

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C. SYNOD**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Proposed Amendments to Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions

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

1. Modify S7.13.A14. to read as follows:

*S7.13.A~~14~~21* All recommendations and resolutions of units of this synod, the Synod Council, as well as those from affiliated or related agencies of this synod, upon which Synod Assembly action is requested shall be submitted to the ~~Secretary~~ secretary of the ~~Synod~~ synod no later than March 1, or 60 days before the opening of the assembly.

2. Modify S7.13.B14. to read as follows:

*S7.13.B~~14~~21* Resolutions may be received from voting members to the assembly, congregation councils, tables, teams, and affiliated agencies and institutions. Conferences may present resolutions through the signature of delegates, ~~clergy~~ rostered ministers or lay, or through congregation councils.

3. Modify S7.21.02. to read as follows:

S7.21.02. Congregations with a baptized membership which consists of at least ~~10%~~ percent persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English will be entitled to one additional member. That member will be a person of color or whose primary language is other than English.

4. Modify ~~S~~**7.22.** to read as follows:

**S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those ~~designated as disabled~~ granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †**S7.21.c**. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

5. Modify ~~S~~**7.26.** to read as follows:

**S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~congregations under development and~~ authorized worshipping communities of the synod, under ELCA bylaw 10.~~02-0301.04.~~, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †**S7.21**.

6. Modify ~~S~~**8.14.** to read as follows:

**S8.14.** The ~~synodical~~ synod bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

7. Modify S8.21.01. to read as follows:

S8.21.01. The vice president ~~will~~ shall serve as a member *ex officio* of all Churchwide Assemblies.

8. Modify **S9.04.** to read as follows:

**S9.04.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60% percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.

9. Renumber S10.07.01. as S10.08.01.

10. Renumber S10.07.02. through S10.07.10. as S10.07.01. through S10.07.09., respectively.

11. Modify S10.07.03. (formerly S10.07.04.) as follows:

S10.07.03. The representatives from the conferences and the members elected at large shall be elected for a term of two years and are eligible for two full successive terms. Terms of office shall be staggered so that terms of one half of the ~~clergy~~ representatives who are ministers of Word and Sacrament and the terms of one half of the lay representatives shall expire each year. Within each conference, the ~~clergy and lay~~ terms for ministers of Word and Sacrament and laypersons shall expire in alternate years. The terms of one half of the at large members shall expire each year.

12. Add a new **S10.08.** to read as follows:

**S10.08.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.

13. Modify S11.01.03. to read as follows:

S11.01.03. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the ~~Synod Council~~, organizational units, and official business meetings of the conferences.

14. Modify S11.01.15. to read as follows:

S11.01.15. There shall be a Stewardship and Mission Support Table, which shall assist congregations in their ongoing stewardship ministries that make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ, and shall provide leadership in developing a unified mission funding strategy for all synodical, churchwide, and cooperative ministries. This table shall communicate and interpret the mission work of this **synod**, and shall oversee Gifts of Hope. This table shall be accountable to the bishop and to the Synod Council.

15. Modify S12.01.06.d. to read as follows:

d. Encourage collegiality and clustering among the ministers of Word and Sacrament, **ministers of Word and Service**, and congregations on an inter conference level.

16. Modify **S13.25.** to read as follows:

**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.**

17. Modify **S13.40.** to read as follows:

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

18. Delete S14.12.06., which previously read as follows:

S14.12.05. Following the acceptance of a letter of call from a congregation and the pastor's installation into the pastoral office of that congregation, the pastor shall become a member of that congregation. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

19. Modify **S14.14.** to read as follows:

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

20. Modify **S14.17.** to read as follows:

**S14.17.** No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances, with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the **chair**

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

21. Modify **S14.42.** to read as follows:

**S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the **chair president** of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

22. Add a new S15.13.06. to read as follows:

S15.13.06. The Synod Council may incur obligations for expenditures in excess of the aggregate amount of expenditures provided for in the budget without the approval of the Synod Assembly if the amount of the expenditure, when added to the expenditures previously authorized by the Synod Council under the authority of this S15.13.06. for the same year, does not exceed five percent of the aggregate amount of expenditures provided for in the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly, and the Synod Council shall have approved the expenditure by a three-fourths vote of the voting members present at a regular or special meeting.

23. Delete **S15.14.**, which previously read as follows:

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

Kevin D. Anderson, Secretary  
December 2020