

Suggested Synod Constitution Revisions: September 2010

1. Suggested constitution amendments:

S9.03.a. lines 6 – 8 “~~The first five conference members shall be elected for one year and five for two years, thereafter on a rotating basis.~~”

Rationale: This sentence was needed for the first year of the ELCA; it is no longer necessary.

S11.18. Reference and Counsel Committee. See S7.32.11., S7.32.A06., and S7.32.11.B06.

Rationale: This committee functions as an Oversight Ministry Team, so should be included in the list in S11.21.A10 and as a separate reference in the listing preceding S11.18.

2. Suggested bylaw amendments:

S6.03.01. lines 1 & 2 “The Rocky Mountain Synod shall have a relationship with California Lutheran University, ~~Midland, and Bethany Colleges~~ ...”

Rationale: Region 2 synods relate to California Lutheran University. While individual congregations may support and encourage Midland and Bethany Colleges, Rocky Mountain Synod as a synod has decreased its participation and support to these colleges.

S9.03.01. line 8 “...other than English, youth and young adult, and with at least one...”

Rationale: Representation should include consideration of youths and young adults.

S9.03.01. line 9 “Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.”

Rationale: This sentence is in the ELCA Model Constitution for Synods, but was omitted from the Rocky Mountain Synod constitution. It should be included to provide for additional nominations.

S10.01.01. line 5 “~~...nor shall hold any position on a Board or Commission of the synod, nor hold any Conference office with the exception of the members of the Multicultural Commission.~~”

Rationale: Because Synod Council members may serve as liaisons to boards or commissions, this phrase is unnecessary. Also, there is no longer a Multicultural Commission.

S10.01.02. lines 1 and 2 “~~With the exception of the youth member, the term of office for members of the Synod Council shall be four years.~~”

Rationale: This sentence repeats †S10.01.b., so it could be deleted.

S10.03.01.g. lines 1 and 2 “...and ~~Standing Committees~~ Ministry Teams of the synod...”

Rationale: “Ministry Teams” is descriptive of the new organization of the synod.

S10.03.01.g. lines 4 and 5 “... conferences ~~and the Commission on Multicultural Ministries.~~”

Rationale: There is no longer a Commission on Multicultural Ministries.

S11.01.01. line 1 “...categories of ~~working~~ Ministry Teams...”

Line 3 “...Teams ~~are those that work...~~”

Rationale: The deleted words are redundant.

S11.11.04. line 3 “...each ~~board~~ team shall...”

Line 7 “These ~~committees~~ and ministry teams...”

Rationale: The words “team” and “ministry teams” now encompass boards, committees, commissions, etc.

S11.51.b. “The organizations for men and youth, ~~if and when established as synodical units;~~ Lutheran Men in Mission and Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO);”

Rationale: These organizations are now established and named.

3. Suggested continuing resolution amendments:

†S9.12. Background checks for synodical officers: “procedures and timing shall be determined by Synod Council.” The following continuing resolution is suggested by ELCA:

S9.12.A11. The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synodical officer prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:

- a. Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.
- b. Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected officers, if possible.
- c. The Synod Council’s Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.
- d. All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of background checks are appropriate for each officer position.
- e. The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council’s Executive Committee. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.
- f. The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.

The following addition is recommended:

- g. Unless otherwise determined by the Synod Council, a second background check will not be required if the officer is elected for a second consecutive term.

S11.21.A10 line 7 “...Mission Endowment Fund Committee, Reference and Counsel Committee, and other groups...”

Rationale: This committee functions as an Oversight Ministry Team, so should be included in the list in S11.21.A10 and as a separate reference in the listing preceding S11.18.

S11.40.A10.a. line 7 “...members of a RMS ELCA congregations.”

Rationale: This clarifies that the members of the Self-Organizing Teams could be members of different congregations, not that they must come from one congregation.