

Resolution #1

Regarding Amending Constitutional Provisions and Bylaws in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Governing Documents under *S18.12

1 **Background Information:**

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

10 11 **BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SYNOD CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND** 12 **CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

13
14 *Note: Items to be removed are ~~struck-out~~. Items to be added are underlined. This resolution*
15 *requires a majority vote in order to pass.*

16
17 S7.22. The Synod may establish processes that permit retired ~~ordained ministers~~ rostered
18 ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of this synod to
19 serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. ~~above~~. If the synod
20 does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting
21 members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

22 S7.22.01. All retired ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod in
23 attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.

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

33 S7.24. ~~Ordained m~~ in Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of
34 the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the
35 rosters of ~~ordained ministers~~ of this synod. ~~Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the~~

36 ~~Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under~~
37 ~~call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they~~
38 ~~remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod. Lay~~
39 ~~members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until~~
40 ~~replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of~~
41 ~~membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the~~
42 ~~Synod Assembly.~~

43 S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit
44 representatives of ~~mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered~~ congregations
45 under development and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been
46 authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly,
47 consistent with †S7.21. ~~Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria,~~
48 ~~policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in~~
49 ~~America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this~~
50 ~~church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the~~
51 ~~discipline of this church.~~

52 S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant ~~an ordained~~
53 ~~minister a~~ minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full
54 communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical
55 Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during
56 the period of that ~~ordained~~ minister's service in a congregation of this church.

57 S8.42.f. ~~Giving of corporate surety~~ Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the
58 Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the
59 secretary, ~~and~~ ~~†~~ The premium for the bond ~~therefore~~ shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity
60 coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment
61 of this requirement.

62 S10.01.01. There shall be two Synod Council members (one ~~elder~~ minister of Word and
63 Sacrament and one layperson) from each conference, four laypersons at large (two male and two
64 female), plus the four officers and one youth. The President of the Northwestern Minnesota
65 Synod Women of the ELCA may attend with "voice only" privilege.

66 S10.01.02. Nominations

67 a. The two representatives to the Synod Council from each conference (one ~~elder~~
68 minister of Word and Sacrament and one layperson) shall be nominated by their
69 conference at a conference gathering with election by the Synod Assembly....

70 e. Nominations from the floor at the Synod Assembly will be allowed but the nominee
71 must fit all categories, such as conference, ~~elder~~ minister of Word and
72 Sacrament/layperson, male/female, person of color or person whose primary
73 language is other than English. The nominator must have the consent of the
74 nominee.

75
76 S10.03.d. Provide for an annual review of the ~~roster of ordained ministers and of other official~~

77 ~~rosters~~ synod's ministry rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations
78 regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under
79 the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and
80 make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
81

82 S10.03.e. Issue letters of call to ~~ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry,~~
83 ~~and diaconal ministers~~ rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the
84 constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
85

86 S11.03.01 The terms of ~~committee~~ members of the Committee on Discipline shall be staggered
87 so that the terms of four committee members (two ~~clergy~~ ministers of Word and
88 Sacrament and two laypersons) expire every two years.
89

90 S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to
91 ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons
92 possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and
93 to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ~~ordained~~ ministers on the rosters of
94 this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this
95 synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a
96 congregation of this synod.

97 S12.01.02. **Clusters.** The synod has clusters of geographically-proximate (i.e. within about one-
98 hour's drive of one another) congregations and ELCA-related agencies. Rostered persons
99 ministers and lay leaders serving within each cluster will be in regular contact with one
100 another... , as appropriate.

101 a. Rostered ~~leaders~~ ministers, congregational presidents and heads of ELCA-related
102 agencies within a cluster will normally meet at least once a year...
103

104 S12.01.03. **Conferences.** The synod has eight conferences, each comprised of several clusters,
105 whose rostered ~~persons~~ ministers and lay leaders meet annually in a conference assembly,
106 approximately sixty days prior to the synod assembly. Conference assemblies include
107 opportunities to...elect conference officers, including at least a conference dean (~~an ordained~~
108 ~~pastor~~ a minister of Word and Sacrament) and a conference chairperson (a lay person) and other
109 officers, as each conference shall choose...

110 S13.11. When a ~~pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister~~
111 rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report
112 it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

113 S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former ~~pastor or associate in~~
114 ~~ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister~~ rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of
115 the obligation before calling a successor.

116 **S13.40.** Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities

117 S13.41. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and
118 procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
119 shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall
120 be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of
121 this church.

122 S14.15. Each ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall
123 submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each
124 regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

125 S14.17. No ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first
126 conferring with the bishop of this synod. ~~An ordained minister~~ A minister of Word and
127 Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30
128 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this
129 synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an
130 additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

131 S14.25. All ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings
132 of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the
133 conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivisions to which the congregation belongs.

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

137 S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his
138 or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the
139 Synod Assembly.

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