

2009 Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations

as approved by the Eleventh Churchwide Assembly
August 17–23, 2009

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~.

To amend C12.03. to make it consistent with C12.02.:

- C12.03.** Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting. ~~Individuals who have served less than one-half of a regular term shall be eligible for nomination and possible election to a full term.~~

*To amend *C15.02. because a member cannot be compelled to appear:*

- *C15.02.** The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor, who shall advise the Congregation Council of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused. ~~A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregation Council after having received a written citation at least ten days prior to the meeting.~~ The written citation that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council and requests the presence of a member charged with the offense shall be sent at least ten days prior to the meeting. If the member charged with the offense fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Congregation Council may proceed with the hearing and may pass judgment in the member's absence.

To amend and add the following to allow for expanded roles for youth and young adults in the governance in all expressions of this church:

To amend:

- C12.01.** The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s)[, the officers of the congregation,] and [___ members] [not more than ___ nor fewer than ___ members] of the congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth and at least one of whom shall be a young adult. Any voting member . . . [the rest unchanged].

To amend and add the following to make the process for establishment of additional sites for worship parallel to the process for relocation:

To amend:

- *C6.06.** If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

To add the following to provide an interdependent process for the establishment of additional sites for worship:

- *C6.07.** If this congregation considers developing an additional site to be used regularly for worship, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

To amend the following to provide for the termination of a call when a parish arrangement terminates:

- *C9.05.** 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: . . .
- 6) the dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
[with the rest unchanged]

*To add *C20.04. to make explicit what happens to a call when a parish dissolves:*

- *C20.04.** Whenever a parish arrangement is terminated, the call of any rostered person serving that parish is terminated. Should any congregation that formerly was part of the parish arrangement desire to issue a new call to that rostered person, it may do so in accordance with the call process of this church.