

**NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**CONSTITUTION,
BYLAWS,
AND
CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**

As adopted by the Constituting Convention
of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(June 11-13, 1987)

and

as amended by the
First (1988), Second (1989), Third (1990),
Fourth (1991), Fifth (1992), Sixth (1993),
Eighth (1995), Ninth (1996), Tenth (1997),
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Synod Assemblies of the
Northwestern Minnesota Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- †S1.01. The name of this synod shall be the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S1.02. For the purposes of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as “this synod” or “the synod.”
- †S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.
- †S1.21. The seal of this synod shall be the seal of the ELCA, Northwestern Minnesota will appear underneath the seal.

Chapter 2.

STATUS

- †S2.01. This synod possesses the powers conferred upon it, and accepts the duties and responsibilities assigned to it, in the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or “this church”), which are recognized as having governing force in the life of this synod.
- †S2.02. No provision of this constitution shall be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of this church.

Chapter 3.

TERRITORY

- †S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be: Northwestern Minnesota, the counties of Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, Todd, Traverse, Wadena and Wilkin in the state of MINNESOTA.
- †S3.02. “Determined by the Churchwide Assembly,” as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.11 and 10.02.02.

Chapter 4.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

- †S4.01. This synod confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- †S4.02. This synod confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
- a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
 - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
- †S4.03. This synod accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- †S4.04. This synod accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this synod.
- †S4.05. This synod accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- †S4.06. This synod accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- †S4.07. This synod confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 5.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- †S5.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this synod are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- †S5.02. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

Chapter 6.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- †S6.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- †S6.02. To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
- a. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
 - b. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
 - c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
 - d. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
 - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
 - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ

and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

- †S6.03. To fulfill these purposes, this synod, in partnership with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in the territory of this synod. In fulfillment of this role, this synod shall:
- a. Provide for the pastoral care of congregations, ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church in this synod, including:
 - 1) approving candidates for the ordained ministry in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synodical committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining on behalf of this church;
 - 3) approving associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church, which may be done through multi-synodical committees;
 - 4) authorizing the commissioning of associates in ministry, the consecration of deaconesses, and the consecration of diaconal ministers of this church; and
 - 5) consulting in the calling process for ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers.
 - b. Provide for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:
 - 1) nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;
 - 2) seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church;
 - 3) making provision for pastoral care, call or appointment review, and guidance;
 - 4) encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and
 - 5) supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organization.
 - c. Provide for discipline of congregations, ordained ministers, and persons on the official lay rosters; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with the procedures established by this church in Chapter 20 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.

- d. Foster organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities.
- e. Plan for the mission of this church in this synod, initiating and developing policy and implementing programs, consistent with churchwide policy, including:
 - 1) ecumenical guidance and encouragement;
 - 2) development of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;
 - 3) leadership and encouragement of congregations in their evangelism efforts;
 - 4) development of relationships to and participation in planning for the mission of social ministry organizations and ministries;
 - 5) encouragement of financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;
 - 6) provision for resources for congregational life;
 - 7) assistance to the members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world; and
 - 8) interpretation of social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide unit which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues through (a) Synod Assembly memorials to the Churchwide Assembly or (b) resolutions for referral from the Synod Assembly through the Synod Council to the Church Council and (c) Synod Council resolutions addressed to the Church Council or for referral to a unit of the churchwide organization through the Church Council's Executive Committee.
- f. Promote interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and enter into partnership with other synods in the region.
- g. Participate in churchwide programs and develop support for the ministry of the churchwide organization.
- h. Foster the grouping of congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.
- i. Support relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries.

- j. Foster relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of social ministry organizations.
 - k. Maintain relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers.
 - l. Foster supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries.
 - m. Foster supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of this synod.
 - n. Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public.
 - o. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
 - p. Provide for archives in conjunction with other synods.
 - q. Cooperate with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of this synod which can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.
 - r. Elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and according to procedures specified in the bylaws of this constitution.
- S6.03.A02 Nominations for churchwide assembly voting members from this Synod shall be made by Conference Gatherings at a Gathering held in the first six months preceding the Synod Assembly at which the voting members are to be elected.
- S6.03.B02 The number of nominations and the position to be nominated shall be determined by the Synod Council after it has received notification from secretary of the number of churchwide voting members allotted to the synod.
- S6.03.C02 The Synod Council shall allot positions to each Conference in such a way that
- a. the nominations comply with †S6.04. and †S6.04.A87. and any other requirements of the constitutions, bylaws, continuing resolutions, and regulations governing representation at the churchwide assembly;
 - b. classes establish in †S6.04. and †S6.04.A87. rotate biannually from conference to conference.
 - c. if necessary to comply with †S6.04. and †S6.04.A87, the Synod Council may determine some nominations for the churchwide assembly may be made at large.
 - d. one position shall be reserved for a churchwide voting member under the age of 20

nominated by the Lutheran Youth Organization subject to S6.03.D02.

e. the Synod Vice President shall be an automatic nomination to one of the positions.

S6.03.D02 Nominations may also be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly but nominees must fit the classification of voting member as previously determined by the Synod Council.

S6.03.E02 At the time of nomination, the nominator must have the permission of the nominee to place nominee's name in nomination and the assurance by the nominee that the nominee will make every effort to attend the churchwide gathering.

†S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be female and 50 percent shall be male; and that, where possible, the representation of ordained ministers shall be both male and female. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

†S6.04.A01. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

†S6.05. Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any synodical units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.

Chapter 7.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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

†S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least biennially.

- S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.
 - b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the bishop of the ELCA in cooperation with the Synod Council.
- S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.
- S7.14. One-half of members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- †S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:
- a. All ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
 - b. All associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers, under call, on the official lay rosters of this synod shall have both voice and vote as lay voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item †S7.21.c.
 - c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation shall be equally divided between male and female.
- S7.21.A03 Voting members from congregations shall be as follows:
- a. Congregations with 175 or less baptized members may have 2 voting members, but will be considered to have full representation if they have only 1 voting member.
 - b. Congregations with 176-750 baptized members shall have two voting members.
 - c. Congregations with more than 751 baptized members shall have one additional voting member

for each 500 baptized members over 751.

- d. Voting members from each congregation shall be equally, divided between males and females. In those cases where the voting members are an uneven number, the difference between males and females shall be no more than one.
- d. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.

S7.21.01. In addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item †S7.21.c, the Synod Council may authorize ELCA members serving as Synodically Authorized Ministers within this synod to serve as voting lay members of the Synod Assembly consistent with †S7.21.

S7.22. The Synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above.

S7.22.01. All retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.

S7.23. All ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call or retired, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call or retired, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call or retired, who are not elected as members, all of whose names appear the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

S7.24. Ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the roster of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†S7.25. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

- S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of authorized worshipping communities of the synod, under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. Such authorized worshipping communities, acknowledged under criteria and procedures of the ELCA Division for Outreach and 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.
- S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant an ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this church.
- S7.28. Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under †S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.
- †S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.
- S7.32. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.
- S7.33. "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.
- S7.33.01. The Synod Council, in consultation with the bishop, may establish a process for receiving and acting upon resolutions submitted in advance of the Synod Assembly, reporting on such resolutions during its regular report to the Assembly. The Synod Council may recommend a complementary process for dealing with resolutions presented during the Assembly.
- S7.33.A91. Prior to the Assembly, resolutions may be submitted to the Synod Council or its designee by Congregation Councils, Synod Assembly voting members, Conferences, and Standing Committees. Members of congregations who do not have membership in one of those entities may introduce resolutions through persons who do have such membership. The Synod Council will report on such resolutions in the regular pre-Assembly mailing to Assembly voting members. During the Assembly, resolutions may be submitted only by voting members.

Chapter 8.

OFFICERS

†S8.01. The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

S8.10. Bishop

†S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a pastor who is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
- b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ordained ministers, and other rostered leaders.
- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ordained ministry (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- d. Commission (or provide for the commissioning of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as associates in ministry, consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as deaconesses and consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as diaconal ministers of this church.
- e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in this synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons called by the Church Council on the rosters of this synod.
- f. Install (or provide for the installation of):
 - 1) the pastors of all congregations of this synod;
 - 2) ordained ministers called to extra parish service within this church; and
 - 3) persons serving in the other rostered ministries within this synod;

- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and is so doing:
 - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
 - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
 - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to the synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by the synod;
 - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning this synod's life and work; and,
 - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
 - 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
 - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of ordained ministers, other rostered leaders, and congregations of this synod;
 - 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
 - 4) Consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops;
 - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
 - 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
 - 7) Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix this seal of this synod;
 - 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council and the council's Executive

Committee;

- 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
- 4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
- 5) Coordinate the work of all synodical staff members; and
- 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
- 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;
- 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing:
 - a) the names and addresses of all ordained ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled; and
 - b) the names and addresses of all other rostered persons of this synod and a record of the positions to which they have been called or called or the date on which they become retired or disabled;
- 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered persons on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution and bylaws of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
- 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
 - a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations;
 - b) issuance of a certificate of transfer for rostered persons in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and
 - c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received
- 11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a register of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and

12) Appoint a statistician of this synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

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

S8.14.01 Assistants shall be nominated by the Bishop subject to confirmation by the Synod Council.

S8.14.02 Assistants' terms shall be co-terminus with that of the Bishop.

S8.14.03 Assistants may serve an unlimited number of terms subject to nomination by the Bishop and confirmation by the Synod Council.

S8.14.04 The employment of all support staff shall not be co-terminus with the term of the bishop, but all support positions are subject to review according to the employment provisions of the Personnel Policies of the synod, and according to the possible changing personnel needs of the synod.

†S8.15. The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synodical bishop.

S8.20. Vice president

†S8.21. The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a layperson. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.

S8.22. The vice president shall chair the Synod Council.

S8.23. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.

S8.30. Secretary

†S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this church. The secretary may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.

†S8.32. The secretary shall:

- a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the printing and distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
- b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop.
- c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.
- d. Submit to the secretary of this church at least four months before the Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the regular and alternate voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.

S8.40. Treasurer

†S8.41. The treasurer shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.
- b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church.
- d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.

- f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

S8.50. General Provisions

†S8.51. The terms of the officers of this synod shall be:

- a. The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.
- b. The vice president, secretary, and treasurer of this synod shall be elected to a term of four years and may be reelected.

S8.52. The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election.

†S8.53. Each officer shall be a voting member in a congregation of this synod, except that the bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.

†S8.54. Should the bishop die, resign, or be unable to serve, the vice president shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the bishop until an election of a new bishop can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop is able to serve again. Such arrangements may include the appointment by the Synod Council of an interim bishop, who during the vacancy or period of disability shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop. The term of the successor bishop, elected by the next Synod Assembly or a special meeting of the Synod Assembly called for the purpose of election, shall be six years with the subsequent election to take place at the Synod Assembly closest to the expiration of such a term and with the starting date of a successor term to be governed by constitutional provision S8.52.

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

†S8.56. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall determine whether an officer is unable to serve; the officer may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee by requesting a hearing before the Synod Council. A meeting to determine the ability of an officer to serve shall be called upon the request of at least three members of the Executive Committee and prior written notice of the meeting shall be given to the officer in question at least ten calendar days prior to the meeting.

- †S8.57. The recall or dismissal of an officer may be effected in accordance with the procedure established by the Committee on Appeals of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period an ordained minister of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

Chapter 9.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- †S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.
 - S9.01.01. Unless otherwise provided, terms for members of committees or other organizational units of this synod expire at the end of the Synod Assembly in the year designated.
- †S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee, appointed by the Synod Council to a term of one year, of no less than 3 nor more than 10 members. 50 percent of the members of the Nomination Committee shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.
- S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the 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 votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of 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 votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the 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.
- S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two persons for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate two persons for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

- S9.07. The Synod Council shall nominate two persons for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.08. In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes, but not elected by a majority of the votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled.
- S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.
- S9.11. The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.

Chapter 10.

SYNOD COUNCIL

- †S10.01. The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.
- a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from this synod, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.
 - b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be three years.
- S10.01.01. There shall be two Synod Council members (one clergy and one lay) from each conference, four laypersons at large (two male and two female), plus the four officers and one youth. The President of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Women of the ELCA may attend with “voice only” privilege.
- S10.01.02 Nominations
- a. The two representatives to the Synod Council from each conference (one clergy and one lay) shall be nominated by their conference at a conference gathering with election by the Synod Assembly.
 - b. The members at large (two male and two female), shall be nominated by the Synod Council. [See S10.01.01.b.]

- c. The youth representative shall be a high school student. The Lutheran Youth Organization Board shall serve as the nominating committee for the youth position. [See S10.01.01.b.]
- d. The Synod Council shall designate and notify the conferences of the classification of member to be nominated by the conference so that the requirements of †S6.04 are met.
- e. Nominations from the floor at the Synod Assembly will be allowed but the nominee must fit all categories, such as conference, clergy/layperson, male/female, person of color or person whose primary language is other than English. The nominator must have the consent of the nominee.

S10.01.03 Terms

- a. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be three years.
- b. The term of the youth member shall be two years.
- c. Terms shall be arranged so that one-third of the terms expire each year.
- d. Unless otherwise provided, members of the Synod Council may be reelected to one additional consecutive term.
- e. If the remaining term of office of a vacancy is one year or less, the newly elected member shall be eligible for two additional terms. If the remaining term of office is more than one year, the newly elected member shall be eligible for one additional term.

S10.01.04 Vacancies

- a. A vacancy on the Synod Council of a member representing a conference shall be filled by the Synod Council electing a replacement upon nomination of a replacement candidate from the conference by the conference at a conference gathering. [See S10.01.01. f. 1.]
- b. A vacancy on the Synod Council of a member-at-large or youth member shall be filled by the Synod Council nominating and electing a replacement. [See S10.01.01. f. 2.]

†S10.02. The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not precluded by provisions of this constitution or the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
 - b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
 - c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
 - d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
 - e. Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, and diaconal ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - f. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.
 - g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
 - h. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.
- S10.03.01. The Synod Council shall act on (approve, reject, amend) personnel policies recommended by the Personnel Committee.
- S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.
- S10.05. No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.
- S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to be a member in good standing on a roster of this synod, if an ordained minister, or to be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, if a layperson, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.
- S10.07. The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.

- S10.07.A87. The Synod Council shall meet at least three times per year. The Synod Executive Committee may call additional meetings.
- S10.07.B02 The Synod Council shall have three Committees to review issues brought to the Synod Council by Synodical Commissions and Task Forces.
- a. Reaching – This committee will review matters of those Commissions and Task Forces whose primary mission is to reach out into the world outside of the ELCA with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Caring – This committee will review matters of those Commissions and Task Forces whose primary mission is to reach out to those in need with the healing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - c. Growing – This committee will review matters of those Commissions and Task Forces whose primary mission is to grow, improve, develop, and enrich the resources of the synod for mission within the Synod and ELCA.
- S10.07.C02 At its first meeting of the year, the Council shall be divided into three Review Committees by the bishop and vice president. The bishop and vice president will consider the wishes of the synod council members in making the assignments. The bishop and vice president shall also appoint the chair of each review committee.
- S10.07.D02 Matters coming before the Synod Council from the Commissions and Task Forces shall first be reviewed by the Review Committees which will give their recommendation to the Synod Council along with the request of the Commissions and Task Forces. The Synod Council and its Review Committees may also request the Commissions and Task Forces to consider issues and develop programs to meet needs for mission within the synod.
- S10.07.E02 Normally, time will be allotted before each Synod Council meeting for the chairs of the Committees, Commissions and Task Forces to present issues to the review committees and for the review committees to consider issues important to the synod.

Chapter 11.

COMMITTEES

(names of other organizational units)

- †S11.01. There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministries Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S11.01.01. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and three at-large members

elected annually by the Synod Council from its membership at the first regular Council meeting following the Synod Assembly. At-large members may serve successive terms.

- a. The Executive Committee shall provide for continuity in synodical administration, in specific assigned areas, in the interim between meetings of the Synod Council, with specific responsibilities:
 - 1) To carry out assignments specified by the synodical constitution or the Synod Council.
 - 2) To provide counsel and advice, as requested by staff, in the shaping of proposals and recommendations directed to the Synod Council.
 - 3) To effect actions congruent with, but not in conflict with, responsibilities assigned to the Synod Council by the synodical constitution, such as routine matters not requiring specific action by the Council.
 - 4) To report its actions to the Synod Council.
- b. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Synod's Personnel Committee.
 - 1) The Bishop shall chair the Executive Committee when the committee is functioning as the personnel Committee.
 - 2) The Personnel Committee shall:
 - a) Recommend Personnel Policies to the Synod Council for the Council's action.
 - b) Follow the Personnel Policies established by the Synod Council.
 - c) Recruit and hire staff, reporting changes in staff to the Synod Council.
 - d) Set staff salaries.
 - e) Annually review staff performance and salaries.
 - f) Develop, review, and maintain staff job descriptions.

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

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

- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- b. The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four committee members (two clergy and two lay) expire every two years.
- c. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

†S11.04 The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.

S11.05. Other Committees

S11.05.01 The Synod Council may establish other Commissions and Task Forces for the synod.

- a. The names, responsibilities, and composition of other Synod Commissions and Task Forces shall be set forth in Continuing Resolutions.
- b. Unless otherwise provided by the Synod Council, such Commissions and Task Forces shall normally have 3 to 5 planning members.
- c. Other working members may be recruited by the Commissions and Task Forces with the approval of the Synod Council.
- d. The membership of Commissions and Task Forces shall appointed by the Synod Council from the membership of the congregations or rosters of the synod.
- e. Unless otherwise provided by the Synod Council, terms of office shall be three years.
- f. Commission and Task Force members may serve two successive terms.
- g. Unless otherwise provided, each Commission and Task Force shall develop a vision statement, recommend a program of action, and request funding from the Synod Council through the committee to which they report.
- h. Each Commission and Task Force shall carry out the programs approved by the Synod Council.

- i. The Bishop or an appointee representing the Bishop shall have the right to attend and provide leadership to the Commissions and Task Forces.

S11.05.01.A02 Commissions and Task Forces reporting to the Reaching Committee of the Synod Council.

- a. The Commission on Evangelism shall lead the synod in reaching out with the Gospel to the unchurched.
- b. The Commission on Global Mission shall lead the synod in participating in the Global Mission of the ELCA and in developing Companion Synods.
- c. The Commission on Multi-cultural Ministry shall lead the synod in ministry to persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- d. The Task Force for the 2003 Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation shall lead the synod in celebrating that event.

S11.05.01.B02 Commissions and Task Forces reporting to the Caring Committee of the Synod Council.

- a. The Commission on Social Ministry shall lead the Synod in considering social issues.
- b. The Commission on Hunger shall lead the Synod in considering Hunger issues.
- c. The Commission on Rural Life Outreach shall lead the Synod in considering rural issues.
- d. The Commission on Sexual Ethics in Ministry shall oversee the synod's implementation of Continuing Resolution S14.21.A01.

S11.05.01.C02 Commissions and Task Forces reporting to the Growing Committee of the Synod Council.

- a. The Commission on Candidacy shall fulfill the functions of Synodical Candidacy Committees as established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- b. The Commission for Leadership Support shall lead the synod in providing professional development for rostered members of the synod.
- c. The Commission for the Gifts Program (Growing in Faith to Serve) shall lead the synod in providing education for lay members of the synod to enrich their service in the congregation or serve as Synodically Authorized Ministers.
- d. The Commission for Synod Assemblies shall lead the synod in planning and conducting synod assemblies.
- e. The Commission for Seeking shall lead this synod in seeking out and encouraging qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.
- f. The Commission on appointments to Task Forces and Commissions shall lead this synod in finding people with the skills and interests needed to serve on its Commissions and Task Forces.

S11.10. General Provisions

†S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod except non-synod consultants who may serve as resource persons without vote.

Chapter 12.

CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, OR OTHER AREA SUBDIVISIONS

†S12.01. This synod shall establish conferences, clusters, coalitions or other area subdivisions within its territory as specified in the bylaws. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships among congregations, institutions, and synodical and churchwide units for mission purposes.

S12.01.01. In order to foster interdependent relationships among congregations, institutions, and synodical and churchwide units and to advance the mission of the church, this synod shall be divided into ten geographical conferences.

S12.01.02. Conferences have responsibilities for:

- a. joint worship, inspiration and study;
- b. offering resources for congregational ministry;
- c. fulfilling legislative responsibilities in the selection of representatives to synod councils, boards or committees;
- d. encouraging participation in and support for the entire mission of the church;

S12.01.03. The conference may establish a program planning group which has responsibility for planning the meetings and work of the conference. Membership of a program planning group could include conference officers, synod council/committee representatives of the conference, and consultants called to meet for a specific purpose. Such a group may also include representatives of synod auxiliaries and the women's organization.

S12.01.04. Each conference may elect a dean and secretary. If the dean is an ordained person, then the secretary shall be a layperson. If the secretary is ordained, then the dean shall be a layperson. Conferences may also choose to elect other appropriate officers who may be

ordained or laypersons. Conferences may also collect funds from congregations to support conference ministries, programs and meetings.

S12.01.05. The dean shall attend the meetings of the Conference of Deans, and assist the bishop with providing pastoral care and leadership to the congregations and rostered personnel of the synod. The Conference of Deans shall meet at least twice annually with the bishop and synod staff to coordinate the work and meetings of the conferences and consult on issues to be brought to the attention of the conferences. If no members of the Synod Council serves concurrently as a dean, a representative of the Conference of Deans shall be an advisory member of the Synod Council.

S12.01.A91. The conferences are:

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 01**

05326 Bethany, 201B Star Route, Williams, MN 56686
 11538 Bethel, Box B, Greenbush, MN 56726
 05306 Bethel (Karlstad), PO Box 160, Lake Bronson, MN 56734
 05315 Bethel, 105 3rd Ave SW, Roseau, MN 56751
 11655 Bethesda (Skime), PO Box 68, Wannaska, MN 56761
 11466 Clementson (Clementson), PO Box 338, Baudette, MN 56623
 11638 Concordia (Ross), HCR 5 Box 51, Roseau, MN 56751
 11544 Eidsvold (Halma), PO Box 215, Karlstad, MN 56732
 11433 Faith, PO Box 98, Badger, MN 56714
 11443 First, PO Box 338, Baudette, MN 56623
 11565 First, PO Box 215, Karlstad, MN 56732
 05316 First, 105 3rd Ave SW, Roseau, MN 56751
 05319 First (Salol), 105 3rd Ave NW, Roseau, MN 56751
 05303 Grace, PO Box 489, Hallock, MN 56728
 05308 Maria, PO Box 166, Kennedy, MN 56733
 11636 Messiah, PO Box 298, Roseau, MN 56751
 11637 Moe, 201 3rd Ave NW, Roseau, MN 56751
 05314 Mt. Carmel (Roosevelt), 201B Star Route, Williams, MN 56686
 11434 Our Redeemer's, PO Box 98, Badger, MN 56714
 11639 Pinecreek (Ross), Star Rt 5 Box 51, Roseau, MN 56751
 11620 Pinegrove (Roseau), PO Box 68, Wannaska, MN 56761
 05304 Red River, PO Box 489, Hallock, MN 56728
 11691 Riverside, PO Box 38, Wannaska, MN 56761
 11435 Roselund (Badger), HCR 5 Box 51, Roseau, MN 56751
 05310 Sion, PO Box 7, Lancaster, MN 56735
 11444 Wabanica, PO Box 338, Baudette, MN 56623
 05309 Zion, PO Box 160, Lake Bronson, MN 56734
 05325 Zion, PO Box 61, Warroad, MN 56763

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 02**

- 11665 Bethany (Thief River Falls), PO Box 157, Goodridge, MN 56725
- 05321 Bethesda, PO Box 85, Strandquist, MN 56758
- 11598 Bethlehem, PO Box 39, Newfolden, MN 56738
- 11608 Bigwoods, PO Box 189, Oslo, MN 56744
- 05317 Black River (St Hilaire), 1300 E. Nora, Thief River Falls, 56701
- 11644 Calvary, PO Box 8, St Hilaire, MN 56754
- 11602 Ebenezer (Oklee), PO Box 98, Plummer, MN 56748
- 11531 Ekelund, PO Box 157, Goodridge, MN 56725
- 11532 Faith, PO Box 157, Goodridge, MN 56725
- 11587 First, RR 2 Box 1A, Middle River, MN 56737
- 11658 First, PO Box 72, Stephen, MN 56757
- 05323 First, 105 6th St S, Warren, MN 56762
- 11539 Grace, PO Box 106, Grygla, MN 56727
- 11660 Gustav Adolph (Strathcona), Rt 2 Box 1A, Middle River, MN 56737
- 11630 Immanuel, PO Box 98, Plummer, MN 56748
- 05324 Immanuel, 105 6th St S, Warren, MN 56762
- 11426 Melo (Angus), 220 W Johnson Ave, Warren, MN 56762
- 11561 Nazareth (Holt), RR 1 Box 132, Newfolden, MN 56738
- 11422 New Hope, PO Box 856, Alvarado, MN 56710
- 11666 Oak Ridge (Thief River Falls), PO Box 37, Viking, MN 56760
- 11528 Our Savior, PO Box 6, Gatzke, MN 56724
- 11540 Our Savior, PO Box 106, Grygla, MN 56727
- 11692 Our Savior, 220 W Johnson Ave, Warren, MN 56762
- 05322 Redeemer, 1300 E Nora, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- 11667 Silver Creek (Thief River Falls), RR 1 Box 132, Newfolden, MN 56738
- 11645 St. Pauli, PO Box 8, St Hilaire, MN 56754
- 05320 Salem Lutheran Church (Stephen) PO Box 85, Strandquist MN, 56758
- 11669 Trinity, PO Box 534, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- 11529 United, PO Box 6, Gatzke, MN 56724
- 11611 Zion, PO Box 189, Oslo, MN 56744
- 11670 Zion, 505 N Main Ave, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- 11683 Zion, PO Box 37, Viking, MN 56760

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 03**

- 05299 Bethany, PO Box 360, East Grand Forks, MN 56721
- 11634 Bethany, 1315 6th St, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
- 11648 Bethany, RR 1 Box 24A3, Shelly, MN 56581
- 11515 Bygland, PO Box 127, Fisher, MN 56723
- 11699 Calvary, PO Box 100, Winger, MN 56592
- 11467 Climax, PO Box 49, Climax, MN 56523
- 11509 Concordia, PO Box 615, Fertile, MN 56540
- 11510 Faaberg, RR 2 Box 93, Fertile, MN 56540
- 11584 Faith, RR 1 Box 734, Mentor, MN 56736
- 07549 Family of God, 327 5th Ave SE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721

11516 Fisher, PO Box 127, Fisher, MN 56723
 05311 Fridhem, PO Box 461, Fosston, MN 56542
 11499 Grace, PO Box 204, Erskine MN 56535
 11460 Grue (Buxton, ND), PO Box 49, Climax, MN 56523
 05297 Holy Trinity (Angus) PO Box 360, East Grand Forks, MN 56721,
 11519 Hope, 508 N Foss Ave, Fosston, MN 56542
 11520 Kingo, 220 N Johnson Ave, Fosston, MN 56542
 11511 Little Norway, RR 1 Box 734, Mentor, MN 56736
 11586 Maple Lake (Mentor), PO Box 100, Winger, MN 56592
 11525 Ness (Gary), RR 2 Box 93, Fertile, MN 56540
 11495 Our Savior, 1515 5th Ave NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721
 11580 Our Savior, PO Box 308, McIntosh, MN 56556
 11500 Rodnes (Erskine), RR 3 Box 48, Erskine, MN 56535
 05312 Salem (McIntosh), PO Box 461, Fosston, MN 56542
 11476 Salem (Cummings, ND), PO Box 67, Nielsville, MN 56568
 11603 Salem, PO Box 56, Oklee, MN 56742
 11468 Sand Hill, PO Box 49, Climax, MN 56523
 11649 Shelly Marsh River, RR 1 Box 24A3, Shelly, MN 56581
 11474 St. Paul's, 1214 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716
 05300 St. John's, PO Box 615, Fertile, MN 56540
 11599 St. Petri, PO Box 67, Nielsville, MN 56568
 11512 Sundal, RR 2 Box 93, Fertile, MN 56540
 11448 Trinity, PO Box 68, Beltrami, MN 56517
 11475 Trinity, PO Box 598, Crookston, MN 56716
 11513 Varnes, PO Box 615, Fertile, MN 56540
 11581 Varnes, PO Box 308, McIntosh, MN 56556
 11521 Zion, 508 N Foss Ave, Fosston, MN 56542
 11605 Zion, PO Box 56, Oklee, MN 56742
 11650 Zion, RR 1 Box 24A3, Shelly, MN 56581

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 04**

11449 Aardahl, PO Box 1783, Bemidji, MN 56601
 11541 Bethany, PO Box 27, Gully, MN 56646
 11597 Bethany, PO Box 137, Nevis, MN 56467
 11436 Bethel, RR 1 Box 525, Bagley, MN 56621
 05298 Bethel, 500 Irvine Ave, Bemidji, MN 56601
 11693 Bethlehem (Waskish), PO Box 127, Kelliher, MN 56650
 11451 Calvary, 2508 Washington Ave, Bemidji, MN 56601
 11614 Calvary, PO Box 187, Park Rapids, MN 56470
 11652 Clearwater, PO Box 1028, Shevlin, MN 56676
 11437 Faith, PO Box 297, Bagley, MN 56621
 11421 First, PO Box 98, Akeley, MN 56433
 11450 First, 115 E 9th St, Bemidji, MN 56601
 05305 First, PO Box 5, Hines, MN 56647

- 11465 Good Shepherd, PO Box 69, Clearbrook, MN 56634
- 11542 Lund, PO Box 27, Gully, MN 56646
- 11543 Malvik (Guthrie), PO Box 69, Laporte, MN 56461
- 11567 Our Savior, PO Box 127, Kelliher, MN 56650
- 11574 Our Savior, PO Box 69, Leonard, MN 56652
- 11632 Our Redeemer, Gen Delivery Box 7, Puposky, MN 56667
- 30543 Peoples Church, 824 America Ave, Bemidji MN 56601
- 05327 Salem (Turtle River), RR 6 Box 189, Bemidji, MN 56601
- 11535 Samhold, PO Box 69, Gonvick, MN 56644
- 11672 Sand Valley (Trail), PO Box 27, Gully, MN 56646
- 11656 Solway (Solway), PO Box 1028, Shevlin, MN 56676
- 11572 Trinity, PO Box 69, Laporte, MN 56561
- 11629 Trinity (Pinewood), Gen Delivery Box 7, Puposky, MN 56667
- 11536 United, PO Box 69, Gonvick, MN 56644
- 11439 Zion, RR 1 Box 525, Bagley, MN 56621
- 11453 Zion, PO Box 322, Blackduck, MN 56630

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 05**

- 11517 Aspelund, PO Box 245, Flom, MN 56541
- 11545 Augustana, PO Box 13, Halstad, MN 56548
- 11623 Bethania, RR 1 Box 44, Perley, MN 56574
- 11678 Bethlehem, PO Box 277, Ulen, MN 56585
- 11546 East Marsh River, PO Box 128, Hendrum, MN 56550
- 11524 Gary, PO Box 96, Gary, MN 56545
- 11420 Grace, 110 E 3rd Ave, Ada, MN 56510
- 11548 Gran, RR 3 Box 57, Rollag, MN 56549
- 11547 Halstad, PO Box B, Halstad, MN 56548
- 11550 Hawley, PO Box 580, Hawley, MN 56549
- 11551 Hegland, PO Box 879, Hawley, MN 56549
- 11557 Immanuel, PO Box 128, Hendrum, MN 56550
- 11624 Kirkebo, PO Box 379, Perley, MN 56574
- 11552 Lysne, PO Box 37, Hawley, MN 56549
- 11625 Nora, PO Box 379, Perley, MN 56574
- 11553 Park, RR 3 Box 57, Rollag, MN 56549
- 11554 Rollag, RR 3 Box 57, Rollag, MN 56549
- 11560 Salem, PO Box 128, Hitterdal, MN 56552
- 11555 Solem, PO Box 37, Hawley, MN 56549
- 11527 St. Petri, PO Box 96, Gary, MN 56545
- 11673 St. Olaf (Twin Valley), PO Box 96, Gary, MN 56545
- 11674 Wild Rice, RR 1 Box 87, Twin Valley, MN 56584
- 11675 Zion, PO Box 296, Twin Valley, MN 56584

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 06**

- 05361 Bethesda, 401 40th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56561

- 11590 Concordia, RR 1 Box 113, Glyndon, MN 56547
- 11470 Comstock, PO Box 7, Constock, MN 56525
- 11485 Dilworth, PO Box 474, Dilworth, MN 56529
- 11700 Faith, PO Box 175, Wolverton, MN 56594
- 11503 Gloria Dei, PO Box 598, Felton, MN 56536
- 11530 Glyndon, PO Box 38, Glyndon, MN 56547
- 11643 Hoff (Rustad), PO Box 7, Comstock, MN 56525
- 11589 Lutheran Church of Christ The King, 1900 14th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 11591 Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd, 1500 6th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 11592 North Buffalo, RR 1 Box 176, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 11440 Our Savior, PO Box 309, Barnesville, MN 56514
- 11593 Our Savior's, 610 N 13th St, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 11432 Scandia (Averill), RR 1 Box 113, Glyndon, MN 56547
- 11594 Trinity, PO Box 188, Moorhead, MN 56561
- 11455 Winchester (Borup), PO Box 598, Felton, MN 56536

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 07**

- 05338 Augustana, PO Box 1437, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
- 11481 Bakke, RR 2 Box 154A, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- 11569 Cormorant, RR 2 Box 205A, Lake Park, MN 56554
- 05354 Eksjo, PO Box 327, Lake Park, MN 56554
- 11429 First, PO Box 7, Audubon, MN 56511
- 11482 First, PO Box 227, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
- 11579 First, PO Box 454, Mahanomen, MN 56557
- 11483 Grace, 213 Roosevelt Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- 05355 Highland Grove, PO Box 327, Lake Park, MN 56554
- 11570 Hougum, RR 1 Box 60, Lake Park, MN 56554
- 11446 Immanuel, PO Box 2005, Bejou, MN 56516
- 11607 Immanuel, RR 1 Box 44, Osage, MN 56570
- 11571 Lake Park, PO Box 89, Lake Park, MN 56554
- 11694 Lake Grove, PO Box 35, Waubun, MN 56589
- 05339 Lund, RR 2 Box 154A, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- 11438 Neegonnee, HCO 3 Box 145, Mahanomen, MN 56557
- 11484 Richwood, RR 2 Box 154A, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- 11430 St. Peter's, RR 1 Box 875, Audubon, MN 56511
- 05356 Strandvik, PO Box 327, Lake Park, MN 56554
- 05340 Trinity, 1401 Madison Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- 11695 Trinity, PO Box 35, Waubun, MN 56589

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 08**

- 11504 Aastad, RR 5 Box 164, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
- 05342 Augustana (Elizabeth), PO Box 10, Erhard, MN 56534
- 05345 Augustana, 308 E Douglas Ave, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

11477 Bethel, PO Box 158, Dalton, MN 56324
 11505 Bethlehem, 102 W Junius, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
 11459 Breckenridge, 301 N 6th St, Breckenridge, MN 56520
 05366 Central, PO Box 427, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 05331 Eagle Lake, PO Box 586, Battle Lake, MN 56515
 05367 Faith, PO Box 386, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 11441 First, PO Box 268, Battle Lake, MN 56515
 11506 First, 402 S Court St, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
 11522 Foxhome, PO Box 9, Foxhome, MN 56543
 11497 Grace, PO Box 10, Erhard, MN 56534
 11615 Grove Lake, PO Box 47, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 11640 Hamar, PO Box 175, Rothsay, MN 56579
 11462 Hedemarken (Carlisle), RR 1 Box 165, Rothsay, MN 56579
 20137 Hope, PO Box 375, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
 11641 Little Bethany, PO Box 57, Rothsay, MN 56579
 11616 Maplewood (Pelican Rapids), RR 1 Box 51, Erhard, MN 56534
 11617 North Immanuel, PO Box 438, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 11478 Our Savior - Ten Mile Lake, PO Box 158, Dalton, MN 56324
 16311 Our Savior, PO Box 57, Rothsay, MN 56579
 11696 Rock Prairie, RR 5 Box 164, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
 11642 South Immanuel, RR 1 Box 165, Rothsay, MN 56579
 11681 Sverdrup, PO Box 70, Underwood, MN 56586
 11682 Tingvold, PO Box 70, Underwood, MN 56586
 11498 Tonseth, PO Box 427, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 11442 Trefoldighed, PO Box 268, Battle Lake, MN 56515
 11618 Trinity, PO Box 431, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 11523 Vukku, PO Box 9, Foxhome, MN 56543
 05332 Zion Lutheran Church of Amor, RR 2 Box 138A, Battle Lake, MN 56515
 11508 Zion, 202 E Summit Ave, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
 11619 Zion, RR 3 Box 263, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 09**

12125 American, 215 9th St SE, Long Prairie, MN 56347
 05328 Balsamlund (Aldrich), 601 S. Jefferson, Wadena, Mn 56482
 11582 Bethany, PO Box 189, Menahga, MN 56464
 05357 Calvary (Little Sauk), 628 4th St S, Long Prairie, MN 56347
 11622 Calvary, 619 3rd Ave SW, Perham, MN 56573
 11613 Elmo (Henning), RR 1, Henning, MN 56551
 05364 Esther (Parkers Prairie), PO Box 123, Miliona, MN 56354
 12047 Faith, PO Box 58, Eagle Bend, MN 56531
 05360 Faith, PO Box 123, Miliona, MN 56354
 11657 Faith, PO Box 236, Staples, MN 56479
 11583 First English, PO Box 189, Menahga, MN 56464
 05365 First Evangelical, PO Box 29, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

11684 Folden, PO Box 38, Vining, MN 56588
 11558 Good Shepherd, PO Box 322, Henning, MN 56551
 11689 Immanuel, PO Box 69, Wadena, MN 56482
 11685 Leaf Mountain, PO Box 38, Vining, MN 56588
 12200 Little Sauk (Sauk Centre), RR 2 Box 125, Osakis, MN 56360
 05371 Messiah, 601 Jefferson St S, Wadena MN 56482
 11686 Nidaros, PO Box 38, Vining, MN 56588
 07430 Our Saviour, PO Box 189, Sebeka, MN 56477
 12176 Salem, RR 2 Box 125, Osakis, MN 56360
 12177 Sauk Valley, RR 2 Box 125, Osakis, MN 56360
 30332 Shepherd of the Valley, PO Box 6, Clarissa, MN 56640
 05362 St. Peter Evangelical, PO Box 7, New York Mills, MN 56567
 11687 Vining, PO Box 38, Vining, MN 56588
 12017 Zion, PO Box 71, Browerville, MN 56348

**** CONFERENCE NUMBER: 10**

05349 Bethel, PO Box F, Herman, MN 56248
 11981 Bethesda, 1204 N Nokomis, Alexandria, MN 56308
 30520 Bethlehem/West Elbow Lake, PO Box 66, Elbow Lake, MN 56531
 05329 Calvary, 605 Douglas St, Alexandria, MN 56308
 05359 Christina Lake, PO Box 37, Evansville, MN 56326
 12068 East Moe (Garfield), 16249 Co Rd 8 NW, Brandon, MN 56315
 12054 Erdahl (Erdahl), PO Box 157, Ashby, MN 56309
 05431 Fahlun, PO Box 75, Nelson, MN 56355
 12056 Faith, PO Box 99, Evansville, MN 56326
 11982 First, 822 Douglas St, Alexandria, MN 56308
 05353 First, PO Box 122, Kensington, MN 56343
 05373 Good Shepherd, 605 10th St N, Wheaton, MN 56296
 12007 Grace, PO Box 7, Brandon, MN 56315
 11987 Grue, PO Box 157, Ashby, MN 56309
 11994 Lincoln, PO Box 205, Hoffman, MN 56339
 30004 Messiah, PO Box 486, Hoffman, MN 56339
 12107 Nora, PO Box 88, Kensington, MN 56343
 05358 Norunga, PO Box 95, Lowry, MN 56349
 12175 Osakis, PO Box 427, Osakis, MN 56360
 05344 Oscar Lake (Farwell), 5760 Co Rd 4W SW, Alexandria, MN 56308
 12165 Our Savior's, PO Box 75, Nelson, MN 56355
 30226 Peace, PO Box 157, Ashby, MN 56309
 05430 Peace, PO Box 206, Barrett, MN 56311
 16254 Shalom, 800 County Rd 44, Alexandria, MN 56308
 12108 Solem, PO Box 88, Kensington, MN 56343
 12127 St. Paul's, PO Box 95, Lowry, MN 56349
 05351 Trinity, 1859 Beauty Point RD SW, Farwell, MN 56327
 11697 Trinity, PO Box 157, Wendell, MN 56590

12050 United, PO Box 2076, Elbow Lake, MN 56531
12008 West Moe, 16249 Co Rd 8 NW, Brandon, MN 56315

Chapter 13.

CONGREGATIONS

- †S13.01. Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the register of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the Model Constitution for Congregations or one acceptable to this synod, which is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- a. New congregations. A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:
 - 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.
 - 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* consistent with requirements of this constitution and the constitution of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the Model Constitution for Congregations, the constitution of this synod, or the Constitution and Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be adopted as described in Chapters 16 and 18 of the Model Constitution for Congregations.
 - 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of the ELCA as stated in *C6.01., *C6.02., and *C6.03. of the Model Constitution for Congregations.
 - b. Congregations from another church body. If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leaders of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should make contact with the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located.
 - c. Recognition and reception. Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the register of congregations.

- †S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod annually to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.
- S13.11. When pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- S13.21. The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges, and all alterations in any alignment, shall be subject to approval by the Synod Assembly or by the Synod Council.
- †S13.22. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of this synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.
- †S13.23. Provision 9.71. of the ELCA constitution shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.
- S13.24. If any congregation of this synod has disbanded, or if the members of a congregation agree that it is no longer possible for it to function as such, or if it is the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or that it is necessary for this synod to protect the congregation's property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Assembly.
- S13.25. This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or

with its concurrence.

S13.30. Discipline

- †S13.31. Congregations and members of congregations are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.

Chapter 14.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LAY ROSTERED MINISTERS

- †S14.01. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to congregations or extraparish service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

- †S14.02. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every ordained minister shall:

- 1) preach the Word;
- 2) administer the sacraments;
- 3) conduct public worship;
- 4) provide pastoral care; and
- 5) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.

b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:

- 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
- 2) supervise all schools and organizations of the congregation;
- 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
- 4) with the council, administer discipline.

c. Every pastor shall:

- 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
- 2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
- 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its

periodicals and other publications; and

- 4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of this ELCA synod.

S14.03. The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.04. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.

S14.05. Each ordained minister on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†S14.11. When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the pastoral office in the ordained ministry of this church:

- 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 pastor.
- b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or pastoral candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.41., a two-thirds majority ballot 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.
- c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective pastor, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.

S14.12. No ordained minister shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. An ordained minister shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

†S14.13. a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:

- 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;
 - 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;
 - 6) the dissolution of the congregation; or
 - 7) suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.
- b. When allegations of physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod, the bishop in his or her sole discretion may, or 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 shall investigate such conditions personally in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity, competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of this synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of this synod shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of this synod together with the committee described in †S14.13.b. shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by this synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority 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 committee recommended termination of the call.

- e. If, in the course of proceedings described in †S14.13.d., the committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action to the synodical bishop who may bring charges, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the constitution of this synod.
 - f. If, following the appointment of the committee described in †S14.13.b. or d., it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of this synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint synodical and churchwide fund and with housing provided by the congregation(s).
- S14.14. Ordained ministers shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.
- S14.15. The parochial records of each congregation shall be kept in a separate book which shall remain its property. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his/her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:
- a. installation in another field of labor, or
 - b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.
- S14.16. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another field of labor, or
 - b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.
- S14.17. During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any ordained ministers who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the parochial records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.
- S14.18. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear

statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.13., a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.13.

S14.21. All ordained ministers 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 subdivisions to which the congregation belongs.

S14.21.A01. It is the responsibility of all currently rostered persons of this synod to complete, or demonstrate previous completion of, at least six contact hours of education in sexual boundary issues within one year of passage of this resolution. It shall be the responsibility of any person new to the roster of this synod to complete, or demonstrate previous completion of, at least six contact hours of education in sexual boundary issues within one year of being added to the roster of this synod.

S14.30. Official Rosters of Laypersons

S14.31. The provisions in the churchwide documents and such provisions as may be developed by the Division for Ministry governing associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church shall apply in this synod.

- a. When a congregation of this synod desires to call an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister or a candidate for these official rosters of laypersons of this church:
 - 1) Such a congregation of this synod shall consult the synodical bishop before taking any steps leading to extending such a call.
 - 2) Issuance of such a letter of call shall be in accord with criteria, policies, and procedures developed by the Division for Ministry, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - 3) When the congregation has voted to issue a call to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- b. An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister shall confer with the bishop of this synod before accepting a call within this synod.
- c. The call of a congregation, when accepted by an associate in ministry, deaconess, or

diaconal minister, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the individual, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop in accordance with policy developed by the Division for Ministry, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- d. Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod who are serving under call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Chapter 15.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

†S15.01. The fiscal year of this synod shall be February 1 through January 31.

†S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent units that share responsibly in God’s mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church and thus partnership in this church should be evidenced in determining each part’s share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:

- a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by such a proportionate share of each congregation’s annual budget as each congregation determines. This synod shall develop guidelines for determining “proportionate share,” and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its determination.
- b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage of each congregation’s mission support as determined by the Churchwide Assembly to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S15.11.01 Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund

- a. To enhance the mission outreach of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod by receiving gifts, holding the principal of such gifts in perpetuity, and expending the income therefrom for Christian ministry, this synod shall maintain, apart from any other funds, the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund.

- 1) Principal contributions may come from either synodical or non-synodical sources.
 - a) Funds contributed by the Northwestern Minnesota Synod will be considered synod-designated funds. This synod may determine the conditions under which such funds may be withdrawn.

- b) Non-synodical funds will be considered donor designated and will remain in the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund in perpetuity.
- 2) All assets in the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund shall be held in the name of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.
- 3) All monies, securities, or other properties shall be received, held, administered, and distributed in accordance with the requests or directions of the donor or donors thereof and with limitations and conditions attached by such donors. If no directions be expressed, then the income of the same shall be used and disposed of in accordance with the judgment and discretion of the Committee of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund, subject to the guide lines in this bylaw.

b. Administration

- 1) The Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund shall be administered by a committee of five elected from the voting membership of the congregations of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.
 - a) The bishop and vice-president of this synod shall serve as advisory members of the committee.
 - b) Except as herein limited, the terms of office shall be three years.
 - c) Upon adoption of this bylaw, the Synod Assembly shall elect five members to the two (2) years; and one (1) for a term of one (1) year.
 - d) In succeeding years, the Synod Assembly shall elect the necessary number for terms of three (3) years. No member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. After a lapse of one (1) year, former committee members may be re-elected.
 - e) The Synod Council shall nominate members of the committee and report their nominations to the Synod Assembly in the same manner as for other offices and committees.
 - f) In the event of a vacancy on the committee, the Synod Council shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next Synod Assembly when the assembly shall elect a member to complete the term of the vacancy.
 - g) No more than two (2) committee members may hold office on the Synod Council.

- 2) The committee shall meet at least quarterly.
- 3) A quorum shall consist of three (3) members. When only three (3) members are present, a unanimous vote shall be required to carry any motion or resolution.
- 4) Officers
 - a) The committee shall elect from its membership a chair and a recording secretary. The chair, or member designated by the chair, shall preside at all meetings of the committee.
 - b) The recording secretary shall maintain complete and accurate minutes of all meetings and supply a copy thereof to each member of the committee. The recording secretary also shall supply a copy of the minutes to the Synod Council.
 - c) The committee shall elect a financial secretary, who may or may not be a member of the committee, to work with this synod's treasurer in maintaining and coordinating complete and accurate accounts for the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund, and sign checks and all necessary documents on behalf of this synod in furtherance of the purposes of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund.
 - d) The Committee or their duly approved investment council with subsequent execution by the delegated members of the committee shall make decisions to hold, sell, exchange, rent, lease, transfer, convert, invest, reinvest, and in all other respects to manage and control the assets of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund, including stocks, bonds, debentures, mortgages, notes, or other securities, as in their judgment and discretion they deem wise and prudent.
 - e) The committee, at the expense of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment or legal matters as it deems to be in the best interest of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund.
 - f) The committee shall provide for an annual certified audit of its books, records, and funds by a certified public accountant or other appropriate person who is not a member of the committee.
 - g) No member of the committee shall at any time be liable for any action taken or not taken, or for any loss or depreciation in value of endowment fund assets whether due to an error of judgment or otherwise in making any sale, investment or fund assets if such member has exercised reasonable care, skill, caution, and ordinary diligence in the exercise of his duties as a prudent investor. No member shall be liable for the acts or omissions of another

member. No member shall engage in any self-dealing transactions.

c. Investment of Principal

- 1) In investing or reinvesting funds, the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund shall be governed by the following Minnesota Statutes and the Acts Amendatory and Supplementary thereto, to-wit: Section 501B.151, the Minnesota Prudent Investor Act and Sections 501B.79 - 501B.82, the Minnesota Trustees' Powers Act. The committee shall have authority to retain assets acquired from time to time by gift, devise, bequest or otherwise which may not ordinarily be eligible for investment under the Statutes enumerated above.
- 2) All funds and property of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund shall be invested or reinvested in such manner and form as the committee shall prescribe subject to S15.11.01.3.
- 3) The committee shall have authority to enter into agency or trust agreements with a corporate trustee authorized to do business in Minnesota, which has capital and surplus of at least ten million dollars.
- 4) The committee shall determine what is principal and income according to accepted accounting procedures. Gifts and bequests to the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund shall accumulate until either principal amount of \$100,000 is achieved or three years passes from the establishment of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund, after which the income generated from the investment of the principal may be expended.

d. Distribution of Income

- 1) The monies of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund shall be deposited in the name of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund in such bank or trust company as the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund's committee shall designate, and shall be drawn out only by checks signed by the financial secretary and counter-signed by the chair or other designated signature, except when drawing checks shall be delegated to a bank or trust company. In any event, all checks or other withdrawals shall be approved in writing by the chair and financial secretary.
- 2) The committee may authorize, out of the income of the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund, the payment of such expenses as may become necessary. No committee member shall receive any compensation for the members services.
- 3) The Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund shall not create or allow overdraft of undistributed income. It shall not disburse principal funds except in the

amount that such disbursement may be approved or permitted by the donor or for investment or reinvestment purposes. The Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund shall not loan principal funds to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, and shall not pledge or commit income funds to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod prior to the actual receipt thereof in cash. Profits realized from the sale or transfer of securities or other assets in the principal account shall remain as principal, and losses from sale or transfer of securities and other assets in said principal account at the discretion of the committee, shall be transferred to the principal account and then shall remain permanently a part thereof.

- 4) Unrestricted income from the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund should be distributed annually and at such other times as deemed necessary or feasible in such a manner that:
 - a) a minimum of 20% is given to the synod, including, but not limited to ELCA seminaries, ELCA colleges, ELCA high schools, students attending such ELCA schools, social service agencies, institutions, agencies to which this Synod relates, and to special programs designed for those persons in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod who are in spiritual or economic need,
 - b) A minimum of 20% is given for the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including, but not limited to, grants to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for new congregational development in North America, professional leadership, educational ministries, global missions, ecumenism, evangelism, social ministries, and capital financing, and
 - c) the remainder is given for causes and programs, which at the discretion of the committee, are consistent with the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund purpose of enhancing the mission outreach of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA.
- 5) A decision to grant monies to a cause or program shall be made by the Synod Council upon recommendation from the committee according to guidelines established by the Synod Assembly.
- 6) The committee need not disburse annually all income from the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund.
- 7) When the committee is of the opinion that circumstances are so dire and of such an emergency nature that the future of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod is at stake and the only recourse is to use the Northwestern Minnesota Mission Endowment Fund principal, the committee may, upon unanimous vote of all five members, recommend such authorizing action to the Synod Assembly.

e. Conforming to United States Tax Codes

- 1) Any other provisions of this instrument notwithstanding, the committee shall distribute its income each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to the tax of undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.
- 2) Any other provisions of this instrument notwithstanding, the committee shall not engage in any act of self dealing as defined in Section 4941(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws, nor make any investments in such manner as to incur tax liability under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax law; nor make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.
- 3) There shall be distributed at least such part of the current income or past accumulation of income as is necessary to avoid unreasonable accumulation of income within the meaning of Section 504(A)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended that is now in force or afterwards amended, provided further, that such distribution shall in all events be made for the purposes which qualify as religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes within the meaning of those terms as used in Section 501(C)(3) of the 1986 Internal Revenue Code as amended.

- †S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to partnership funding with other synods and the churchwide organization. Unless an exception is granted upon the request of this synod by the Church Council, each budget shall include the percentage of congregational mission support assigned to it by the Churchwide Assembly.
- S15.13. On the basis of estimated income, the Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in light of changing conditions, by the Synod Council.
- S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.
- S15.21. No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by congregations or organizations

related to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council.

S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm selected by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.

†S15.32. This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.

Chapter 16.

INDEMNIFICATION

†S16.01. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, indemnification of any person who is or was made or threatened to be made a party to any proceeding is prohibited. For purposes of this chapter, the term, “proceeding,” means a threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding, including a proceeding in the right of this synod or any other organization. Except as otherwise required by law, (a) the term, “proceeding,” does not include a proceeding by this synod and (b) indemnification for expenses incurred in a disciplinary hearing or other proceeding described in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be permitted only as provided in †S16.05. For purposes of this chapter, the term, “indemnification,” includes advances of expenses.

†S16.02. To the full extent permitted from time to time by law, each person who is or was made or threatened to be a party to any proceeding by reason of the present or former capacity of that person as a Synod Council member, officer, employee, or committee member of this synod shall be indemnified against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes, and reasonable attorney’s fees and disbursements incurred by that person in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification of any person by reason of that person’s capacity as a director, officer, employee, or committee member of any other organization, regardless of its form or relationship to this synod, is subject to the provisions of section †S16.03.

†S16.03. Whenever a person who, while a Synod Council member, officer, committee member, or employee of this synod, is or was serving at the request of this synod as (or whose duties in that position involve or involved service in the capacity of) a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another organization, is or was made or threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of such capacity, then such person shall not be entitled to indemnification unless (a) the Synod Council has established a process for determining whether a person serving in the capacity described in this section shall be entitled to indemnification in any specific case, and (b) that process has been applied in making a specific

determination that such person is entitled to indemnification.

- †S16.04. This synod may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of itself or any person entitled to indemnification pursuant to this chapter against any liability asserted against and incurred by this synod or by such other person in or arising from a capacity described in section †16.02. or section †16.03.
- †S16.05. When in proceedings under Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America written charges against an ordained minister or a layperson on an official roster of this church are made by the synodical bishop or written charges against a congregation are made by the Synod Council or the synodical bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, and such determination is not reversed or set aside if an appeal is taken, then indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination or the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be decided by the Synod Council.

Chapter 17.

ADJUDICATION

- †S17.01. The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this synod.
- †S17.02. The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from ordained ministers, associates in ministry or other persons on the official lay rosters of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. When the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, the prescribed procedures for investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline of an ordained minister or a person on the official lay roster of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S17.03. When there is disagreement among units of this synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for a consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Synod Council requesting it to arbitrate the issue. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.
- †S17.04. When a component or beneficiary of a synod has a disagreement on a substantive issue that it cannot resolve, it may address an appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail,

except that upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.

†S17.10. Adjudication in a Congregation

†S17.11. When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of this synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

Chapter 18.

AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

†S18.10. Amendments to Constitution

†S18.11. Certain sections of this constitution incorporate and record therein provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. If such provisions are amended by this church, corresponding amendments shall be introduced at once into this constitution by the secretary of this synod upon receipt of formal certification thereof from the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the Constitution for Synods, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a simple majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the Constitution for Synods shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

†S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:

- a. An amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after having been presented in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Synod Assembly over the signatures of at least 25 members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.

†S18.20. Amendments to Bylaws

S18.21. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution nor with the constitution and bylaws of this church. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

†S18.30. Amendments to Continuing Resolutions

†S18.31. This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws or the constitution and bylaws of this church. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church.