

SÍNODO DEL CARIBE, IELA
ASAMBLEA SINODAL
22–24 de junio de 2017
San Juan, PR

INFORME DEL COMITÉ DE REVISIÓN CONSTITUCIONAL
Preparado: 15 de mayo de 2017

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

El Comité de Revisión Constitucional es responsable, en nombre del Consejo Sinodal, de revisar, aprobar o desaprobar cualesquiera cambios a los documentos de gobierno de las congregaciones de este sínodo. Esto incluye las constituciones, reglamentos y resoluciones concurrentes de las congregaciones, al igual que sus artículos de incorporación. En ese proceso de revisión, por ejemplo, se vela por que la constitución de la congregación no esté en conflicto con la *Constitución, Reglamentos y Resoluciones Concurrentes de la IELA* o la *Constitución, Reglamentos y Resoluciones Concurrentes del Sínodo del Caribe de la IELA*. También se vela por que la lista requerida de estipulaciones de la *Constitución Modelo para las Congregaciones* esté en conformidad con dicho requisito. Todo cambio está sujeto a revisión, por mínimo que sea, incluyendo el estilo de redacción. La autoridad final en asuntos de documentos de gobierno de las congregaciones descansa en el Consejo Sinodal.

El Comité de Revisión Constitucional sirve de recurso a las congregaciones en el proceso de revisión de sus constituciones y sus artículos de incorporación. Las congregaciones pueden consultarle para obtener guía y orientación sobre cualesquier enmiendas o cambios a los documentos de gobierno de la congregación. En adición, el Comité de Revisión Constitucional es responsable de revisar periódicamente la *Constitución, Reglamentos y Resoluciones Concurrentes del Sínodo del Caribe de la IELA*, asegurándose que la misma esté en conformidad con la *Constitución, Reglamentos y Resoluciones Concurrentes de la IELA*. Además, es responsable de incorporar todos los cambios y/o enmiendas mandadas por las asambleas de la IELA y recogidas en la *Constitución Modelo para los Sínodos*, y de informar a la Oficina del Secretario de la IELA cualesquier cambios y/o enmiendas hechas a la constitución del sínodo para revisión y aprobación.

La revisión de la constitución del sínodo para este año ya fue completada. Producto de esa revisión, se están sometiendo para consideración de la Asamblea una serie de enmiendas.

Durante los pasados dos años recibimos para revisión las siguientes constituciones congregacionales: Betania, Nuestro Salvador, San Pablo, Santísima Trinidad, Divino Salvador, El Mesías y Cristo el Señor. Al momento de suscribir este informe, sólo la constitución de Nuestro Salvador había sido aprobada. Las demás han sido revisadas y devueltas para corrección.

A continuación, una tabla que indica la condición de las constituciones de las congregaciones del Sínodo del Caribe:

No han sometido sus constituciones para revisión	Han sometido sus constituciones para revisión, pero no han completado el proceso	Tienen constituciones que fueron aprobadas	Tienen constituciones aprobadas y al día
Christus Victor	Betania (20/agosto/2015)	Ascensión (7/nov/2003)	Reconciliación (15/enero/2017)
Del Buen Pastor	Bethel (2/mayo/2012)	Cristo Rey (22/oct/2003)	
Divino Nazareno	Cristo Victorioso (17/agosto/2005)	El Redentor	
Emmanuel	Cristo, el Señor (9/mayo/2017)	Frederick (Feb/06/2009)	
Epifanía	Divino Salvador (19/enero/2017)	Getsemaní (27/marzo/2003)	
Kingshill	El Mesías (11/feb/2017)	Grace (Sept/04/2014)	
Lord God of Sabaoth	Nazareth (Dec/08/2014)	Holy Trinity	
San Esteban, martir	Príncipe de Paz (26/enero/2015)	Nuestro Salvador (3/dic/2015)	
San Pedro	San Marcos	Reformation	
Transfiguración	San Pablo (5/abril/2016)	San Juan, apóstol	
	Santísima Trinidad (11/abril/2016)	Sión (18/mayo/2015)	

Exhortamos a todas las congregaciones que aún no han comenzado un proceso de revisión a que así lo hagan. Recuerden que pueden consultar sobre cualquier particular de dicho proceso con el Comité de Revisión Constitucional. También les pedimos que cuando vayan a someter sus constituciones revisadas, lo hagan como un archivo de texto electrónico. Esto facilita sobremanera el proceso de revisión.

Le recordamos a aquellas congregaciones cuyas constituciones han sido aprobadas que la *Constitución Modelo para las Congregaciones* es revisada cada tres años y que, por lo tanto,

deben hacer lo mismo con sus constituciones. El que a uds. se les haya revisado y aprobado una constitución no significa que la misma esté al día necesariamente.

Por último, les pedimos que envíen a las oficinas del sínodo copia de los artículos de incorporación de sus congregaciones.

¡Que el Señor les bendiga rica y abundantemente!

En Cristo Jesús,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pablo J. Quiñones Berberena', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rvdo. Pablo J. Quiñones Berberena, coordinador

**CARIBBEAN SYNOD, ELCA
SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

June 22–24
San Juan, PR

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Prepared: May 15, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The Constitutional Review Committee is responsible, on behalf of the Synod Council, of reviewing, approving or disapproving any proposed changes to the governing documents of this synod's congregations; this includes the constitution and incorporation documents of congregations. In this review process, for example, we make sure that amendments are not in conflict with the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* or the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Caribbean Synod of the ELCA*. We also review the entire required list of provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* to ascertain whether the congregation has brought its constitution into conformity with this requirement for the relevant chapters.

Any proposed changes in the governing documents are subject to review no matter how small, including redaction style. The final authority for handling congregational constitutional matters rests with the Synod Council.

The Constitutional Review Committee also serves as a resource to congregations in their respective constitution and incorporation documents review processes. Congregations can consult with the committee in order to obtain counsel and guidance in respect to any proposed changes to the congregation's governing documents. In addition, the Constitutional Review Committee is responsible of reviewing periodically the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Caribbean Synod of the ELCA*, making sure that it is in conformity to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*. Likewise, it is responsible for incorporating all changes mandated by the assemblies of the ELCA as expressed in the *Model Constitution for Synods* and of reporting to the secretary of this church any newly adopted articles, bylaws, or continuing resolutions, as well as any amendments to such.

The revision of the constitution of this synod for this year has been completed. We are submitting for action by this assembly a list of amendments product of that review process.

Durante los pasados dos años recibimos para revisión las siguientes constituciones congregacionales: Betania, Nuestro Salvador, San Pablo, Santísima Trinidad, Divino Salvador, El Mesías y Cristo el Señor. Al momento de suscribir este informe, sólo la constitución de Nuestro Salvador había sido aprobada. Las demás han sido revisadas y devueltas para corrección.

During the past two years, we received for review the following congregational constitutions: Betania, Nuestro Salvador, San Pablo, Santísima Trinidad, Divino Salvador, El Mesías, and

Cristo el Señor. At the time of this report, only the constitution of Nuestro Salvador had been approved. The others have been revised and returned for corrections.

Following is a table that indicates the constitutional status of the congregations of the Caribbean Synod:

Have not submitted their constitutions for review	Have submitted their constitutions for review, but have not completed the process	Have constitutions that were approved	Have approved and up-to-date constitutions
Christus Victor	Betania (20/agosto/2015)	Ascensión (7/nov/2003)	Reconciliación (15/enero/2017)
Del Buen Pastor	Bethel (2/mayo/2012)	Cristo Rey (22/oct/2003)	
Divino Nazareno	Cristo Victorioso (17/agosto/2005)	El Redentor	
Emmanuel	Cristo, el Señor (9/mayo/2017)	Frederick (Feb/06/2009)	
Epifanía	Divino Salvador (19/enero/2017)	Getsemaní (27/marzo/2003)	
Kingshill	El Mesías (11/feb/2017)	Grace (Sept/04/2014)	
Lord God of Sabaoth	Nazareth (Dec/08/2014)	Holy Trinity	
San Esteban, martir	Príncipe de Paz (26/enero/2015)	Nuestro Salvador (3/dic/2015)	
San Pedro	San Marcos	Reformation	
Transfiguración	San Pablo (5/abril/2016)	San Juan, apóstol	
	Santísima Trinidad (11/abril/2016)	Sión (18/mayo/2015)	

We urge all congregations that have not done so to begin the review process of their constitutions. Remember that you may consult with the Constitutional Review Committee about any matters concerning such a review. We also request that when you send in your revised constitutions you do so as an electronic text file; this facilitates and speeds up the synod's review process.

We also remind those congregations whose constitutions have been approved that the *Model Constitution for Congregations* is reviewed every three years; thus, you should also do likewise.

The fact that you have a constitution that was revised and approved does not mean that the same is up to date.

Finally, we request that all congregations send a copy of its incorporation documents to the synod offices.

God bless you richly!

In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pablo J. Quiñones Berberena', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Pablo J. Quiñones Berberena, coordinator

REQUIRED PROVISIONS

AMENDMENTS TO REQUIRED PROVISIONS OF THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS ADOPTED BY THE 2016 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Required provisions are designated by a dagger, (†). Such required provisions 1) may only be adopted or amended by the Churchwide Assembly; 2) may not be altered or amended by the Synod Assembly; and 3) are to be introduced at once into the synod's constitution upon notification of the amendment or adoption of the provision. Required provisions become effective immediately upon their adoption by the Churchwide Assembly. Therefore, no vote of the Synod Assembly is needed for such required provisions; neither is such a vote to be taken.

Below is a list of new required provisions or amendments to existing ones that were introduced into the synod's constitution by the Constitutional Review Committee to reflect new required provisions or amendments to existing ones adopted by the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

In coordination with the following amendments, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

- *strike the words "ordained minister/s" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament";*
- *strike the word "clergy" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament";*
- *strike the words "pastor/s" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament" where appropriate;*
- *strike the words "associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Service"; and*
- *make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster.*

(DELETIONS ARE STRUCK THROUGH IN THE TEXT. ADDITIONS ARE UNDERLINED.)

- †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 10.01.401. and 10.02.02.
- †S5.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.
- †S5.03.** 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.
- †S5.04.** This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.
- †S6.03. Each synod, in partnership with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:
- a. Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered leaders-ministers in the synod;

- ...
- †S6.03.01. In providing for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ~~leaders~~ **ministers** in the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ~~ordained~~ **ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers** in the synod, including:
 - 1) approving candidates for the ~~ordained~~ **ministry of Word and Sacrament** in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synodical committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining **ministers of Word and Sacrament** on behalf of this church;
 - 3) approving ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal~~ **ministers of Word and Service**, 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~~ **consecrations and consecrating ministers of Word and Service on behalf** of this church; and
 - 5) consulting in the calling process for ~~ordained rostered~~ **ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers**.
 - c. providing for discipline of congregations, ~~ordained~~ **ministers of Word and Sacrament, and persons on the official lay rosters ministers of Word and Service**; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this **church's** constitution.
 - d. providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.

†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 of Word and Sacrament** 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.~~ *[continuing resolution becomes bylaw]*

†S6.04.01. 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.

~~†S6.04.B09.~~ *[continuing resolution becomes bylaw]*

†S6.04.02. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

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

†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 of Word and Sacrament** 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 of Word and Service~~, under call, on the ~~official lay~~ **rosters** of this synod shall ~~have both voice and vote as lay~~ **be** voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item †S7.21.c.

...

- †S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a ~~pastor who is an ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop ~~shall be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who~~ 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 its other rostered leaders~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.
 - 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~~ of Word and Sacrament (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~~ 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~~ ministers of Word and Service.
 - e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
 - 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 synod; and~~
 - 3) ~~persons serving in the other rostered ministries within this synod~~ rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested.
 - ...
 - h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
 - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of ~~ordained-rostered~~ ministers, other-rostered leaders, and congregations of this synod;
 - ...
 - i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing:
 - ~~a) the names and addresses of all ordained-rostered 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 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-ministers~~ persons-ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions 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) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered ~~persons-ministers~~ persons-ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and
- †S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or an ~~an ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament.
- †S8.41. The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ~~an ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament.
- †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 and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church;~~

for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.

- a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synodical bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting;
 - 3) at least 10 synodical bishops; or
 - 4) the presiding bishop of this church.
- b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synodical bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting; or
 - 3) the synodical bishop.
- c. The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.
- d. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee of the synod.
- e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:
 - 1) the Synod Council will submit a written report of their findings and the basis of their decision to the Committee on Appeals.
 - 2) the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
- f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.21.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20. and 20.21. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20. and 20.21. as grounds for discipline.
- g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.
- h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:
 - 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.21.16. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and
 - 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.
- i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.

†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 Word and Sacrament 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.

†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. The Synod Assembly shall 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.

†S9.10. When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council.

†S10.01. The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, 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 a~~ 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, 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.

...

†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 of Word and Sacrament and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election. 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 of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.

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.~~

e. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

Chapter 14.

~~ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LAY~~ ROSTERED MINISTERS

†S14.011. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to congregations or ~~extra-parish non-congregational~~ service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†S14.012. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall:

...

4) provide pastoral care;

5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;

6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;

7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and

8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.

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

1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;

2) ~~supervise~~ relate to all schools and organizations of the congregation;

3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; ~~and~~

4) with the council, administer discipline;

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.

†S14.146. When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ~~pastoral office in the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church:

...

- 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 **voting members** of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
- ...

†S14.138. **The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:**

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
- ...
- 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** of this church;
- ...
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two **ordained-rostered ministers** and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two **ordained-rostered ministers** and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant ~~and the pastor shall be listed on the clergy roster as disabled. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled.~~ Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- ...
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds **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 the committee recommended termination of the call.
- ...

†S14.149. **Ordained mMinisters of Word and Sacrament** 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.

†S14.1521. The parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another **field of labor call**, or
- b. **the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transferapproval of a request for change in roster status.**

†S14.1622. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another **field of labor call**, or
- b. **the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transferapproval of a request for change in roster status.**

†S14.1723. 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-rostered minister** 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.

†S14.1824. 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 †S14.1318, 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 †S14.1318.

S14.30. Official Rosters of Laypersons Ministers of Word and Service

†S14.31. ~~The provisions in the churchwide documents and such provisions as may be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit 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 appropriate churchwide unit, 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 appropriate churchwide unit, 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.~~

The time and place of the consecration of those persons properly called to congregations or non-congregational service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:

a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;

b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;

c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;

d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;

e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;

f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;

g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;

h. Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and

i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

†S14.41. When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:

a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.

b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.

c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.

†S14.43. a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, 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 minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
- 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
- 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
- 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;
- 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;
- 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
- 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
- 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.

b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,

- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
- 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.

c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant and the minister of Word and Service shall be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.

e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

†S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service 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 Congregation Council.

†S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another call, or
- b. approval of a request for change in roster status.

†S14.46. 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 †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service 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 minister of Word and Service 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 †S14.43.

†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 the 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:

b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage or amount of each congregation's mission support as determined by the Churchwide Assembly to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in consultation with the churchwide organization and approved by the Synod Assembly as part of its budget consideration.

c. Should the Synod Assembly not approve the proportionate share of mission support determined in consultation with the churchwide organization, a new consultation with the churchwide organization shall take place. The Synod Council is authorized to amend the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly to reflect the results of this consultation.

†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.

†S16.04. When written charges against an ordained minister or a layperson on an official roster a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by the synodical bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synodical bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, 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 of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be decided by the Synod Council.

†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 rostered ministers 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 rosters a rostered minister 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*.

†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.

**CORRECTIONS TO REQUIRED PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING
RESOLUTIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN SYNOD OF THE ELCA**

Below is a list of corrections to required provisions that were introduced into the synod's constitution by the Constitutional Review Committee to correctly reflect required provisions of the Model Constitution for Synods. No action is necessary from the Assembly.

(DELETIONS ARE ~~STRUCK THROUGH~~ IN THE TEXT. ADDITIONS ARE UNDERLINED.)

-----None-----

RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS

AMENDMENTS TO RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS OF THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS ADOPTED BY THE 2016 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Recommended provisions are provided in the Constitution for Synods as approved by the Churchwide Assembly. Such recommended provisions may be adopted by majority vote at one meeting of the Synod Assembly under †S18.12.

Below is a list of new recommended provisions or amendments to existing ones adopted by the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

(DELETIONS ARE STRUCK THROUGH IN THE TEXT. ADDITIONS ARE UNDERLINED.)

- S7.22. ~~The This~~ synod may establish processes that permit retired ~~ordained~~ rostered ministers, ~~retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers~~ on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.e. above. ~~The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call,~~ or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. ~~above~~. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ~~leaders~~ ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.24. ~~Ordained ministers~~ Ministers under call on the rosters 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 ~~rosters 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.
- S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant ~~an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ 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.
- S8.52. The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.
- 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 _____ years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a year term.
- S10.02.03. Conference calls, video calls, web calls, and/or any other electronic means of communication may be used to hold meetings of the Synod Council. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.
- S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
...

- d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service 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-rostered~~ ministers ~~and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers~~ as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

...

- 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 ~~rosters~~ 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.
- S13.11. When a ~~pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered~~ 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-rostered~~ minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

Chapter 14.

~~ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LAY~~ ROSTERED MINISTERS

S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament

S14.013. 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.

S14.014. 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.

S14.015. Each ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ 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.

S14.127. No ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. ~~An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

S14.245. All ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

S14.30. ~~Official Rosters of Laypersons~~ Ministers of Word and Service

S14.33. The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

- S14.34.** Each minister of Word and Service 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.
- S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- S14.47.** All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

CORRECTIONS TO RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN SYNOD OF THE ELCA

Below is a list of corrections to recommended provisions that were introduced into the synod's constitution by the Constitutional Review Committee.

(DELETIONS ARE STRUCK THROUGH IN THE TEXT. ADDITIONS ARE UNDERLINED.)

-----None-----

BYLAW PROVISIONS

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN SYNOD OF THE ELCA

Bylaw provisions are specifically related to details of each synod's organization, operation, and life. The synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting.

Below is a list of new bylaw provisions and amendments to existing ones.

(DELETIONS ARE STRUCK THROUGH IN THE TEXT. ADDITIONS ARE UNDERLINED.)

S7.11.01. The regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held during the month of June ~~biennially~~ triennially and, except for special circumstances identified by the Synod Council, the assembly shall be held alternately in the districts of Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.

S7.22.01. This synod permits retired ~~ordained~~ rostered ministers, ~~retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers~~ on the rosters of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly provided that †S7.21. is satisfied.

S7.22.02. All ordained rostered ministers, ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers~~ who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod, shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S9.03.05. At least thirty (30) days prior to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, the Nominating Committee shall inform all congregations, pastors rostered ministers, and agencies of this synod about the officers and other persons subject to elections in order that all congregations, pastors rostered ministers, and agencies of this synod can make their own nominations.

S10.06.01. The office filled by a member of the Synod Council shall be declared vacant if the member is absent with or without reasonable excuse for ~~three (3)~~ two (2) meetings of the Synod Council in any one year.

S10.07.01. The Synod Council shall consist of the four (4) officers of the synod and ten (10) other members, of which at least one (1) shall be a youth and (1) shall be a young adult as defined in †S6.04.B09., if available. Of the ten (10) other members, six (6) members shall be from the Puerto Rico district, of which four (4) shall be lay and two (2) clergy ministers of Word and Sacrament, and four (4) members shall be from the Virgin Islands district, of which three (3) shall be lay and one (1) clergy minister of Word and Sacrament, except as otherwise specified in this constitution.

S11.01.04. ...

b. The Ministry Committee shall, as part of its duties and functions, affirm, develop, and support the ministries of the whole people of God in this synod, laypersons, ordained and rostered ministers, ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers~~ in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Division for Ministry of the ELCA.

1) identify needs among clergy rostered ministers and professional lay leaders and provide resources and assistance for such needs;

S11.02.01. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of ten (10) members: five (5) ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and five (5) laypersons.

S12.01.05. A regular meeting of the District Assembly shall be held ~~biennially~~ at least triennially, during the month of June, when the Synod Assembly is at rest.

S12.01.12. The membership of the District Assembly, of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:

a. All ~~ordained~~ ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ under call on the roster of the district in attendance at the District 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 the district shall have both voice and vote as lay~~ ministers of Word and Service, ~~under call, on the official lay rosters of the district shall be voting~~ members in the District Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item S12.01.12c.

S12.01.13. The district shall permit retired ~~ordained~~ ~~rostered~~ ministers on the roster of the district to serve as voting members of the district assembly provided that S12.01.12 is satisfied.

S12.01.14. All ~~ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal~~ ~~rostered~~ ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the district, shall have voice but not vote at all meetings of the District Assembly.

S12.01.16. ~~Ordained m~~ Ministers under call on the roster of the district shall remain as members of the District Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the roster of ~~ordained ministers of~~ the district. ~~Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the official lay rosters of the district shall remain as members of the District Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay rosters of the district.~~ Lay members of the District 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 District Assembly.

S12.01.19. The district may establish processes to grant an ~~ordained~~ minister ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ 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 District Assembly during the period of that ~~ordained~~ minister's service in a congregation of this church.

S12.01.26. The Synod Bishop shall:

...

e. Provide for preparation and maintenance of district rosters containing:

1) ~~the names and addresses of all~~ ~~ordained~~ ~~rostered~~ ministers of the district and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled; ~~and~~

2) ~~the names and addresses of all other rostered persons of this district and a record of the positions to which they have been called or the date on which they become retired or disabled.~~

S12.01.30. The district shall 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. With the exception of ~~ordained ministers, active associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers, under call, on the official~~ ministers on the rosters of the district who reside outside the territory of the district, each member of a committee of the district, or any other organizational unit created by the district, shall be a voting member of a congregation of the district.

S12.01.37. A regular meeting of the District Assembly shall be held ~~biennially~~ ~~at least triennially~~, during the month of June, when the Synod Assembly is at rest.

S12.01.43. The voting members of the District Assembly, of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the voting member shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:

a. All ~~ordained~~ ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament under call~~ on the roster of the district in attendance at the District 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 the district shall have both voice and vote as lay~~ ministers of Word and Service, ~~under call, on the official lay rosters of the district shall~~ have both voice and vote.

S12.01.51 The Officers of the District shall be a Dean elected from among the clergy ministers of Word and Sacrament, a lay Secretary, and a Financial Secretary who may be either a layperson or an ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament. The term of office of the officers shall be ~~two (2)~~ three (3) years and, with the exception of the Financial Secretary, may be re-elected to not more than two (2) full consecutive terms. The Financial Secretary may run for more than two consecutive terms.

CORRECTIONS TO BYLAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN SYNOD OF THE ELCA

Below is a list of corrections to bylaw provisions that were introduced into the synod's constitution by the Constitutional Review Committee.

(DELETIONS ARE STRUCK THROUGH IN THE TEXT. ADDITIONS ARE UNDERLINED.)

----- None -----

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

AMENDMENTS TO CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN SYNOD OF THE ELCA

Continuing resolutions provide descriptions of operational patterns or of the ongoing responsibilities of committees or other units within the organizational structure of the Synod. Unlike constitutional provisions and bylaws, continuing resolutions may be updated regularly by the Synod Council without the necessity of calling a regular or special Synod Meeting.

Below is a list of new continuing resolutions or amendments to existing ones that were introduced into the synod's constitution by the Constitutional Review Committee as adopted by the Synod Council. No action is necessary from the Assembly.

(DELETIONS ARE STRUCK THROUGH IN THE TEXT. ADDITIONS ARE UNDERLINED.)

S10.01.C17. For the 2017 elections, the term of office for the youth member shall be one (1) year. The appointment of the synod treasurer shall end on August 31, 2018. The terms of office of all synod council members, with the exception of the Bishop and those members elected in 2017, shall end on August 31, 2018.

CORRECTIONS TO CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN SYNOD OF THE ELCA

Below is a list of corrections to continuing resolutions that were introduced into the synod's constitution by the Constitutional Review Committee.

(DELETIONS ARE STRUCK THROUGH IN THE TEXT. ADDITIONS ARE UNDERLINED.)

----- None -----