the  
1125 Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.  
1126 e. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution  
1127 and by-laws of the ELCA.  
1128 f. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may  
1129 otherwise be provided in the Constitution or By-laws of this synod, and determine the  
1130 fact of the incapacity of any officer of this synod.  
1131 g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.  
1132 h. Elect or ratify the representatives of this synod who are to serve on the governing  
1133 boards of church affiliated health, social service, educational and other designated  
1134 agencies or institutions to which this synod is related.  
1135 i. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the by-laws of the synod, or as may be  
1136 delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.  
1137
- 1138 S10.03.01. Committees- selection by the Synod Council.  
1139 The Synod Council shall select the following number of members of the three (3) Covenant  
1140 committees:  
1141 Covenant Committee: Mission Support and Stewardship Education – one (1)  
1142 Covenant Committee: New/Renewing Congregations - one (1)  
1143 Covenant Committee: Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy - one (1)  
1144 Such selections shall be held at the Synod Council meeting immediately following a  
1145 vacancy on the committee of a position normally filled by the Synod Council.  
1146
- 1147 S10.03.02. Committee liaisons. The Synod Council shall maintain a working liaison with synod  
1148 committees, advisory committees, task forces and temporary committees. For this purpose  
1149 Synod Council members may attend and have voice at meetings of any such committees.  
1150
- 1151 S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise,  
1152 which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod  
1153 Council shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for adoption.  
1154
- 1155 S10.05. No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.  
1156
- 1157 S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which  
1158 she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.  
1159
- 1160 S10.07. The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their  
1161 selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and

- 1162 responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in  
 1163 the by-laws.  
 1164
- 1165 S10.07.01 Synod Council Meetings. The Synod Council shall hold regular meetings at least four (4)  
 1166 times a year. The place of Synod Council meetings shall be determined by the Executive  
 1167 Committee of the Synod Council. Special Synod Council meetings may be called by the  
 1168 Executive Committee or the bishop upon the written request of ten (10) Synod Council  
 1169 members. The secretary shall give written or electronic notice of each Synod Council  
 1170 meeting to the members of the Synod Council.  
 1171  
 1172 To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees  
 1173 may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be  
 1174 provided electronically.  
 1175
- 1176 S10.07.02. Synod Council Committees. The Synod Council shall have an Executive Committee, a  
 1177 Finance Committee and such other committees as the Synod Council may from time to  
 1178 time determine. The Synod Council shall appoint the members of its committees which  
 1179 must consist only of Synod Council members. Each Synod Council committee shall  
 1180 develop its own agenda, set its own procedures and keep its records consistent with the  
 1181 by-laws and directions from the Synod Council.  
 1182
- 1183 S10.07.03. Executive Committee of the Synod Council. The Executive Committee of the Synod  
 1184 Council shall consist of the officers and three other members of the Synod Council. The  
 1185 term of appointment for other council members shall be one year, with no limitation on  
 1186 reappointment. The Executive Committee shall oversee preparation of the agenda for  
 1187 Synod Council meetings and shall have such additional authority as is delegated to it by  
 1188 the Synod Council, and upon approval of a majority of its members, may deliberate and  
 1189 carry on committee work by telephone conference call.  
 1190
- 1191 S10.07.04. Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall consist of the treasurer and at least six  
 1192 other committee members. Except for the treasurer, none of the members of the Finance  
 1193 Committee may also be a member of the Executive Committee. The period of appointment  
 1194 for the other committee members shall be one year, with no limitation on reappointment to  
 1195 an available position. The committee shall oversee the financial aspects of the ministry,  
 1196 work and activities of the synod. The committee's responsibilities include timely preparation  
 1197 of the annual budget for review by the Synod Council before submission to the Synod  
 1198 Assembly; advice, support and counsel to the Synod Council and the synod treasurer in  
 1199 the areas of money and account management, financial record keeping, record retention  
 1200 and security arrangements, various forms of insurance, investment policy and banking  
 1201 relations, compliance with provisions of Chapter 16 of the Synod Constitution and payroll  
 1202 and tax related matters.  
 1203
- 1204 S10.07.05. Accountability. Synod Council committees and the nominating committee are accountable  
 1205 to the Synod Council for due performance of their functions and responsibilities.  
 1206
- 1207 S10.08. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings  
 1208 of the Synod Council.  
 1209
- 1210 S10.08.01 To the extent permitted by the state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees  
 1211 may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be  
 1212 provided electronically.  
 1213

1214 **CHAPTER 11.**  
 1215 **COMMITTEES**  
 1216

1217 +S11.01. There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on  
1218 Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, a Personnel Committee and  
1219 such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and  
1220 functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and  
1221 the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this  
1222 constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any  
1223 applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical  
1224 Lutheran Church in America.  
1225

1226 S11.01.01. Committees. This synod shall have committees as provided by or pursuant to this Synod  
1227 Constitution, By-laws and Continuing Resolutions. Committees of this synod are Synod  
1228 Assembly committees, Synod Council and council appointed committees, the synod  
1229 program and covenant committees and any task forces and temporary committees, but do  
1230 not include a committee convened pursuant to S14.13.b.  
1231

1232 S11.01.02. Synod Assembly committees. Synod Assembly committees have status, composition,  
1233 appointment process and functions and responsibilities as described and provided in  
1234 S7.01.0 1.  
1235

1236 S11.01.03. Synod Council and Council-Appointed committees. Synod Council and council-appointed  
1237 committees have status, composition, appointment process, functions, and responsibilities  
1238 as provided in provisions of the Synod Constitution and By-laws as follows:

1239	Committee	Provision
1240	Mutual Ministry	S11.04.01
1241	Nominating	S9.03.
1242	Executive	S10.07.03.
1243	Finance	S10.07.04.
1244	Audit	S11.05
1245	Personnel	S11.06
1246	Candidacy	S11.07

1247

1248 S11.01.04. In addition to the committees of S11.01 the synod may establish committees which are  
1249 units to which are assigned particular programmatic functions and responsibilities for  
1250 carrying forward the work and activities of this synod according to the sense and scope of  
1251 Chapter 6 of the Constitution: The synod program and covenant committees are:  
1252 a. Covenant Committee: Mission Support and Stewardship Education  
1253 b. Covenant Committee: New/Renewing Congregations  
1254 c. Covenant Committee: Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy  
1255 d. Global Mission Committee  
1256 e. Leadership Support Committee  
1257 f. Adult Faith Formation Committee  
1258

1259 S11.01.05. Committee Terms.  
1260 The synod program and covenant committees shall have membership as specified  
1261 hereafter. The term of service for each member shall be three years unless specified  
1262 otherwise hereafter. The term of service shall be staggered in such manner as to allow  
1263 selection of an equal number of committee members annually thereafter. Each committee  
1264 member is eligible to serve two consecutive full terms in that committee position.  
1265

1266 S11.01.06. Task forces and temporary committees. The Synod Council shall, as directed by the Synod  
1267 Assembly, and by its own action may, from time to time as it finds necessary, establish  
1268 task forces and temporary committees of this synod. Normally, a task force or temporary  
1269 committee shall have one specific assignment not merely duplicative of a function or  
1270 responsibility of another committee established pursuant to the Constitution. The Synod  
1271 Council shall describe the assignment in reasonable detail, and a task force or temporary  
1272 committee shall complete its assignment and submit any required report within the period  
1273 established by the Synod Council. The Synod Council shall appoint the members of a task

1274 force or temporary committee and may appoint the chairperson or convener. Generally,  
1275 eligibility for appointment shall be as provided in the first sentence of S11.01.09.  
1276

1277 S11.01.07. Provisions pertaining to committees. Subject to the specific provisions for certain  
1278 committees set forth in S11.01.02., Synod Assembly committees, S11.01.03., Synod  
1279 Council and Council-related committees, S11.01.05., the Consultation Committee S11.02  
1280 and the Committee on Discipline, S11.03., task forces and temporary committees and the  
1281 requirements of S11.11.01. and consistent with specific functions, responsibilities and  
1282 interests of each committee, the provisions of this section apply to committees of the synod.  
1283 a. A committee shall include members residing in various areas of the territory.  
1284 b. A committee shall develop its own agenda with reference to its function and  
1285 responsibilities, determine its own procedures and establish appropriate sub-  
1286 committees and working groups.  
1287 c. A committee shall elect and have a chairperson and a secretary. The chairperson  
1288 presides at committee meetings and is responsible to make an annual report for the  
1289 committee to the Synod Assembly and to provide the committee job description to the  
1290 nominating committee. The committee secretary is responsible for keeping minutes  
1291 and giving notice of meetings.  
1292 d. The synod shall fund the work and activities of a committee through the synod  
1293 budgetary process, and the committee shall cooperate and participate in that process.  
1294 e. Committee members shall not receive compensation for committee service, but the  
1295 synod may reimburse them for necessary travel and other out-of-pocket expenses  
1296 while serving.  
1297

1298 S11.01.08. Accountability. The committees of 11.01, the program and covenant committees, and task  
1299 forces and temporary committees of this synod, together with their members, are  
1300 accountable to the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly for due performance of their  
1301 respective functions and responsibilities. The Synod Council shall oversee that  
1302 performance, including a committee's policies, programs, activities and work product.  
1303

1304 S11.01.09. Eligibility and qualifications for committee service. Ordained ministers under call, ordained  
1305 ministers on leave from call who are not under disciplinary action, retired ordained ministers  
1306 on the roster of this synod, ordained ministers rostered in synods other than synod of  
1307 residence, Diaconal ministers and associates in ministry of this synod and lay persons who  
1308 are voting members of a congregation of this synod are eligible to be selected and to serve  
1309 on committees of this synod. Other than the bishop ex-officio, no persons shall concurrently  
1310 be a member of more than one program committee and no Synod Council member shall  
1311 be eligible to serve on a committee, except as otherwise provided in this constitution and  
1312 bylaws. Qualifications, as provided in S11.04.01. may pertain for committee service.  
1313

1314 +S11.02. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more  
1315 than 12 persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers and half shall be laypersons,  
1316 who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without  
1317 consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in  
1318 Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical  
1319 Lutheran Church in America* and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the  
1320 Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's  
1321 bylaws.  
1322

1323 S11.02.01. The terms of service of members of the Consultation Committee shall be staggered in such  
1324 a manner to allow replacement of an equal number of committee members biennially.  
1325

1326 +S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall  
1327 be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod  
1328 Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.



- 1329 a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20  
 1330 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran*  
 1331 *Church in America*.  
 1332 b. The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four  
 1333 committee members (two clergy and two lay) expire every two years.  
 1334 c. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any  
 1335 unexpired term.  
 1336  
 1337 +S11.04. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the  
 1338 Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.  
 1339  
 1340 S11.04.01. Mutual Ministry Committee. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall consist of five (5)  
 1341 members. Its function shall be to provide support and counsel to the bishop. Two (2)  
 1342 members of the committee shall be persons named by the bishop to serve for the period  
 1343 determined by the bishop. The other three (3) members shall be persons appointed by the  
 1344 Executive Committee to serve for the period determined by the Synod Council. In any case  
 1345 the period of service of each member shall expire not later than the expiration of the  
 1346 bishop's current term of office. The three (3) members appointed by the Executive  
 1347 Committee normally should include persons who reside in various parts of the synod  
 1348 territory, and at least one of them, when appointed, shall be a Synod Council member. The  
 1349 bishop may seek the counsel and support of any of the members of the committee and  
 1350 from time to time may, and at least annually shall, convene one or more meetings of the  
 1351 committee to seek its counsel and support on any matters which the bishop deems  
 1352 necessary or desirable. Meetings of the committee or consultation between the bishop and  
 1353 any member shall be informal, and votes, minutes or other written memorials are not  
 1354 required unless requested by the bishop.  
 1355  
 1356 +S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a  
 1357 member of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council  
 1358 members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term  
 1359 of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three year term. The  
 1360 terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be  
 1361 responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's  
 1362 accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as  
 1363 provided in +S15.31.  
 1364  
 1365 S11.06 Personnel Committee shall have five (5) members, the synod vice-president, two clergy,  
 1366 one rostered lay leader, and one lay person. The function of the committee is to assume  
 1367 the responsibility for advising the synod Council on matters pertaining to personnel  
 1368 administration and staffing. The chair of this committee shall be the synod vice-president.  
 1369 A. The committee shall be organized in such a way that after the initial appointment, one  
 1370 member shall be re-appointed or replaced each year beginning in March 2010. Except  
 1371 for the vice-president, members shall not serve more than two four (4) year terms.  
 1372 B. Responsibilities of the committee are:  
 1373 1. In agreement with the bishop, provide overall policy guidance for personnel  
 1374 matters in this synod.  
 1375 2. Submit recommendations on personnel policy matters to the Executive Committee  
 1376 and Synod Council.  
 1377 3. Develop and conduct annual performance reviews for professional and support  
 1378 staff.  
 1379 4. In consultation with the bishop, review staffing patterns, selection procedures,  
 1380 interviews, employee relations, job descriptions, employee benefits, and other  
 1381 applicable needs.  
 1382 5. Submit recommendations to the Finance Committee as part of the synod's annual  
 1383 planning and budgeting process.  
 1384 6. Annually or as needed, evaluate its work as a committee and the objectives it has

1385 committed itself to and report the same to the Synod Council.  
1386  
1387 S11.07 The Candidacy Committee shall consist of fourteen members, *appointed by the*  
1388 *bishop in consultation with the conference deans in compliance with +S6.04 and*  
1389 *ratified by the synod council. This number includes the bishop (or their designee)*  
1390 *and an ELCA seminary representative. Advisory members include a synod*  
1391 *candidacy staff person and an ELCA candidacy staff person. The function of the*  
1392 *Candidacy Committee is to work with applicants from application through*  
1393 *Entrance, Endorsement, Approval, and Ordination. They will seek to support each*  
1394 *candidate through prayer, guidance and counsel as well as represent the*  
1395 *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in helping candidates discern both their*  
1396 *inner (personal) call and their outer call (affirmation by both the seminary faculty*  
1397 *and candidacy committee).*  
1398  
1399 An exception to the two-term limit (S11.01.05) is that a member of the Candidacy  
1400 Committee who has served two consecutive terms on the Candidacy committee is eligible,  
1401 in consultation with the professional staff of the synod, to serve a third consecutive term on  
1402 the Candidacy committee.  
1403  
1404 S11.08 Synod Program and Covenant Committees of 11.01.04  
1405  
1406 S11.08.01. Covenant Committees - New/Renewing Congregations  
1407 The New/Renewing Congregations committee shall consist of seven members, one  
1408 selected by each conference and one selected by the Synod Council.  
1409 The functions of this committee shall include: assisting in developing and implementing a  
1410 synod mission plan, identifying new mission opportunities, assisting with new mission site  
1411 visits, helping to monitor progress of new or redevelopment congregations.  
1412  
1413 The term “selected by each conference” in this bylaw shall mean that each conference will  
1414 choose its own method to determine who represents that conference on the program and  
1415 covenant committees.  
1416  
1417 S11.08.02. Covenant Committees - Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy  
1418 The Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy committee shall consist of seven members, one  
1419 selected by each conference and one selected by the Synod Council.  
1420 The functions of this committee shall include: assisting in developing and implementing a  
1421 synod mission plan as it relates to hunger, poverty, justice and advocacy issues.  
1422  
1423 S11.08.03. Covenant Committees - Mission Support and Stewardship Education  
1424 Mission Support and Stewardship Education committee shall consist of seven members,  
1425 one selected by each conference and one selected by the Synod Council.  
1426 The functions of this committee shall include: developing and implementing a synod  
1427 mission plan, stewardship education, steward leader development, encouraging mission  
1428 support.  
1429  
1430 S11.08.04. Global Ministry Committee. The Global Ministry Committee shall consist of seven  
1431 members, one selected by each conference and in compliance with +S6.04, one appointed  
1432 by the Synod Council. The function of this committee shall include: communication of  
1433 hunger, justice issues, global ministry interpretation and the companion synod  
1434 relationships.  
1435  
1436 S11.08.05. The Leadership Support Committee shall consist of seven members; at least two clergy  
1437 and at least four lay members so as to be in compliance with +S6.04. Each conference  
1438 shall elect one member to the Leadership Support Committee. The Synod Council shall  
1439 appoint one member to the Leadership Support Committee.  
1440

1441 The function of the Leadership Support Committee shall be to annually review and  
1442 recommend compensation guidelines for both Ministers of Word and Sacrament and  
1443 Ministers of Word and Service, and to set pulpit supply rates. The Leadership Support  
1444 Committee may also assist synod staff with the planning, promotion and implementation of  
1445 the annual Lay and Professional Leaders Retreat.  
1446

1447 S11.08.06. The Adult Faith Formation Committee shall consist of seven members; at least two clergy  
1448 and at least four lay members so as to be in compliance with +S6.04. Each conference  
1449 shall elect one member of the Adult Faith Formation Committee. The Synod Council shall  
1450 appoint one member to the Adult Faith Formation Committee.  
1451

1452 The function of the Adult Faith Formation Committee centers around two important, yet  
1453 distinct, areas: shepherding those preparing for and those functioning in Synodically  
1454 Authorized Ministry and promoting and planning adult faith formation events and  
1455 opportunities particularly for lay members throughout the synod.  
1456

1457 +S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that  
1458 the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing  
1459 the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to  
1460 meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this  
1461 synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this  
1462 synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of  
1463 a congregation of this synod.  
1464

1465 S11.11.01. Knowledge, competence and interest. Prior to each nomination and election cycle, each  
1466 synod program committee shall provide a summary job description for its members and  
1467 prospective members to the Synod Council and the Nominating Committee. The job  
1468 description shall set forth then-appropriate qualifications such as, knowledge, education,  
1469 competence, experience and personal interest pertinent to the committee's functions and  
1470 responsibilities. The Nominating Committee shall on the basis of the needed "education,  
1471 competence, experience and personal interest", provide nominees and list them on the  
1472 assembly ballot under the applicable sub-committee of the program committee to which  
1473 they are to be elected. Upon request, a committee shall provide copies of its minutes to  
1474 the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall utilize the job descriptions  
1475 and may refer to an incumbent's attendance record in slating candidates for election or  
1476 reelection. Each committee chairman shall file the committee's current job description in  
1477 the Appendix to the By-laws.  
1478

1479 **CHAPTER 12.**  
1480 **CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS,**  
1481 **OR OTHER AREA SUBDIVISIONS**

1482

1483 +S12.01. This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions and  
1484 networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and  
1485 entities, as specified in the by-laws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such  
1486 groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among  
1487 congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other affiliates.  
1488

1489 S12.01.01. Conferences.  
1490 Groupings of congregations, under Chapter 12 of the Constitution, are designated as  
1491 "Conferences." The purposes of the conferences are to foster clustering of congregations  
1492 within one conference and with congregations of other conferences, to encourage  
1493 gatherings among congregations for worship, programming, nurture and support and to  
1494 provide monthly meetings of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, and associates in  
1495 ministry of the conference for education, nurturing and fellowship.

1496			
1497	S12.01.A17	The listing of the Number / name / geographic arrangement of conferences shall be	
1498		maintained and up. This synod and its congregations shall comprise six (6) conferences,	
1499		named and located as follows:	
1500		<b>a. Northern Conference</b>	
1501		Bartonville, Bethel	Pekin, Our Savior
1502		Bartonville, St. John	Peoria, First English
1503		Benson, St. Paul	Peoria, Grace and Peace
1504		Canton, Trinity	Peoria, Salem
1505		Chillicothe, St. Mark	Peoria, St. Paul
1506		Ellisville, Wiley	Toluca, St. John
1507		Glasford, St. Peter	Varna, First
1508		Hartsburg, St. John	Washington, Faith
1509		Lacon, St. John	Washington, St. Mark
1510		Lincoln, Immanuel	Wenona, Bethany
1511		Minonk, Immanuel	Wyoming, St. Timothy
1512		Morton, Advent	
1513		Mount Pulaski	
1514		<b>b. Southern Conference</b>	
1515		Anna, Mt. Moriah	Marion, Our Redeemer
1516		Campbell Hill, St. John	Metropolis, Church of the Cross
1517		Campbell Hill, St. Luke	Mt. Carmel, Zion
1518		Carbondale, Epiphany	Mt. Vernon, Prince of Peace
1519		Centralia, Redeemer	Murphysboro, First
1520		Chester, Peace	Olney, Trinity
1521		De Soto, Mt. Calvary	Steeleville, Peace
1522		Jonesboro, Salem	Steeleville, St. Peter
1523		<b>c. East Central Conference</b>	
1524		Champaign, Good Shepherd	Monticello, Christ
1525		Champaign, Grace	Rankin, Grace
1526		Champaign, St. Andrew	Shelbyville, St. Paul
1527		Danville, Bethel	Urbana, St. Matthew
1528		Decatur, First	
1529		Decatur, Holy Cross	
1530		Mahomet, Lutheran Church of Mahomet	
1531		<b>d. West Central Conference</b>	
1532		Altamont, St. Paul	Litchfield, Trinity
1533		Batchtown, Zion	Loogootee, Zion
1534		Belleville, St. Mark	Maryville, Our Lord's
1535		Columbia, Christ Community	Mascoutah, St. Martin of Tours
1536		Dorchester, St. John	Mt. Olive, Zion
1537		Farmersville, Zion	New Douglas, Immanuel
1538		Fillmore, St. Matthew	Nokomis, Mt. Zion
1539		Gillespie, Zion	O'Fallon, Faith
1540		Godfrey, Resurrection	Shipman, Zion
1541		Hillsboro, St. Paul	Springfield, Grace
1542		Hillsboro, Wares Grove	Springfield, Peace
1543		Irving, St. Luke	Springfield, St. John
1544		Jacksonville, Faith	Vandalia, St. James
1545		Litchfield, Mt. Zion	
1546			
1547			
1548			
1549		<b>e. Northeast Conference</b>	
1550		Anchor, St. John	Fairbury, Trinity
1551		Bloomington, St. John	Flanagan, St. Petri
1552		Bourbonnais, American	Forrest, St. Paul

1553		Bradley, Our Savior	Gibson City, American
1554		Chatsworth, St. Paul	Gilman, St. Paul
1555		Chenoa, Trinity	Normal, Our Savior
1556		Clifton, Zion	Pontiac, St. Paul
1557		Colfax, Immanuel	Roberts, St. Paul
1558		Cornell, Community	Sibley, St. John
1559		Crescent City, St. Peter	
1560		Dwight, St. Peter's	
1561		Elliot, Pontoppidan	
1562	<b>f.</b>	<b>Northwest Conference</b>	
1563		Augusta, Faith	Liberty, Zion
1564		Beardstown, First	Macomb, Trinity
1565		Bluff Springs, St. John	Mendon, Salem
1566		Bluffs, St. John	Quincy, Christ
1567		Carthage, Immanuel	Quincy, Luther Memorial
1568		Carthage, Trinity	Virginia, Grace
1569		Coatsburg, St. Peter	
1570		Golden, Immanuel	
1571			
1572	S12.01.03.	Map. The secretary shall file in the Appendix to the by-laws a map showing the geographic arrangement of the conferences of this synod.	
1573			
1574			
1575	S12.01.04.	Amendment of conference geographic arrangements. Any congregation of this synod may, with the permission of the conference assembly of which it is then a member, petition the Synod Council to transfer its membership into a contiguous conference. The Synod Council shall recommend approval or denial of the petition to the Synod Assembly, and the Synod Assembly shall approve or deny the petition as an amendment to these by-laws.	
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1580			
1581	S12.01.05.	Elections by the conferences. Each conference shall select:	
1582		a. Two (2) members of the Synod Council. One (1) of these members shall be the conference dean and the other shall be a lay person. The term of office shall begin after the closing of the Synod Assembly following their selection.	
1583			
1584		b. One (1) member of the Covenant Committee, Mission Support and Stewardship Education, one (1) member of the Global Mission Committee, one (1) member of the Leadership Support Committee, and one (1) member of the Adult Faith Formation Committee. The term of office of each member shall begin after the closing of the Synod Assembly following his or her selection.	
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1589			
1590		c. Officers of the conference, including but not limited to a dean, clergy vice-president, lay vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The term of office of each member shall begin after the closing of the Synod Assembly following his or her election.	
1591			
1592			
1593			
1594	S12.01.06.	Conference dean. Each conference dean shall:	
1595		a. Be the Chief Executive Officer of the Conference.	
1596		b. Be elected by ecclesiastical ballot at the conference assembly. See S9.04 for procedure.	
1597			
1598		c. Be a rostered pastor of the ELCA holding membership in good standing in one of the congregations within the territory of the conference.	
1599			
1600		d. Be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive full terms of three (3) years each. For purposes of this subparagraph, a term of more than one and one-half (1 1/2) years shall be considered to be a full term.	
1601			
1602			
1603		e. Chair the conference assembly and the conference executive committee of which the dean shall be a member.	
1604			
1605		f. Begin his or her term of office to which he or she was elected immediately after the conclusion of the annual Synod Assembly following his or her election.	
1606			
1607		g. Be responsible for arranging the monthly meetings of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, and associates in ministry.	
1608			

- 1609 h. Maintain personal contacts with the ordained ministers, diaconal ministers,  
 1610 deaconesses, and associates in ministry of the conference.  
 1611 i. Be a member of the Synod Council.  
 1612 j. Make an annual written report to the bishop, including a summary of conference  
 1613 activities and advising with respect to the conditions and needs of the congregations  
 1614 within that conference, to be a part of the reports to the Synod Assembly.  
 1615 k. Perform such other duties as the bishop may from time to time assign.  
 1616  
 1617 S12.01.07. Other conference officers. Other conference officers shall include the following persons  
 1618 who shall be voting members of a congregation of that conference and subject to the  
 1619 following provisions:  
 1620 a. A clergy vice-president who shall be a member of the conference executive committee  
 1621 and serve as interim dean of the conference in the event of a vacancy in that office  
 1622 until the next annual conference assembly which then shall elect a dean to fill the  
 1623 unexpired term of office.  
 1624 b. A lay vice-president who shall be a member of the conference executive committee  
 1625 and shall serve as conference coordinator, making the necessary arrangements for  
 1626 annual meetings of the conference assembly.  
 1627 c. A secretary who shall be a member of the conference executive committee and shall  
 1628 have the duties normal to that office both with regard to the conference assembly and  
 1629 the conference executive committee.  
 1630 d. A treasurer who shall be a member of the conference executive committee and shall  
 1631 have the duties normal to that office both with regard to the conference assembly and  
 1632 the conference executive committee.  
 1633 e. Each officer shall be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms of office.  
 1634 The conference shall stagger the initial terms of office for these officers in such manner  
 1635 as to provide for the election of at least one officer at each annual conference  
 1636 assembly.  
 1637 f. Prior to each annual conference assembly, the conference dean shall name a  
 1638 nominating committee, consisting of at least five (5) persons, both clergy and lay, who  
 1639 are members of congregations within the territory of the conference. The committee  
 1640 shall nominate one (1) or more persons for any office, except conference dean, to be  
 1641 elected at the conference assembly. Additional nominations for each office may be  
 1642 made from the floor of the conference assembly.  
 1643  
 1644 S12.01.08. Conference Assembly Voting Member. Unless otherwise decided by a conference  
 1645 assembly, each congregation shall be represented by the same number of voting members  
 1646 to a conference assembly as it has for a Synod Assembly.  
 1647

## 1648 **CHAPTER 13.**

## 1649 **CONGREGATIONS**

- 1650  
 1651 +S13.01. Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran  
 1652 Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the roster of  
 1653 congregations of this synod, shall adopt the *Model Constitution for Congregations* or one  
 1654 acceptable to this synod, that is not in contradiction to the Constitution and By-laws of the  
 1655 ELCA.  
 1656 a. New congregations. A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation  
 1657 seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:  
 1658 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church,  
 1659 fulfill the functions of the congregation and accept the governance provisions as  
 1660 provided in Chapter 9 of the Constitution and Bylaws of this church.  
 1661 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble,  
 1662 Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,  
 1663 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations*  
 1664 consistent with requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws and continuing

1665 resolutions of this church. By-laws and Continuing Resolutions, appropriate for  
1666 inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the  
1667 *Model Constitution for Congregations*, the Constitution of this Synod, or the  
1668 Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran  
1669 Church in America, may be adopted as described in Chapter 16 and 18 of the  
1670 *Model Constitution for Congregations*.

1671 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of this church as stated in  
1672 +C6.01.,+ C6.02., and +C6.03. of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.

1673 b. Congregations from another church body. If a congregation is a member of another  
1674 church body, the leadership of the congregation first should consult with the  
1675 appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current  
1676 church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should contact the  
1677 ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located. The synod bishop or  
1678 synod staff where the transferring or independent congregation is located shall confer  
1679 with the congregation to assure its understanding and acceptance of commitment to  
1680 and affiliation with this church.

1681 c. Recognition and reception. Recognition and reception into this church of transferring  
1682 or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based  
1683 on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and  
1684 Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions  
1685 to the secretary of this church for addition to the roster of congregations.

1686

1687 +S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod to elect from among its  
1688 voting member's laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as  
1689 persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area  
1690 subdivision of which it is a member. Normatively, congregations should hold elections prior  
1691 to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. The number of persons to be elected by  
1692 each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established  
1693 by this synod.

1694

1695 S13.11. When a rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of  
1696 resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

1697

1698 S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its rostered minister shall make satisfactory  
1699 settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

1700

1701 +S13.20. A congregation considering a re-location shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which  
1702 it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any  
1703 steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received  
1704 before any such action is effected.

1705

1706 +S13.21. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for  
1707 worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the  
1708 appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such  
1709 action.

1710

1711 +S13.22. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of  
1712 this Synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall  
1713 establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.

1714

1715 +S13.23. Provision 9.71. of the constitution of this church shall govern the relationship of this synod  
1716 and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod  
1717 may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions  
1718 accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and  
1719 exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission  
1720 and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred,  
1721 encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in

1722 the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall  
1723 revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the  
1724 property to the synod.  
1725

1726 S13.23.01. Property of congregation terminating relationship with this church. Whenever a  
1727 congregation has initiated action to terminate its relationship with this church under 9.62.  
1728 of the ELCA Constitution and has requested either to become independent or to relate to  
1729 a non-Lutheran church body, the synodical process set forth in steps a. through e. of this  
1730 section is established as the required consultation concerning title to property of the  
1731 congregation under 9.71.e. of the ELCA constitution by the Synod Council with the  
1732 congregation prior to the decision by the Synod Council whether or not to approve the  
1733 congregation's request.

1734 a. The congregation shall, after having submitted a certified copy of the resolution to  
1735 terminate its relationship to the bishop and, in the case of congregations which had  
1736 previously been members of the Lutheran Church in America (as constituted prior to  
1737 January 1, 1988), after the termination has been approved by this synod (as required  
1738 for such congregations by Section 9.62. of the ELCA constitution), deliver to the bishop  
1739 a written request stating whether the congregation desires to become independent or  
1740 to relate to a non-Lutheran church body and, if the latter, such request shall identify  
1741 the non-Lutheran church body and describe any and all action the congregation has  
1742 taken or which it intends to take in order to accomplish such relationship.

1743 b. Within thirty (30) days from receipt of such written request from a congregation, the  
1744 bishop shall present the request to the Synod Council.

1745 c. After the Synod Council receives the request, the bishop shall be afforded an  
1746 opportunity by the congregation for a meeting with it, at a mutually-agreed time and  
1747 place, for the purpose of discussing the request. Any members of the congregation  
1748 and any member of the Synod Council may attend and be given voice. However, no  
1749 such meeting shall be held unless and until the pastor or pastors of the congregation  
1750 and at least a majority of members of the congregation council (or, if such body is  
1751 identified by a different designation, by the equivalent congregational authority) are  
1752 also present.

1753 d. Within ten (10) days after the meeting with the congregation, the congregation shall  
1754 deliver to the bishop true, complete and correct copies of all documents, papers, letters  
1755 and records in the possession of the congregation, as may be requested by the bishop  
1756 or by any Synod Council member who attended the meeting, which pertain to the  
1757 requested termination.

1758 e. Within forty-five (45) days after the meeting with the congregation, the bishop shall  
1759 convene a Synod Council meeting for the purpose of making a final determination  
1760 concerning the congregation's request. Any member of the congregation may attend  
1761 such Synod Council meeting and be afforded reasonable time and opportunity to  
1762 address the Synod Council on matters pertaining to the requested termination. The  
1763 Synod Council need not announce its final determination at such meeting, but as soon  
1764 as practicable after the meeting, the Synod Council shall give written notification  
1765 thereof to the congregation by sending copies of the final determination to the pastor  
1766 or pastors, to each member of the congregation council (or equivalent authority), and  
1767 to the secretary of the congregation. The Synod Council, in its sole discretion, may  
1768 decide whether or not it would be appropriate or desirable for the notification to set  
1769 forth the basis or reason for the final determination.

1770  
1771 S13.24. The Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control  
1772 of the property of a congregation of this synod to hold, manage, and convey the same on  
1773 behalf of this synod, if any of the following apply:

1774 a. The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as  
1775 a congregation.

1776 b. The congregation has abandoned its property.

1777 c. The remaining members of the congregation decide that it is no longer possible to  
1778 function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance.



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- d. The Synod Council determines that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance or that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized.
  - e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration.  
The congregation shall have the right to appeal any such decision to the next Synod Assembly.
- 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.
- S13.30 Discipline
- +S13.31. Congregations and members of congregations are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The synod's involvement in and responsibility for such disciplinary processes shall be set forth in that chapter.
- S13.40. Synod-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.

## **CHAPTER 14.**

### **Rostered Ministers**

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- S14.10 Ministers of Word and Sacrament**
- +S14.11. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry is this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.
- +S14.12. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
    - 1) preach the Word;
    - 2) administer the sacraments;
    - 3) conduct public worship;
    - 4) provide pastoral care; and
    - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
    - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through available channels of effective communication;
    - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and
    - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.
  - b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation shall:
    - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
    - 2) supervise relate to all schools and organizations of the congregation;
    - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
    - 4) with the council, administer discipline.

- 1834 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to work of the  
1835 churchwide organization and of this synod; and  
1836 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in  
1837 the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran*  
1838 *Church in America.*  
1839
- 1840 S14.13. The pastor shall:  
1841 a. keep accurate records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials,  
1842 communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from  
1843 the congregation,  
1844 b. shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and  
1845 c. shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the Letter  
1846 of Call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one  
1847 of the congregations.  
1848
- 1849 S14.14. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at  
1850 its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon  
1851 their consent, to the pastoral care of a congregation nearer to their place of residence.  
1852
- 1853 S14.15. Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of  
1854 ministry to the bishop of the synod at least ninety (90) days prior to each regular meeting  
1855 of the Synod Assembly.  
1856
- 1857 +S14.16. When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ministry  
1858 of Word and Sacrament of this church:  
1859 a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking  
1860 any step leading to the extending of a call to a prospective pastor.  
1861 b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or candidate by a congregation of this synod  
1862 in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.41., a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be  
1863 required of voting members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting  
1864 regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.  
1865 c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a pastor, the Letter of Call shall be  
1866 submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.  
1867
- 1868 S14.17. No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the  
1869 bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of  
1870 acceptance or declination to a Letter of Call within thirty (30) days of receipt of such call.  
1871 In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the  
1872 president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional  
1873 fifteen (15) days may be granted to respond to a Letter of Call.  
1874
- 1875 +S14.18. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and  
1876 Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:  
1877 a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing  
1878 mutual relationship and commitment which, shall be terminated only by the pastor's  
1879 death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:  
1880 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific  
1881 term;  
1882 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed,  
1883 no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;  
1884 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of  
1885 local conditions;  
1886 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of disability or incapacity  
1887 of the pastor;  
1888 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;

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- 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
  - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
  - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
  - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the pastor under paragraph s.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
    - 1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may, investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson; or
    - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the congregation council, or by a petition signed by a least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
  - c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
  - d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by this synod.
  - e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
  - f. If, in the course of proceedings described paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- S14.13.01. Charges against and discipline of ordained ministers. Any charge against an ordained minister on the roster of this synod which could lead to disciplinary action against the minister involves this church and this synod. The procedural and substantive aspects attending presentation and disposition of such charges - including participation by the Consultation Committee, the Committee on Discipline and the Committee on Appeals - or matters jointly exercised by this church and this synod, as provided and prescribed in sections 20.11, 20.12, 20.13, 20.14, 20.15, 20.16, 20.20, of the ELCA Constitution, and its pertinent ELCA By-laws, +S14.13 of the Synod Constitution and these By-laws.
- S14.13.02. Investigation Committee. The special committee described in S14.13.b. shall comprise, in addition to the bishop, persons who, generally, have eligibility, qualifications as provided in the first sentence of S11.01.09. Synod Council members may be appointed, and one of the ordained ministers of the special committee may be a pastor of the same conference

1946		as the pastor involved in the case. However, no person who is a member of (a) the
1947		congregation involved in the case, (b) the Consultation Committee, (c) the Committee on
1948		Discipline or (d) any other unit of this church pertaining to consultation, discipline, appeals
1949		or adjudication is eligible to serve on the special committee.
1950		
1951	S14.13.03.	Non-disciplinary termination of call where effective function of Congregation is not
1952		imperiled. In the context of this paragraph, "Congregation" includes an organization to
1953		which the pastor is under call, and the participation by the congregation in the consultation
1954		described in this paragraph shall be by at least one of the offices of the organization other
1955		than such pastor. If a congregation seeks to terminate the call of a pastor under call to it in
1956		circumstances which do not (a) anticipate discipline, (b) involve the physical or mental
1957		capacity of the pastor, or (c) amount to local difficulties which imperil effective function of
1958		the congregation, and if the pastor declines to resign or to agree to the termination, the
1959		matter shall be processed in the same manner as provided in S14.13.d. The basis for any
1960		dismissal of a pastor pursuant to this paragraph shall be inability to conduct the pastoral
1961		office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions and circumstances without
1962		reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor. Any such
1963		dismissal shall include and be conditioned upon settlement and adjustment of outstanding
1964		obligations, if any, between the congregation and the dismissed pastor.
1965		
1966	+S14.19	Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations
1967		which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited
1968		to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in
1969		consultation with the Congregation Council.
1970		
1971	+S14.21.	The records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members
1972		received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or
1973		members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They
1974		shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation,
1975		such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall
1976		attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in the secretary's
1977		hands in good order by a departing pastor before:
1978		a. installation in another call, or
1979		b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
1980		
1981	+S 14.22.	The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former
1982		congregation before:
1983		a. installation in another call, or
1984		b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
1985		
1986	+S14.23.	During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the
1987		congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part
1988		to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor
1989		and any rostered minister who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the
1990		selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the
1991		bishop of this synod that the congregation records, for the period for which the interim
1992		pastor was responsible, are in order.
1993		
1994	+S14.24.	With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear
1995		statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of
1996		permanency of the call as expressed in +S14.18., a congregation may call a pastor for a
1997		specific term of years. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and
1998		conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a
1999		representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the
2000		congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration
2001		in accordance with the provisions of +S14.18.
2002		

2003	S14.25.	All ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.
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2007	<b>S14.30.</b>	<b>Ministers of Word and Service</b>
2008		The time and place of the consecration of those persons properly called to congregations or non-congregational service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.
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2010		
2011	+S14.31	The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ministry in this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.
2012		
2013		
2014	+S14.32.	Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:
2015		a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
2016		b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
2017		c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;
2018		d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
2019		e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
2020		f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
2021		g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
2022		h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
2023		i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.
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2033	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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2037	S14.34.	Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
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2041	+S14.41.	When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:
2042		a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.
2043		b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
2044		c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
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2054	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 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.
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+S14.43.

- The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
    - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
    - 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
    - 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
    - 4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
    - 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;
    - 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;
    - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
    - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
    - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
  - b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
    - 1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
    - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
  - c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
  - d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
  - e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a

- 2117 majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the  
 2118 committee recommended termination of the call.
- 2119 f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the  
 2120 bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the  
 2121 committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance  
 2122 with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.  
 2123
- 2124 +S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations  
 2125 which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited  
 2126 to do so by the Congregation Council.  
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- 2128 +S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial  
 2129 obligations to a former congregation before:  
 2130 a. installation in another call, or  
 2131 b. approval of a request for change in roster status.  
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- 2133 +S14.46. With the approval of the synod bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear  
 2134 statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of  
 2135 permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of  
 2136 Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth  
 2137 the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this  
 2138 synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service  
 2139 and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be  
 2140 terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.  
 2141
- 2142 S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod  
 2143 Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the  
 2144 meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the  
 2145 congregation belongs.  
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2148 **CHAPTER 15.**  
 2149 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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- 2151 +S15.01. The fiscal year of this synod shall be February 1 through January 31.  
 2152
- 2153 +S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent  
 2154 expressions that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop,  
 2155 implement, and strengthen the financial support of the whole church. The gifts and offerings  
 2156 of the members of ELCA are given to support all parts of this church; thus the unity of this  
 2157 church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings.  
 2158 Therefore:  
 2159 a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by such a  
 2160 proportionate share of each congregation's annual budget as each congregation  
 2161 determines. This synod shall develop guidelines for determining "proportionate share,"  
 2162 and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its  
 2163 determination.  
 2164 b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its  
 2165 congregations, and shall transmit that percentage or amount of each congregation's  
 2166 mission support as determined in consultation with the churchwide organization and  
 2167 approved by the Synod Assembly as part of its budget consideration.  
 2168 c. Should the Synod Assembly not approve the proportionate share of mission support  
 2169 determined in consultation with the churchwide organization, a new consultation with  
 2170 the churchwide organization shall take place. The Synod Council is authorized to  
 2171 amend the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly to reflect the results of this  
 2172 consultation.

2173  
2174 +S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its  
2175 commitment to supportive funding with other synods and the churchwide organization.  
2176  
2177 S15.13. On the basis of estimated income, the Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within  
2178 the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in  
2179 light of changing conditions, by the Synod Council.  
2180  
2181 S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to  
2182 no more than 16% of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for  
2183 regular distribution to synod causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in  
2184 the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such  
2185 causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod  
2186 Council.  
2187  
2188 S15.21. No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2189 in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by organizations or other  
2190 congregations relating to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod  
2191 Assembly or the Synod Council.  
2192  
2193 S15.21.01. Congregations. For purpose of S15.21. persons acting together for a common purpose on  
2194 behalf of one or more congregations, even if without formal structure, may be deemed to  
2195 be one or more congregations.  
2196  
2197 S15.21.02. Fund-raising. Except as the by-laws may otherwise provide, consent to an appeal for the  
2198 raising of funds by one or more congregations or organizations relating to or affiliated with  
2199 this synod shall be based upon an application for such consent. Such applications and their  
2200 disposition shall be processed according to these provisions:  
2201 a. Each application shall be in writing and addressed to the Synod Council, identify all  
2202 congregations or organizations making it, describe the purpose and scope of the  
2203 proposed appeal, and include all supporting information the applicant believes  
2204 pertinent.  
2205 b. The Synod Council need not entertain, and may deny summarily, an application from  
2206 a congregation not current in fulfilling its obligations under Chapter 15 of this  
2207 constitution or from an organization not fulfilling its affiliation to or relationship with the  
2208 synod.  
2209 c. Before the Synod Council deems an application complete, it shall, in its discretion have  
2210 a reasonable opportunity to ask the applicant for additional information, and the  
2211 applicant shall have a reasonable time to reply.  
2212 d. Within one hundred eighty (180) days after the Synod Council deems the application  
2213 to be complete, it shall act on it, giving written notice of the action to the applicant.  
2214 Such action, in the Synod Council's discretion, may include any of the following:  
2215 1) consent or conditional consent, on behalf of the synod, for the fund appeal.  
2216 2) denial of consent which may, but need not, include one or more particular reasons  
2217 for the denial.  
2218 3) referral of the application, with or without recommendation, to the next Synod  
2219 Assembly meeting.  
2220 e. The Synod Council's disposition of the application shall be final and may not be  
2221 appealed or reviewed by the Synod Assembly, except when the application is referred  
2222 by the Synod Council to the Synod Assembly, in which case it may be disposed of in  
2223 any manner that the Synod Assembly in its discretion deems appropriate.  
2224 f. Consent by this synod under S15.21. is not applicable to and not required for:  
2225 1) reasonable funding of conference activities by congregations pursuant to Chapter  
2226 12 of the Constitution.  
2227 2) funding of a specific educational, charitable or benevolence project within the  
2228 Statement of Purpose of this church by a congregation provided the congregation



- 2229 a) throughout the period of funding is current in fulfilling its obligations under  
 2230 Chapter 15 of this constitution and  
 2231 b) has invited a proposal for such funding.  
 2232 3) funding of a specific joint educational, charitable or benevolence project within the  
 2233 Statement of Purpose of this church by or on the part of several congregations  
 2234 provided  
 2235 a) each congregation is current in fulfilling its obligations under Chapter 15 of this  
 2236 constitution and  
 2237 b) the funds for such activities and projects is provided by all or some of such  
 2238 congregations.  
 2239

2240 +S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a  
 2241 certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved  
 2242 by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod  
 2243 to the Churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod.  
 2244

2245 +S15.32. This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with  
 2246 standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or  
 2247 endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.  
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2249 **CHAPTER 16.**  
 2250 **INDEMNIFICATION**  
 2251

2252 +S16.01. Subject to the limitations and duties imposed by law, each person who is or was made or  
 2253 threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the present or former  
 2254 capacity of that person as a Synod Council member, officer, employee, or committee  
 2255 member of this synod shall be indemnified against all costs and expenses incurred by that  
 2256 person in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification of any person by reason of that  
 2257 person's capacity as a director, officer, employee, or committee member of any other  
 2258 organization, regardless of its form or relationship to this synod, is subject to the provisions  
 2259 of †S16.02.

2260 a. The term "proceeding" means a threatened, pending, or completed lawsuit, whether  
 2261 civil or criminal, an administrative or investigative matter, arbitration, mediation,  
 2262 alternative dispute resolution, or any other similar legal or governmental action. Except  
 2263 as otherwise required by law, the term "proceeding" does not include (a) any action by  
 2264 this synod against the individual seeking indemnification, or (b) subject to †S16.04., a  
 2265 disciplinary hearing or related process described in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution,*  
 2266 *Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

2267 b. The term "indemnification" includes reimbursement and advances of costs and  
 2268 expenses for judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes, reasonable  
 2269 attorneys' fees, disbursements, and similar required expenditures.  
 2270

2271 +S16.02. Whenever a person who, while a Synod Council member, officer, committee member, or  
 2272 employee of this synod, is or was serving at the request of this synod as (or whose duties  
 2273 in that position involve or involved service in the capacity of) a director, officer, partner,  
 2274 trustee, employee, or agent of another organization, is or was made or threatened to be  
 2275 made a party to a proceeding by reason of such capacity, then such person shall not be  
 2276 entitled to indemnification unless (a) the Synod Council has established a process for  
 2277 determining whether a person serving in the capacity described in this section shall be  
 2278 entitled to indemnification in any specific case, and (b) that process has been applied in  
 2279 making a specific determination that such person is entitled to indemnification.  
 2280

2281 +S16.03. This synod may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of itself or any person entitled  
 2282 to indemnification pursuant to this chapter against any liability asserted against and

2283 incurred by this synod or by such other person in or arising from a capacity described in  
 2284 †S16.01. or †S16.02.  
 2285  
 2286 +S16.04. When written charges against a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary  
 2287 proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of*  
 2288 *the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by the synod bishop or written charges against  
 2289 a congregation are made by the Synod Council or the synod bishop, and the discipline  
 2290 hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, and such determination  
 2291 is not reversed or set aside if an appeal is taken, then indemnification shall be made by the  
 2292 synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses  
 2293 related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such  
 2294 fees and expenses shall be made by the Synod Council.  
 2295

2296 **CHAPTER 17.**  
 2297 **CONSULTATION AND ADJUDICATION**

2298  
 2299 +S17.01. The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to  
 2300 give counsel when disputes arise within this synod.  
 2301

2302 +S17.02. The synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive  
 2303 expressions of concern from rostered ministers of this church, congregations, and  
 2304 organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek  
 2305 to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations  
 2306 for their resolution. When a concern relates directly to the synod bishop, the synod vice  
 2307 president will lead the Executive Committee's efforts at resolving the matter. When the  
 2308 matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, the applicable procedures for  
 2309 investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges  
 2310 that could lead to the discipline of a rostered minister of this church shall not be addressed  
 2311 by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth  
 2312 in the *Constitution, By-laws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran*  
 2313 *Church in America*.  
 2314

2315 +S17.03. When there is disagreement between or among congregations of this synod on a  
 2316 substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the council of an affected  
 2317 congregation may petition the synod bishop for a consultation after informing the other  
 2318 affected congregation(s) of its intent to do so. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue,  
 2319 the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall  
 2320 undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts  
 2321 fail to resolve the issue(s), the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for  
 2322 adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The decision of the Synod  
 2323 Council shall be final.  
 2324

2325 +S17.04. When conferences, clusters, coalitions, or area subdivisions of this synod have a  
 2326 disagreement on a substantive issue they cannot resolve, the aggrieved party or parties  
 2327 may petition the synod bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council  
 2328 requesting a consultation after informing the other affected parties of their intent to do so.  
 2329 In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that, upon the  
 2330 motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod  
 2331 Council for final action.  
 2332

2333 17.10 Adjudication in the Congregation

2334  
 2335 +S17.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within a congregation on a  
 2336 substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of the congregation  
 2337 may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of the  
 2338 Congregational Council of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely

2339 resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin  
2340 the process in +S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve  
2341 the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod,  
2342 which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation  
2343 Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the  
2344 Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The  
2345 Synod Council's decision shall be final.  
2346

## 2347 **CHAPTER 18.**

### 2348 **AMENDMENTS, BY-LAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**

- 2349 +S18.10. Amendments to Constitution.
- 2350  
2351
- 2352 +S18.11. Certain sections of this Constitution incorporate and record therein provisions of the  
2353 constitution and by-laws of this church. If such provisions are amended by this church,  
2354 corresponding amendments shall be introduced at once into this constitution by the  
2355 secretary of this synod upon receipt of formal certification thereof from the secretary of the  
2356 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
2357
- 2358 +S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs  
2359 this Synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the Constitution for Synods, this  
2360 constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any  
2361 subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod  
2362 Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the Constitution for Synods  
2363 shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council,  
2364 through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.  
2365
- 2366 +S18.13. Other amendments to this Constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the  
2367 following procedures:  
2368 a. Introduced with the support of at least 35 voting members and having been approved  
2369 by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a regular meeting of  
2370 the Synod Assembly, an amendment may be adopted unchanged by a two-thirds vote  
2371 at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.  
2372  
2373 b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the  
2374 congregations of this synod at least six (6) months prior to the next regular meeting of  
2375 the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds (2/3)  
2376 vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of this Synod  
2377 Assembly.  
2378 All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly  
2379 or by the Church Council.  
2380
- 2381 +S18.20. Amendments to By-laws
- 2382
- 2383 +S18.21. This synod may adopt By-laws not in conflict with this constitution or with the Constitution  
2384 and By-laws of this church. This Synod may amend its by-laws at any meeting of the Synod  
2385 Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting.  
2386 Newly adopted by- laws and amendments to existing by-laws shall be reported to the  
2387 secretary of this church.  
2388
- 2389 +S18.30. Amendments to Continuing Resolutions
- 2390
- 2391 +S18.31. This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its by-  
2392 laws or its by-laws or the constitution, by-laws, and continuing resolutions of the  
2393 churchwide organization. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a  
2394 majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Synod Council.

2395 Newly-adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing Continuing Resolutions  
2396 shall be reported to the secretary of this church.  
2397

2398 **CHAPTER 19.**  
2399 **APPENDIX**

2400  
2401 S19.01.01. The secretary shall maintain the Appendix of these by-laws, and an up-to-date copy shall  
2402 be kept at the synod office. Where the by-laws require the Synod Council or a committee  
2403 of the synod to file documentary material in the Appendix, the secretary or the committee  
2404 chairperson, respectively shall be responsible for the filing. The people of the synod shall  
2405 have unrestricted access to the contents of the Appendix. The Secretary may make  
2406 regulations for orderly access such as requirements for an appointment at a specific time  
2407 for access and reasonable allowance of time for access. Documents currently required to  
2408 be in the Appendix shall not be removed, but the synod office, upon request by a person  
2409 visiting the office and for a reasonable charge, may make a copy of any such document.  
2410

2411  
2412  
2413  
2414

2415 **Action by the Synod Council prior to Assembly Registration**

2416  
2417 January 2023...Synod Assembly Voting Membership Formula

2418 **LAY VOTING MEMBERS**

2419 Each congregation is entitled to two (2) lay voting members (one male and one female). Larger  
2420 congregations that qualify for additional voting members shall elect/choose equally male and female  
2421 members.

2422 **NOTE ... In addition...**

2423 to the minimum number of lay delegates to the assembly, each congregation may include as a voting  
2424 member a youth or young adult age 21 or younger who is a voting member of that respective  
2425 congregation.

2426 **CHART FOR ADDITIONAL VOTING MEMBERS**

2427 Baptized membership as of December 31, 2022

- 2428 ♦ 500-1000...1 additional member...male or female
- 2429 ♦ 1001-1500...2 additional members...one male and one female
- 2430 ♦ 1501-2000...3 additional members...one male, one female, one either male or female
- 2431 ♦ 2001-2500...4 additional members...two male and two female
- 2432 ♦ 2501-3001...5 additional members...two male, two female, one either male or female

2433  
2434  
2435

2436 **Resolution 2017.05**

2437  
2438 Title Inclusion of All Rostered Ministers as Voting Members of the Synod Assembly

2439 Moved Rev. Philip D. Lund, retired

2440 Seconded Rev. James R. Lillie, retired

2441 **VOTED:** Motion carried.

2442 SA17.06.05 To approve Resolution 05.2017 Yes – 207, No – 32, Abstain - 0

2443  
2444 WHEREAS the 2017 Central/Southern Illinois Synod (C/SIS) Synod Assembly adopted constitutional  
2445 changes including changes to S7.22, regarding rostered ministers designated as disabled  
2446 or on leave from call, and

2447 WHEREAS the C/SIS has made provision already for retired rostered ministers to participate as voting  
2448 members of the Synod Assembly, and

2449 WHEREAS the only rostered ministers now excluded from voting membership at a C/SIS Synod  
2450 Assembly are those designated as disabled or on-leave-from-call, therefore be it,

2451 RESOLVED that this synod establish processes that permit rostered ministers designated as disabled  
2452 or on-leave from call as voting members of the Synod Assembly; and be it further

2453 RESOLVED that the Synod Council be charged with establishing such procedures beginning with the  
2454 2018 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

2455  
2456

2457 **RESOLUTION 2014.02**

2458  
2459 **Title Synod Assembly Location**

2460 Mover Rev. Paul M. Thomas, Trinity Lutheran Church, Macomb

2461 Seconded Rev. Paul Schwartzkopf, retired

2462  
2463 **VOTED:** Motion carried.

2464 SA14.06.09 **To call** the question.

2465  
2466 *As to Resolution 02.2014*

2467 **VOTED:** Motion carried.

2468 SA14.06.10 **To approve** Resolution 02.2014

2469  
2470 WHEREAS C/SIS Resolution 89-13 *“Therefore be it resolved that Springfield, IL, be the Annual*  
2471 *Assembly Site until such time that the Assembly decides otherwise,”* stipulates that  
2472 Springfield, IL, be the Annual Assembly Site until such time that the Assembly decides  
2473 otherwise; and

2474 WHEREAS a site outside of Springfield, IL may be a preferred site for an Assembly of this synod in any  
2475 given year; and  
2476 WHEREAS action by the Assembly of the C/SIS is required to provide the flexibility to consider a site  
2477 outside of Springfield, IL for an Assembly;  
2478 THEREFORE BE IT  
2479 RESOLVED that the restriction to Springfield, IL set forth in C/SIS Resolution 89-13, as the Annual  
2480 Assembly Site is removed.  
2481  
2482

### **Resolution 2013.01**

2483 Title Extending Voice and Vote at Synod Assembly to On Leave from Call Pastors  
2484 Serving as Interim Pastors  
2485  
2486 Mover Synod Council  
2487  
2488 Second None needed.  
2489

2490 As to original Resolution

2491 **VOTED:** Motion carried.  
2492 SA13.06.17 **To approve** Resolution 2013.01  
2493

2494 WHEREAS the constitution of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod provides that this synod may  
2495 establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses,  
2496 and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call on the roster of this synod to serve as  
2497 voting members of the Synod Assembly, as long as the establishing of such does not  
2498 conflict with any other constitutional provision regarding voting members of the Synod  
2499 Assembly (S7.22); and

2500 WHEREAS ordained ministers who are on leave from call may be appointed by the bishop, with the  
2501 consent of the congregation or the Congregational Council, to be congregation's interim  
2502 pastor (\*C9.06); and

2503 WHEREAS during the period of service as an interim pastor, the interim pastor shall have the rights  
2504 and duties in the congregational of a regularly called pastor (\*C9.07);

2505 THEREFORE BE IT

2506 RESOLVED that ordained ministers who are on leave from call on the roster of this synod and who are  
2507 serving as the bishop's appointed interim pastor in a congregation at the time of the annual  
2508 Synod Assembly be permitted to serve as voting members of that Synod Assembly,  
2509 beginning with the 2014 Synod Assembly.  
2510