

**INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD, ELCA Current 1/2008**  
Constitution / Bylaws / Standing Resolutions

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**INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS/STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

(† = Required provision)  
(Sn.nn. => constitution provision)  
(Sn.nn.nn. bylaw or standing resolution)

**Chapter 1. NAME AND INCORPORATION**

- †S1.01. The name of this synod shall be the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S1.02 For the purposes of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as "this synod".
- †S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.
- †S1.21 The seal of this synod is a cross with three united flames emanating from the base of the cross and three entwined circles beside the cross. The name of this synod and the year of its constituting convention form the circular outer edge of the seal.

**Chapter 2. STATUS**

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

**Chapter 3. TERRITORY**

- †S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Indiana.
- †S3.02 "Determined by the Churchwide Assembly", as stipulated by S3.01, is understood to include the reported changes in

synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.11 and 10.02.02.

#### **Chapter 4. CONFESSION OF FAITH**

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

Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.

- †S4.07. This synod confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

## **Chapter 5. NATURE OF THE CHURCH**

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

## **Chapter 6. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- †S6.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- †S6.02. To participate in God's Mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
  - a. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
  - b. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

- c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
- d. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
- e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

†S6.03. To fulfill these purposes, this synod, in partnership with the Churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in the territory of this synod. In fulfillment of this role, this synod shall:

- a. Provide for the pastoral care of congregations, ordained ministers, and associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church in the synod, including:
  - 1. Approving candidates for the ordained ministry in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synodical committees;
  - 2. Authorizing ordinations and ordaining on behalf of this church;
  - 3. Approving associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church, which may be done through multi-synodical committees; and
  - 4. Authorizing the commissioning of associates in ministry, the consecration of deaconesses, and the consecration of diaconal ministers of this church; and

5. Consulting in the calling process for ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers.
- b. Provide for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:
    1. Nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;
    2. Seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church:
    3. Making provision for pastoral care, call or appointment, review, and guidance;
    4. Encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and
    5. Supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organizations.
  - c. Provide for discipline of congregations, ordained ministers, consecrated deacons and deaconesses, commissioned teachers, and certified and commissioned lay professionals; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with the procedures established by this church in Chapter 20 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.
  - d. Foster organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities.
  - e. Plan for the mission of this church in the synod, initiating and developing policy and implementing programs, consistent with churchwide policy, including:
    1. Ecumenical guidance and encouragement;
    2. Development of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;

3. Leadership and encouragement of congregations in their evangelism efforts;
4. Development of relationships to and participation in planning for the mission of social ministry organizations and ministries;
5. Encouragement of financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;
6. Provision for resources for congregational life;
7. Assistance to the members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world; and
8. Interpretation of social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide unit which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues through
  - (a) Synod Assembly memorials to the Churchwide Assembly or
  - (b) Resolutions for referral from the Synod Assembly through the Synod Council to the Church Council and
  - (c) Synod Council resolutions addressed to the Church Council or for referral to a unit of the churchwide organization through the Church Council's Executive Committee.
- f. Promote interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and enter into partnership with other synods in the regions.
- g. Participate in churchwide programs and develop support for the ministry of the churchwide organization.
- h. Foster the grouping of congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.
- i. Support relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries.

- j. Foster relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of social ministry organizations.
- k. Maintain relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers.
- l. Foster supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries.
- m. Foster supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of the synod.
- n. Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public.
- o. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
- p. Provide for archives in conjunction with other synods.
- q. Cooperate with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of the synod which can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.
- r. Elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11 of the constitution and bylaws of ELCA and according to procedures specified in the bylaws of this constitution.

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

S6.04.A87 It is the goal of this synod that 10% of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units are persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English

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

## **Chapter 7. SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

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

S7.02. Duties of the Synod Assembly. The Synod Assembly shall:

- a. Gather, inform, edify, inspire, and empower the people of the synod.
- b. Give direction to the life and mission of this church on the territory of the synod.
- c. Speak publicly to the world, calling for peace and justice, and proclaim God's love for the world.
- d. Make visible the unity and inclusiveness of the synod, in the celebration of the Eucharist.
- e. Establish program goals and adopt budgets.
- f. Receive reports from the synod officers.
- g. Receive reports from the Synod Council.

- h. Review the work of the synod committees, and for this purpose require and receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.
  - i. Elect officers, Synod Council members, members of the Consultation Committee and Committee on Discipline, board members, voting members to the Churchwide Assembly, and other persons as provided in the constitution or bylaws.
  - j. Fulfill other functions as required in the constitution and bylaws.
  - k. Conduct such other business as necessary to further the purposes and functions of the synod.
- †S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least biennially.
- S7.11.01. Date. The Synod Assembly shall meet annually, within six months after the end of the fiscal year of the synod. The Synod Assembly shall not be scheduled to meet on the dates for the following holy days: the Transfiguration of Our Lord, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, The Resurrection of Our Lord, The Ascension of Our Lord, The Day of Pentecost and the Holy Trinity.
- S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the members of the Synod Assembly.
- a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.
  - b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the presiding bishop of the ELCA in cooperation with the Synod Council.
- S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod.

S7.13.01 Notification. At least 120 days before each annual meeting of the Synod Assembly, the secretary of synod shall 1) notify the congregations of synod by mail, 2) place notices in the official synodical publication, and 3) provide registration forms and assembly information for the members. At least 15 days before a special meeting of the Synod Assembly, the secretary of synod shall take the same measures.

S7.13.02 Reports. Reports of committees, task forces, and institutions of the synod and synodical units of the auxiliaries of the church shall be submitted to the secretary of the synod at least 90 days before each annual meeting of the synod assembly. All reports shall be made on the calendar year. The secretary shall send out a bulletin of reports to all members of the Synod Assembly at least 30 days before each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S7.14. One-half of members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

†S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60% of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows:

- a All ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- b. All associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers, under call, on the official lay rosters of this synod shall have both voice and vote as lay voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item S7.21c.
- c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with more than 175 baptized members related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation

normally shall be equally divided between male and female.

d. The lay officers of the synod, who shall not be counted as additional lay representatives in order to have at least 60% of the voting membership of the assembly composed of lay persons.

e. Voting membership shall include the officers of the synod.

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

S7.22.01. Retired Clergy. Retired clergy on the roster of this synod shall have the privilege of voice and vote at meetings of the Synod Assembly.

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

S7.24. Ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the roster of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay rosters 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.

- S7.24.01 Lay members. Each congregation shall elect its regular and alternate members of Synod Assembly and report the names and addresses of its members to the secretary of synod at least 90 days prior to the Synod Assembly. Those members shall serve a term which shall end when the congregation next elects members of the Synod Assembly. They are eligible for re-election.
  
- S7.24.A93 Voice. The presidents of the Synod Lutheran Youth Organization, the Synod Lutheran Men in Mission, and the Synod Women of the ELCA, and the chairperson of each Synod Conference shall be given the privilege of voice at the Synod Assembly.
  
- †S7.25. With the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
  
- †S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of authorized worshipping communities of the Synod, under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with S7.21. Such authorized worshipping communities, acknowledged under criteria and procedures of the ELCA Division for Outreach and the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.
  
- †S7.27. Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under S7.21 shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.
  
- †S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.
  
- S7.32. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly.

S7.32.01. Assembly Committees. In the first session of each regular Synod Assembly the bishop shall announce the appointment of the Assembly Committees, to wit:

- a. Committee on Conduct of Elections
- b. Committee on Minutes
- c. Committee on Reference and Counsel
- d. Committee on Registration and Attendance
- e. And other committees, as deemed necessary

S7.32.02. Committee on Conduct of Elections. The Committee on Conduct of Elections shall consist of at least six members. The committee shall conduct the elections of the synod in keeping with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws, reporting thereon at the call of the bishop.

- a. They shall provide ballots and biographical information, and supervise the counting of the ballots.

S7.32.03. Committee on Minutes. The Committee on Minutes shall consist of at least six members.

- a. The secretary shall submit the minutes of the Synod Assembly, session by session, for this committee's scrutiny and suggestions. Approval of the minutes of the session(s) of the final day of the assembly shall be the responsibility of the bishop and secretary of the synod.
- b. The bishop and secretary shall, after making any necessary corrections therein, certify two copies of the printed minutes of each Synod Assembly as the official protocol of said Synod Assembly, and shall submit the same to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly for approval and deposit in the archives.

S7.32.04. Committee on Reference and Counsel. The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall consist of at least six members.

- a. Congregations conferences, ministeriums, synodical committees, synodical boards, and members of the Synod Assembly may submit to the committee proposed resolutions to be considered by the Synod Assembly. Such resolutions must be submitted at least 45 days before the Synod Assembly with this one exception: resolutions endorsed by Conference Assemblies may be

submitted not less than 15 days prior to the opening of the Synod Assembly. This endorsement of the conference shall stand in place of 50 signatures, which shall not be required. Resolutions submitted by all others in accordance with the 45-day rule shall be provided with the Bulletin of Reports.

- b. The committee shall review and organize these proposed resolutions, in such a way as to facilitate consideration of the matters in question. The report of these proceedings shall be distributed to the members of the Synod Assembly prior to the opening of the Assembly.
- c. During the meeting of the Synod Assembly, the committee shall:
  - 1. Receive resolutions of a general character not germane to a pending question or report supported by the signatures of at least 50 voting members of the Synod Assembly and report thereon to the Synod Assembly with its recommendations.
  - 2. Recommend special orders for the hearing of representatives.
  - 3. Grant or deny permission to distribute printed matter not issuing from the office of the secretary.
  - 4. Give such assistance to the bishop as the bishop may request in the course of the meeting.

S7.32.05. Committee on Registration and Attendance. The Committee on Registration and Attendance shall have eleven members, one from each conference of the synod. The committee shall:

- a. Assist the secretary of the synod in the accreditation and registration of Synod Assembly members.
- b. Report to the Synod Assembly on attendance.

S7.33. "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

## **Chapter 8. OFFICERS**

- †S8.01. The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
- S8.10. The Bishop:
- †S8.11 The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a pastor who is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall 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.
  - c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ordained ministry (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
  - d. Commission (or provide for the commissioning of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as associates in ministry; consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as deaconesses of the ELCA; and consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as diaconal ministers of this church.
  - e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in this synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the roster 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 church; and
  3. Persons serving in the other rostered ministries within this synod.
- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of its church and in so doing:
1. Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church.
  2. Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod.
  3. Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod.
  4. Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning the synod's life and work; and
  5. Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
1. Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church:
  2. Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of ordained ministers, other rostered leaders, and congregations of this synod;
  3. Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
  4. Consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops;
  5. Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;

6. Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
  7. Be ex officio member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod, and in so doing:
1. Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod.
  2. Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee.
  3. Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
  4. Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
  5. Coordinate the work of all synodical staff members;
  6. Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
  7. Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod except as otherwise provided in this constitution.
  8. Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing:
    - a) The names and addresses of all ordained ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled; and

- b) The names and address 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 on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution and bylaws of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
10. Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
- a) Additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations;
  - b) The issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered persons in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod;
  - c) The entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;
11. Provide for preparation and maintenance of a register of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and
12. Appoint a statistician of the synod, secure the parochial reports of the congregations, and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.
- S8.14. The bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.
- S8.14.01. Assistants. Assistants to the bishop shall be elected by the Synod Council on nomination by the bishop. Assistants shall serve until a new bishop takes office, except that they may be recalled or dismissed on proper notice by action of the Synod Council.

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

S8.20. The Vice-president.

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

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

S8.22.01. The Vice-president shall be an ex officio synod delegate to the Churchwide Assembly.

S8.30. The Secretary.

†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 ordained minister.

†S8.32. The secretary shall:

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

S8.32.01. The secretary shall be an ex officio synod delegate to the Churchwide Assembly.

S8.40. The Treasurer.

†S8.41. The treasurer shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.

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

- a. Management of the moneys and accounts of the synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of the synod.
- b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to the synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by the synod for the general work of this church, in accordance with S15.11.b.
- d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of its benevolence giving to the synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of the synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.
- e. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and premium therefore shall be paid by the synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

S8.42.01. The treasurer shall be an ex officio synod delegate to the Churchwide Assembly.

S8.50. General Provisions

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

a. The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.

b. The vice president, secretary, and treasurer of this synod shall be elected to a term of 4 years and may be reelected.

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

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

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

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

- †S8.56. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall determine whether an officer is unable to serve; the officer may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee by requesting a hearing before the Synod Council. A meeting to determine the ability of any officer to serve shall be called upon the request of at least three members of the Executive Committee and prior notice of the meeting shall be given to the officer in question.
- †S8.57. The recall or dismissal of an officer may be effected in accordance with the procedure established by the churchwide Committee on Appeals.
- †S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period an ordained minister of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

## **Chapter 9. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

- †S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.
- †S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee which shall serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.
- S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the

greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and 60% of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) that receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.

S9.04.01 There shall be a process to prepare voting members to participate in the ecclesiastical ballot when a bishop is to be elected.

- a) In September in the calendar year preceding the year that the bishop's term expires, the vice president of the synod shall request from every congregation a list of the gifts deemed important for the holder of the Office of Bishop and matters of priority to be dealt with by the bishop during the bishop's upcoming term of office. The vice president shall gather these responses and publish them to all congregations no later than January of the calendar year in which the election of a bishop shall take place. The form that the vice president shall use to solicit the responses of each congregation shall be approved in advance by the Synod Council.
- b) Contemporaneously with publishing the results of (a) above, the vice president shall solicit from each conference council and each conference ministerium names of individuals who are eligible for election to the Office of Bishop who shall be identified by such conference council or ministerium for consideration for nomination to the Office of Bishop on the first ballot. Such identification shall be completed no later than March 1 of the year in which an election shall take place. Such identification is not a nominating process, and any individual whose name is identified must be nominated pursuant to § 9.04
- c) The vice president shall provide to each person whose name has been identified a biographical form, which form shall be approved in advance by the Synod Council. The form shall include questions designed to assist voting members in determining (1) what gifts the potential nominee has which would assist in performing the tasks of the Office of Bishop and (2) the top priorities he/she believes need to be dealt with during the next term of the bishop. These biographical forms shall be returned no later than April 1.
- d) The vice president shall distribute the biographical forms to all voting members of the synod assembly. The vice president shall determine the manner in which the forms

shall be distributed. Such distribution must take place at least 14 days before the assembly in which the election of a bishop shall take place.

- e) Those individuals receiving the ten highest number of votes (plus ties) on the first ballot (nominating ballot) shall be requested to complete a biographical information sheet if they have not done so already, and such sheets shall be provided to the voting members of the Synod Assembly at least two hours prior to the distribution of the second ballot.
- f) In the event that a bishop is to be elected at a special assembly, the synod council shall determine the deadlines for the procedure set out in this bylaw.

S9.05. The Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for vice-president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.07. The Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.08 In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes, but not elected by a majority of the votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each position unfilled.

S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.

## **Chapter 10. SYNOD COUNCIL**

†S10.01 The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

- a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

- b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be 3 years.

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

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

- a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod.
- b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly, and oversee the execution of program goals and the financial affairs of the synod.
- d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of ELCA, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- e. Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of ELCA.
- f. Elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.
- g. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the

constitution or bylaws of the synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of the synod.

- h. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- i. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of the synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.

S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

S10.05. No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service, but may receive reimbursement for expenses.

S10.06. A member's place on the Synod Council shall be declared vacant if the member:

- a) Ceases to be a member in good standing on the roster of the synod if an ordained minister; or
- b) Ceases to be a voting member of a congregation of the conference which nominated them if a layperson; or
- c) Is absent from three successive regular meetings of the Synod Council without cause.

S10.07. The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.

S10.07.01. Membership. Membership of the Synod Council shall be the officers of this synod, eight clergy under call, and at least ten lay members.

S10.07.02. Election of clergy members. Clergy members shall be elected as follows:

- a. They shall be elected by the Synod Assembly, after nomination by the Nominating Committee.
- b. They shall be elected at large.

- c. They shall serve a term of three years, and may be re-elected. They may serve no more than two terms consecutively.
- d. The terms of members who are not officers of synod shall begin at the end of the meeting of the Synod Assembly at which they are elected. Members of Synod Council shall be installed before the conclusion of the meeting.
- e. When a vacancy occurs between elections, the Synod Council shall elect a clergy member to serve until the next election.

S10.07.03. Election of lay members. Ten lay members shall be elected as follows:

- a. They shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. Nominations shall be provided by the Conferences and there shall be no nominations from the Synod Assembly nor from the Nominating Committee.
- b. Each conference shall be entitled to one member of the Synod Council, who must be a member of a congregation in the conference while serving.
- c. Each member shall serve a term of three years and may be re-elected, except that the seat shall alternate between a female and a male member every six years.
- d. The terms of members shall begin at the end of the meeting of the Synod Assembly at which they are elected. Members of Synod Council shall be installed before the conclusion of the meeting.
- e. When a vacancy occurs between elections, the Synod Council shall elect a member from that conference to serve until the next election.

S10.07.04. Persons of Color. In case the election of officers, the election of clergy members (S10.07.02), and the election of lay members (S10.07.03) does not elect two persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, the Synod Council, at its first meeting following the Annual Synod Assembly shall elect to the Synod Council for a three (3) year term up to two (2) lay members to insure that

there are two (2) persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English on the Synod Council.

S10.07.05. Youth Member. The youth member shall be elected at large by the Synod Assembly, upon nomination by the Nominating Committee, for a two-year term. The youth representative shall be a confirmed person, a member of a congregation of the synod, and shall not have attained the age of 18 at the time of the election. When a vacancy occurs, the Synod Council shall elect a new member to serve the unexpired portion of the term.

S10.07.06. Additional duties. In addition to duties listed in the constitution of this synod, the Synod Council shall:

- a. Approve and oversee special appeals for funds within synod, and then appoint appropriate task forces to coordinate them.
- b. Determine the formula by which congregations shall be apportioned members of the Synod Assembly, pursuant to Section 7.21 of the synod constitution, and notify each congregation of the synod how many members they shall select to the Synod Assembly, no later than December of each year.
- c. Review proposed changes in congregational constitutions.
- d. Each biennium, the Synod Council shall designate the chair of the Committee on Discipline from among the members of the Committee on Discipline elected by the Synod Assembly.
- e. Recommend to each congregation of the synod a benevolence commitment that would enable the work of the synod, and encourage congregations to fulfill their commitments.
- f. Appoint Assembly Committees, upon nomination by the bishop.

S10.07.07. Meetings. The Synod Council shall meet at least four times a year. Meetings shall be called by the bishop. If the bishop is unable to call a meeting, the vice-president shall call a meeting.

S10.07.08. Women's organization representative. The president of the synod Women of the ELCA or her representative shall have the privilege of voice at meetings of the Synod Council.

S10.07.09. Men's organization representative. The president of the synod Lutheran Men in Mission or his representative shall have the privilege of voice at meetings of the Synod Council.

S10.07.10. Youth organization representative. The president of the synod Lutheran Youth Organization or his or her representative shall have the privilege of voice at meetings of the Synod Council.

## **Chapter 11. COMMITTEES**

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

S11.01.01. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven members of the Synod Council: the bishop, the vice president, the secretary, the treasurer, one clergy member, one lay female member, one lay male member.

- a. Members other than officers shall be chosen by the Synod Council to serve for one year, and may be reappointed.
- b. The bishop shall preside over meetings of the Executive Committee.
- c. The Executive Committee shall make recommendations to the Synod Council, and review reports to those meetings.
- d. The Executive Committee shall assume those responsibilities assigned by the Synod Council and other

responsibilities to the extent necessary to facilitate business between Council meetings.

S11.01.02. Mutual Ministry Committee. The purpose of this committee shall be to support and counsel the bishop and assistants to the bishop. The committee shall:

- a. Meet with each individual at least once a year.
- b. Annually review compensation, and make recommendations to the Synod Council.
- c. Report to the Synod Council such of its work as the individuals and committee agree to report. The committee shall not report to the Synod Assembly.
- d. Members of this committee shall be appointed by the Synod Council upon nomination by the bishop to terms of three years, with about one-third of the terms expiring each year. Members may be reappointed only once.
- e. Members of the Synod Council or other members of the synod may be appointed to this committee.

S11.01.03. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of a chair and ten members, one from each conference.

- a) The committee shall nominate qualified persons for the elections by the Synod Assembly, except officers, lay members of the Synod Council, and voting members to the Churchwide Assembly.
- b) At least 120 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly the committee shall publish a list of positions for which nominations will be made and provide a mechanism by which suggestions for nominations or the willingness to serve of individuals can be communicated to the committee.
- c) The Committee shall also receive the names of any proposed nominee from any agency or institution to whom the Synod Assembly shall elect a board member.
- d) The Committee shall transmit to the Secretary of the synod its nominees; this shall be done no later than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the Synod

Assembly; and further the committee shall publish its nominees in any and all publications of the Synod.

- e) The Committee shall be responsible to determine what biographical information would be appropriate for distribution for voting members of the Synod Assembly, obtain this material from nominees, including those nominated from the floor, and distribute it to all voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- f) The Committee shall also present nominees of voting members to each Churchwide Assembly only those nominated by the conferences.
  - i) §6.04 shall be the standard for determining the lay/clergy, male/female, and percentage of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
  - ii) Each conference shall nominate two lay persons for each seat assigned to the conference for election by the Synod Assembly. After taking into account the number of lay officers who shall serve as voting members, the committee shall assign 1 lay delegate seat to each conference, except:
    - 1) where the total number of voting members to be elected is more than the number of conferences, the extra voting member seat shall be assigned to the conference on a rotating basis, and
    - 2) where the total number of voting members to be elected is less than the number of conferences, the voting members shall be assigned to the conferences on a rotating basis.
  - iii) Each conference shall nominate for election by the Synod Assembly two clergy for each seat assigned to the conference for voting members to the Churchwide Assembly. The committee shall assign the clergy of voting members to the conferences on a rotating basis.
  - iv) The rotating basis used by the Nominating committee shall provide the conferences with the opportunity of nominating the same lay or clergy person for two successive churchwide assemblies.

- v) If necessary so that the synod may comply with §6.04 of the Constitution, the Nominating Committee shall ask two conferences each to nominate two persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- vi) The committee shall report to the secretary its determination as to the assignment of lay and clergy seats for the churchwide assembly voting members no later than January 30 of each year in which elections are to be conducted at the synod assembly.

S11.01.03A That those persons nominated to serve as voting members of the Church wide Assembly, who are not elected, be designated as alternates.

S11.01.04 Volunteer Committee. The purpose of this committee shall be to recruit individuals to serve on various synod committees and task forces, as well as to identify persons with leadership capabilities who can serve the synod in a variety of capacities. This committee shall:

- a) Maintain a registry of persons with leadership ability and experience within the synod, with special notation of skills, interest, experience, and whether they are persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- b) Assist the bishop in finding nominees to serve on committees and task forces of the synod.

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

†S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ordained ministers and six shall

be lay persons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- b. The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four committee members (two clergy and two lay) expire every two years.
- c. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term. (During the 1999-2000 biennium, in order to implement such staggered terms for a 12-member committee, the Synod Council may designate terms and may transfer members from the Consultation Committee to the Committee on Discipline consistent with models prepared by the secretary of this church. This parenthetical implementation sentence shall expire at the conclusion of the 2001 Churchwide Assembly.)

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

S11.04.01. Meetings. Unless otherwise stipulated, committees shall meet at least once a year. The appointed chairpersons of all committees shall convene their meetings.

S11.04.02. Appointment of members.

- a. Other Committees and their chairpersons shall be appointed by the Synod Council, upon nomination by the bishop of the synod, except the conferences shall select the members of the nominating committee from the geographic area of the conference.
- b. Except as otherwise stipulated in the bylaws, committees shall consist of from three to fifteen members. The size of a committee shall be as designated by the Synod Council.
- c. Except as otherwise specified in the constitution, bylaws, and resolutions of the synod, committee members shall be appointed for terms of three years with about one-third

of the terms expiring each year. Members may serve no more than two terms consecutively.

- d. Chairpersons shall be appointed annually.
- e. The terms of committee members shall begin on August 1 and terminate on July 31, appointments being made at the first regular Synod Council meeting following the annual meeting of the Synod Assembly and published with the Synod Assembly minutes.
- f. A member's place on any synod committee shall be declared vacant if the member:
  - 1) Ceases to be a member in good standing on the roster of the synod if an ordained minister; or
  - 2) Ceases to be a voting member of a congregation of the synod if a lay person; or
  - 3) Is absent from three successive meetings of the synod committee without cause.
- g. Appointments made to fill a vacancy or to expand a committee may be made by the Synod Council, for the balance of a term.

#### S11.04.03. Committee for Congregational Life.

- a. The purpose of this committee shall be to oversee the synod`s work of assisting congregations in carrying out all of their own ministries at the congregational level. These include:
  - 1. Worship
  - 2. Education and nurture, including programs to strengthen the ministry of the laity.
  - 3. Social ministry.
  - 4. Evangelism.
  - 5. Stewardship.
  - 6. Management of finances and property.

- b. The committee shall work with conferences in supporting and enhancing the life and mission of their congregations.
- c. The committee shall have a relationship with the synod youth organization, and shall be responsible for the synod's oversight of youth ministry.

S11.04.04. Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

The committee shall function under the direction of the Synod Council and in consultation with the bishop's office. The secretary of the synod shall be a member of this committee.

- a. In conjunction with synod staff, the committee shall oversee short term and long range planning for Synod Assembly with respect to site, accommodations, logistics, program, and worship.
- b. Members of this committee shall be appointed for three-year terms, so that one-third of the members' terms will expire each year. Members shall include persons selected for specific responsibilities in accordance with their particular gifts and interests.

S11.04.05 Long Range Planning Committee. This committee shall serve as an advisory committee to the Synod Council. The committee shall:

- a. Study the effectiveness of the synod in fulfilling its mission;
- b. Receive and consider suggestion about the work of the synod; and
- c. Propose to the Synod Council, and revise annually, a long range plan for the mission of the synod.
- d. Members of this committee shall be appointed for four-year terms, and may serve no more than two terms consecutively.

S11.04.06. Synod Outreach/Evangelism Team

The purpose of the Synod Outreach/Evangelism Team shall be to assist the synod as a committee in keeping evangelism, both proclamation and action, at the center of its life and witness. To this end, the committee shall extend the work of the synod by developing and supporting ministries and congregations. The committee shall:

- a. Communicate the Church's mission of invitation to Word and Sacrament.

- b. Strategize synod-wide plans and visions for evangelism and outreach which will:
  1. Broker information about educational and financial resources available to congregations and ministries.
  2. Publish stories and offer encouragement throughout the synod, celebrating mission and lifting up possibilities.
  3. Be attentive to attempts that didn't live up to potential, enabling the whole synod to learn from synod, conference, and congregational efforts
  4. Equip the Conference Outreach/Evangelism Teams and Campus Ministry representatives for their own mission work, enhancing the life and mission of their ministries.
- c. Develop and recommend policy for, and then assist in, the development of new ministries and congregations, the support of existing ministries and congregations and of urban, suburban, and rural coalitions.
- d. Provide support to congregations having difficulty maintaining their ministry. Work with congregations in discerning the future of their ministries and supporting and assisting congregations in Renewal, Yoking, Merging, Consolidation, Hospice and Closure.
- e. Be responsible for the synod-wide Mission Partners program. Develop a network of Mission Partners able and willing to be in mission with other congregations or ministries.
- f. Establish, support, and plan for the outreach of this Church to persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English.
- g. Oversee disbursements of grants for mission in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod:
  1. Establish the level of financial support, review previous allocations periodically, and identify the most appropriate sources and amounts of funding.
  2. Maintain geographical integrity.
  3. Observe the parameters of the Mission 2000 Endowment case statement.
  4. Nurture our partnership with the Division for Outreach
  5. Pursue the Synod Outreach and Evangelism Strategy.
- h. The Synod Outreach/Evangelism Team shall meet at least quarterly. The Team shall be made up of one representative from each Conference Outreach/Evangelism Team who has vote regarding disbursements of funds, plus a Campus Ministry representative who also has vote. All other persons from Conference Outreach/Evangelism Teams, congregations, and ministries are welcome to attend all meetings and will have voice but not vote.

S11.04.07. Committee on Ministry. The purpose of this committee shall be to provide for the guidance and support for the various areas of synodical lay and professional ministry, including recruitment, leadership support, lay worship leaders, clergy, AIM, deaconess, and diaconal ministers, compensation guidelines and other similar responsibilities as may be developed by or delegated to this committee.

S11.04.08. Committee on Communications. The purpose of this committee shall be to inform the people of the synod about the work of the synod, as well as to edify, educate, and inspire the people of the synod.

- a. Communication may include the use of print media, newspaper, the Internet, television, videotape, radio, speaker bureau, and other systems of transmitting information.
- b. It shall also be the work of this committee to facilitate and strengthen all communication efforts throughout the synod.
- c. To accomplish these ends, the committee shall
  1. Publish and distribute a synod newspaper.
  2. Recommend to the Synod Council an editor for the synod newspaper or other type of synod publication requiring an editor. The committee shall support and give direction to the editor(s)
  3. Provide information about the synod and congregations and pastors to *The Lutheran*.
  4. Develop and oversee a web presence for the synod, along with recommending ways to improve electronic communication among the individuals and congregations of the synod by electronic mail or other means.
  5. As requested, provide programs and workshops for other committees and congregations in the area of communications.
  6. Utilize any other means available to keep the congregations, pastors, and other individuals of the

synod in contact with each other and to share appropriate information.

S11.04.09. Committee on Global Mission. The committee shall:

- a. Work with conferences and congregations and at meetings of the Synod Assembly to promote awareness and encourage support for the global mission of the church.
- b. Be the liaison of the synod with the ELCA Division for Global Mission.
- c. With the Office of the Bishop and the ELCA Division of Global Mission, the Global Mission Committee will coordinate and provide oversight to Companion Synod relationships.

S11.04.10. Committee on Ecumenical Ministry. This committee shall function under the guidance of the bishop, who is the chief ecumenical officer of the synod. The purpose of this committee shall be to encourage, facilitate, and coordinate ecumenical partnerships at the synod, state, and local levels, within the guidelines of the ELCA.

S11.04.11. Committee on Campus Ministry. This committee shall:

- a. Oversee the synod's ministry to students in non-Lutheran institutions.
- b. Make recommendations for the extension and improvement of this ministry.

S11.04.12 Leadership Support Committee

The purpose of this committee shall be to support the rostered leaders of this synod.

Among the functions of this committee shall be:

- a. Planning and convening an annual ministerium for rostered professional leaders which will provide continuing education, mutual conversation and encouragement, and an opportunity for conversation with the bishop and the synod staff regarding the mission of the synod.
- b. Develop ways to support retired rostered persons, including convening synod and/or regional gatherings to explore existing needs and resources for such persons, and seeking ways in

which talents and experience can be further utilized in the life of the synod and its congregations.

- c. The chairperson of the committee, in consultation with the bishop following the receipt and analysis of annual Reports to the Bishop, shall determine trends and needs that this committee may address to assist rostered persons.
- d. Encourage continuing education among rostered persons and administer the funds of the synod that are available for continuing education grants,
- e. Support first call persons through the First Call Theological Education program of the ELCA.
- f. Be in conversation with those rostered persons in specialized ministries to offer support and collegiality.

S11.04.13. Committee on Social Ministry Organizations. This committee shall encourage and assist congregations, conferences and the synod to witness to the Gospel through responding to human needs and social issues. It shall:

- a. Work with conferences and congregations and at meetings of the Synod Assembly to raise awareness and promote action regarding issues of justice and peace, the care of the earth, and other local, regional, national and global social ministry concerns.
- b. Be the liaison between the synod and the ELCA Division for Church in Society.
- c. Assist congregations, conferences and the synod to study, interpret, and implement the teaching and social statements of the ELCA.
- d. Coordinate the synod's relationship with the organizations, activities, and social ministry agencies, including the Federation of Lutheran Social Ministry Organizations of Indiana and Kentucky, on the territory of the synod.

S11.04.14. Committee on Outdoor Ministry. This committee shall:

- a. Recommend outdoor ministry policy to the Synod Council.
- b. Review and evaluate implementation of this policy.
- c. Conduct, promote, and improve the camps owned and operated by the synod, except that all decisions affecting the encumbrance, acquisition and/or transfer of real

estate or the improvements thereon must be taken, or concurred in, by the Synod Council.

- d. Coordinate sites, develop leadership, and execute programs at the camps of the synod.
- e. Present regular financial reports and program proposals and an annual program report to the Synod Council.

S11.04.15 Committee for Candidacy. There shall be a Candidacy Committee to act on behalf of the ELCA in the candidacy process for the rosters of the ELCA. The Candidacy Committee shall use churchwide standards, requirements, and expectations for discerning and determining the readiness of persons to enter the candidacy process and to begin theological education, for endorsing candidates for a specific roster of this church, and in the approval process for determining an individual's qualifications and readiness to serve in rostered ministry. The Candidacy Committee shall provide guidance, encouragement, and support for candidates throughout the candidacy process.

- a. The size of the Candidacy Committee shall be determined by the number of candidates for which the committee is normally responsible. A ratio of one committee member for no more than ten candidates is most desirable. The number of members shall not be less than six.
- b. The membership of the committee shall normally include equal numbers of rostered leaders and laypersons. At least one of the rostered leaders shall be from a lay roster.
- c. The synod bishop or the bishop's designate and the chairperson of the committee shall be voting members of the committee.
- d. Members shall be appointed for a term of five years and may serve no more than two terms consecutively.
- e. Terms of members shall be staggered so that no more than one third of the committee membership retires in a given year.

S11.04.16 The Academy for Mission

- a. In support of the Synod's Mission and Vision, the Academy shall:
  - 1. Encourage the use of resources that help pastors to be mission director; congregations, conferences, and ministries to be mission centers; and members to be missionaries.
  - 2. Discover or create such resources and provide them in ways that meet the needs of pastors, congregations and members.
  - 3. Communicate learning opportunities within the territory of the Synod.
- b. Liaisons from each of the following Synod Committees will attend Academy meetings as needed: Outreach/Evangelism, Stewardship, Christian Education, Worship, and Leadership.
- c. Academy appointments for members and the chairperson are covered under S11.04.02 of the Synod Constitution. The committee shall consist of 3-15 members, who will serve terms of three years, with one-third of the terms expiring each year. Members may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

S11.04.17. Christian Education Committee

The purpose of the Christian Education Committee is to support congregations of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in faith formation and discipleship training. To this end, the committee shall:

- a. Pray for congregation members, education leaders, and pastors as they undertake this primary ministry of education and discipleship.
- b. Foster the quality and growth of educational ministries such as Bible studies; small groups and classes; midweek summer programs; and Confirmation/Catechism classes.
- c. Organize and promote Sunday School and Adult Education leader workshops.
- d. Provide a clearinghouse for educational materials.
- e. Share ideas through newsletters (e.g. the "ed.network") and presentations.
- f. Support God's people life-long learning.

The committee shall consist of at least six members from geographically diverse areas of the Synod.

S11.04.18. Older Adult Ministry Committee

The purpose of the Older Adult Ministry Committee is to focus on the development of an intentional older adult ministry in the synod and the congregations.

- a. To encourage activities and programs affirming older adults who want to be useful and remain independent, to search for meaning and purpose in life, to grow spiritually and to provide meaningful service to others.
- b. To encourage congregations to survey their church properties and, if necessary adapt to meet needs of older adults.
- c. To provide resources to congregations to encourage participation in Older Adult Week in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.
- d. To establish a network of contact persons in each conference for continuing information about older adult ministries.

S11.04.19. Lay Ministries Committee

There shall be a Lay Ministries Committee to develop programs, provide training guidelines, maintain rosters of lay worship leaders, and provide guidance for conferences to do annual training events for lay people.

The Lay Ministries Committee will:

- a. Seek methods and strategies that enrich the ministry of lay people in institutional and daily life.
- b. Recommend to the Bishop those who should be listed as approved Lay Worship Leaders. The committee will recommend annual training requirements to maintain certification.
- c. Recommend to the Bishop the requirements to be appointed as a Lay Parish Minister and the annual training requirements.
- d. The committee may develop a Lay School of Theology for the Synod. This will provide educational opportunities for Lay Worship Leaders, Lay Parish Ministers, and other interested lay people.

S11.04.20 Youth Ministry Committee

Purpose

The Youth Ministry Committee exists to shepherd, equip, and encourage youth as they grow in faithful witness in the Body of Christ. This is to be accomplished through:

- a. Word and Sacrament ministries in congregations and appropriate authorized settings.
- b. Relationship based and age-specific ministry.

- c. Initiating, facilitating and implementing educational and spiritual opportunities for youth, their families, and their leaders.
- d. Assessing needs and implementing responses for a holistic approach to the growth and maturation of individuals and families within the framework of the Christian community.
- e. Establishing and nurturing on-going communication with all the sub-committees, synod staff, and congregational groups involved in youth oriented ministries.

#### Membership and Leadership

- a. The Youth Committee is composed of designated liaisons from each of the three sub-committees plus LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) and the synod staff links.
- b. Sub-committee memberships:
  - 1) Leadership Training Steering Sub-committee will be composed of ratio of approximately three adults to one youth who are involved in planning and leading the training. The chairperson is appointed by the synod staff person responsible for youth ministry.
  - 2) High School Sub-committee is composed of one youth and one adult per conference in the synod selected based on leadership qualities as well as knowledge of youth and family ministry. The term of service is two years. Half of the members are appointed each year on a rotating basis. The chair is responsible for obtaining membership recommendations from conference deans and synod staff. The Chairperson is appointed by the synod staff person responsible for youth ministry or can be an adult elected by the committee membership.
  - 3) Middle School Ministry Sub-committee – Two adults who are active and knowledgeable in confirmation/middle school ministry from each conference in the synod. The term of service is two years. Half of the membership is to be appointed each year on a rotating basis. The chairperson is appointed by the synod staff person responsible for youth ministry or elected from the committee membership.

## Sub-committees

- a. Leadership Training Steering Committee – Plan and execute an annual leadership training for high school youth each summer to equip, encourage and empower participants by presenting principles of Christian leadership through workshops, special speakers, and small group experience.
- b. Middle School Ministry Committee -
  - 1) Address developmental and spiritual needs of youth in grades 6-8.
  - 2) Seek to encourage faith growth through intergenerational relationships.
  - 3) Facilitate regional educational workshops in the North, Central, and South parts of the Synod to train adults involved in middle school age youth and family ministry by sharing ideas.
  - 4) Create a youth and family ministry newsletter to be mailed by e- mail or regular mail at least twice a year to the coordinator of middle school youth and family ministry in congregations.
- c. High School Ministry Committee –
  - 1) Address developmental and spiritual needs of youth in grades 9-12.
  - 2) Facilitate regional opportunities for training and inspiration involving programming of a diverse nature that congregational youth groups normally would not be equipped to provide. The congregations in closer geographic proximity would have the greatest potential for attending. Key youth and family ministry people from other areas of the synod would be notified so they could attend or inform others who could benefit.
  - 3) Create a youth and family newsletter to be e-mailed to high school youth and youth workers.
  - 4) Shepherd and encourage quality training of professional and lay leaders in youth programs across the synod through attending workshops and conventions and then sharing information with others.

## Youth Committee and Sub-committee meetings

- a. The Youth Ministry Committee composed of liaisons from the sub-committees will meet at least twice a year and send minutes and/or general information to all sub-committee members and other key individuals and groups involved in strengthening youth ministry in the synod.
- b. Sub-committees shall meet at least annually and

send minutes and/or general information to the Youth Ministry Committee plus other pertinent youth ministry groups and individuals.

- S11.05. Task forces. Task forces may be appointed by the Synod Council. Task forces shall report to the Synod Council. Task forces appointed by committees of the synod are not task forces of the synod but of that committee. Any task forces appointed, whether of the synod or of a committee, shall be provided in writing with specific purposes, and with a deadline by which their work shall be completed and the task force disbanded or re-appointed.
- S11.06. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to insure 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.
- S11.10 General Provisions
- S11.11. Other Committees. Committees shall be appointed to oversee and implement the work of the synod. Committees shall relate to their counterparts in the ELCA and in the region. Committees shall report to the Synod Council after each committee meeting. Unless otherwise stipulated, every committee shall submit to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a written report of its activities along with such recommendations as it may desire.

## **Chapter 12. CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, OR OTHER AREA SUBDIVISIONS.**

- †S12.01. This synod shall establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions within its territory as specified in the bylaws. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships among congregations, institutions, and synodical and churchwide units for mission purposes.
- S12.01.01. Conferences. The synod shall be divided into ten conferences, consisting of congregations clustered around, geographic areas of service and communication. The Synod Council shall determine with which conference congregations are aligned. Alignment of congregations with conferences shall be included in the annual report of the Synod Assembly.

S12.01.02.Purposes. The Conference shall:

- a. Plan programs to strengthen the church's ministries of proclamation, worship, learning, youth work, witness, service, stewardship, and advocacy within the congregations.
- b. Foster shared ministries within the conference, and through coalitions or clusters.
- c. Facilitate communication.
- d. Plan and implement meetings, retreats, fellowship events, study, and training;
- e. Be involved in the process of allocating human and financial resources.
- f. Develop relationships with other religious and secular organizations dedicated to advocating justice and providing services to meet human needs.
- g. Sponsor other functions that will strengthen the mission of the church.
- h. Nominate a lay member of the Synod Council as assigned by the Synod Nominating Committee.
- i. Present nominees for Churchwide Assembly delegates as assigned by the Synod Nominating Committee for election by the Synod Assembly S11.01.03d).

S12.01.03.Treasury. Conferences may have treasuries, and may solicit funds within their conference to carry out their purposes.

S12.01.04.Conference Assembly. Conferences shall meet in assembly at least once a year. Conference Assemblies shall set goals and priorities for the conference, and shall elect officers.

S12.01.05. Representation. Representation in the Conference Assembly shall be:

- a. All members of the ministeriums within the conference.
- b. Lay members from each congregation, as determined by the synod constitution for the Synod Assembly. Where

practicable, lay members to the Synod Assembly shall be members of the Conference Assembly.

c. Members of the Synod Council from the conference.

S12.01.06. Officers. Conferences shall have the following officers: a chairperson, a secretary, and a dean. They may have a treasurer.

a. The chairperson, who shall be lay, shall be elected by the Conference Assembly.

b. The secretary and the treasurer (if any) shall be elected by the Conference Assembly. Both positions may be served by the same person.

c. The dean of the ministerium shall be chosen by the ministerium.

d. An attempt shall be made to include male and female leadership.

e. Officers shall be elected to two-year terms, and may serve no more than two terms consecutively.

f. Election of the chairperson shall be held at the first meeting of the Conference Assembly after the annual meeting of the Synod Assembly in odd-numbered years.

g. Elections of secretary and treasurer shall be held at the first meeting of the Conference Assembly after the annual meeting of the Synod Assembly in even-numbered years.

h. The officers shall consult prior to a Conference Assembly to set the agenda for that meeting.

i. Should the chairperson, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the dean, with the approval of the Conference Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until the Conference Assembly for the election of the new officer is to be held or until the officer is able to serve again.

S12.01.07. Chairperson. The chairperson shall convene and conduct the meetings of the Conference Assembly and of the Conference Council. In the absence of the chairperson, the dean shall convene and conduct meetings.

- S12.01.08. Secretary. The secretary shall:
- a. Supervise the keeping of records of the Conference Council and Conference Assembly.
  - b. Be responsible for the communications of the Conference Council and Conference Assembly.
  - c. Perform such other duties as the Conference Assembly may assign.

S12.01.09. Treasurer. If there is a treasurer, the treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the conference.

- S12.01.10. Conference Council.
- a. The conference shall determine the size of the Conference Council; it shall have no fewer than three members, who shall be the officers of the conference, and no more than fifteen.
  - b. Every reasonable attempt shall be made to see that for members other than the officers, lay/clergy and male/female ratios meet the synod standards.
  - c. The Conference Council shall have the authority to call meetings of the Conference Assembly.
  - d. The lay and clergy members of the Synod Council shall maintain a liaison between their conferences and the Synod Council.
  - e. The bishop or assistant to the bishop shall have the privilege of voice at meetings of the Conference Council.

- S12.01.11 Ministeriums.
- a. Membership. The ministerium is to include all ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers within the boundaries of a conference.
  - b. Purposes. The ministerium shall be responsible for:
    1. The spiritual nurture of its members.
    2. Support and encouragement of its members.
    3. Developing fellowship and community among its members.

4. Encouraging and facilitating continuing education.
- c. Dean. At its first meeting after each Synod Assembly in even-numbered years, the ministerium shall hold an election for dean. The dean shall be an ordained pastor under call in the conference or retired and residing in the conference and in good standing on the roster of this synod. Should an elected dean under call go on leave from call before the term is expired, that dean may complete the term with the recommendation of the bishop of the Synod and the approval of the Synod Council. If there is no dean, the bishop or a representative of the bishop shall summon a meeting to elect a dean. In addition to responsibilities as an officer of the conference, the dean shall:
1. Lead the ministerium in accomplishing its objectives.
  2. Assist the bishop in ministering to members of the ministerium and their families.
  3. At the direction of the bishop, install ordained ministers and associates in ministry called to service within the conference.
- d. Meetings. The ministerium shall meet regularly, as called by the dean.

**S12.01.12. Conference Outreach/Evangelism Teams (CO/ET)**

The purpose of the CO/ET shall be to assist the conference in keeping evangelism, both proclamation and action, at the center of its life and witness. To this end, the team shall extend the work of the conference and synod by developing and supporting ministries and congregations.

The team shall:

- a. Communicate the Church's mission of invitation to Word and Sacrament.
- b. Strategize conference-wide plans and visions for evangelism and outreach.
- c. Support the mission director and Synod Outreach/Evangelism Team regarding:
  1. determining mission fields in the conference,
  2. supporting the development of new ministries and congregations,
  3. developing transformational ministries and other models of ministry,

- 4. encouraging existing ministries and congregations and
- 5. assisting urban, suburban, and rural coalitions.
- d. Support and plan for the outreach of this Church to persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English.
- e. Assist with ministry reviews as needed in conference outreach/partnership supported congregations. Communicate with the SO/ET the need or desire of any congregation in the conference which requests or needs a ministry review.
- f. Study growth trends and identify sites for new ministries. Complete ministry area profiles as needed for site approval of new ministries.
  - 1. Support, assist, and communicate with conference pastor-developers and mission congregations.
- g. Help congregations develop mission initiatives.
- h. Identify potential mission leaders who can be mentors or serve in new or redeveloping congregations.
- i. Develop a mission-partner resource list and assist the mission director and SO/ET with synod-wide mission partner needs and resources.
- j. Make recommendations to the SO/ET regarding funding needs in the conference. Advocate for and be a liaison with conference congregations, ministries, Dean, Council and Assembly.
- k. Communication:
  - 1. Share information about educational and financial resources available to congregations and ministries.
  - 2. Share stories with the conference and synod celebrating mission and lifting up possibilities.
  - 3. Advise the SO/ET of attempts that didn't live up to potential, enabling the whole synod to learn from conference and congregational efforts.
- l. The conference Outreach/Evangelism Team shall meet at least quarterly. The Team shall be made up of seven to fifteen persons who are nominated by the conference council and Dean and elected by the conference at its Spring Assembly. One member of each CO/ET (chosen by the CO/ET) will serve on the Synod Outreach/Evangelism Team. The CO/ET will elect a Chairperson to convene and run the CO/ET meetings.

S12.01.A87. Conferences of the Synod

## CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCES

### East Central Indiana Conference

20072	Our Blessed Savior	Alexandria, Indiana
02228	Mt. Zion	Anderson, Indiana
02203	St. John	Anderson, Indiana
02202	Redeemer	Bryant, Indiana
02329	Peace	Connersville, Indiana
02309	St. Paul	Connersville, Indiana
02368	St. John	Elwood, Indiana
02269	Grace	Gas City, Indiana
13204	Zion	Hartford City, Indiana
10714	St. John	Marion, Indiana
13260	Church of the Cross	Muncie, Indiana
02226	Holy Trinity	Muncie, Indiana
02227	Holy Trinity	New Castle, Indiana
02313	Zion	Pershing, Indiana
02262	Zion	Portland, Indiana
07384	Faith United	Richmond, Indiana
02314	First English	Richmond, Indiana
13290	St. John	Richmond, Indiana
02316	St. Paul	Richmond, Indiana
13291	Trinity	Richmond, Indiana
13313	Trinity	Union City, Indiana
02232	Our Saviour	Winchester, Indiana

### East Kentucky Conference

13064	St. Paul	Augusta, Kentucky
07475	Prince of Peace	Bellevue, Kentucky
02319	St. Luke	Cold Spring, Kentucky
07696	Gloria Dei	Crestview Hills, KY
02378	Hope	Frankfort, Kentucky
02322	Hopeful	Florence, Kentucky
02323	Hebron	Hebron, Kentucky
02324	Faith	Lexington, Kentucky
13226	Gethsemane	Lexington, Kentucky
07746	Word of Hope	Lexington, Kentucky
02325	St. John	Melbourne, Kentucky
07536	St. Mark	Newport, Kentucky
07699	St. Thomas	Richmond, Kentucky
30103	Prince of Peace	Russell Springs, KY
07217	Redeemer	Somerset, Kentucky

### Evansville Conference

07766	St. Matthew by the Lake	Benton, Kentucky
30522	St. Thomas'	Campbellsville, KY
10638	St. John	Dubois, Indiana
02333	Christ	Evansville, Indiana

10650	Emanuel	Evansville, Indiana
20073	Grace	Evansville, Indiana
10651	Peace	Evansville, Indiana
02335	St. Mark	Evansville, Indiana
10652	Shepherd of the Hills	Evansville, Indiana
10683	St. James	Holland, Indiana
10684	Grace	Huntingburg, Indiana
10682	Christ (Haysville)	Jasper, Indiana
02342	Redeemer	Jasper, Indiana
02336	St. Paul (Haysville)	Jasper, Indiana
10706	Trinity	Linton, Indiana
10710	St. John	Loogootee, Indiana
07464	Christ	Madisonville, Indiana
07815	St. Luke	Newburgh, Indiana
19752	St. John	Otwell, Indiana
02359	Faith	Owensboro, Kentucky
02357	St. Matthew	Paducah, Kentucky
02338	Our Saviour	Princeton, Indiana
07726	Holy Cross	Rockport, Indiana
10797	St. Peter	Stendal, Indiana
02341	St. Paul	Vincennes, Indiana
10813	Good Shepherd	Washington, Indiana

#### Indianapolis Conference

02204	St. Thomas	Bloomington, Indiana
02234	Messiah	Brownsburg, Indiana
02217	King of Glory	Carmel, Indiana
02206	First	Columbus, Indiana
02207	St. George	Edinburgh, Indiana
07644	Christ the Savior	Fishers, Indiana
02236	St. James	Greenfield, Indiana
02209	Abundant Grace	Greenwood, Indiana
30306	Risen Lord	Greenwood, Indiana
02210	Bethany	Indianapolis, Indiana
02211	Bethlehem	Indianapolis, Indiana
10686	Cross and Crown	Indianapolis, Indiana
10687	Faith	Indianapolis, Indiana
10688	First Trinity	Indianapolis, Indiana
02215	Gethsemane	Indianapolis, Indiana
02216	Good Shepherd	Indianapolis, Indiana
10689	Hope	Indianapolis, Indiana
20080	Our Redeemer	Indianapolis, Indiana
20081	Pilgrim	Indianapolis, Indiana
02218	Pleasant View	Indianapolis, Indiana
02235	Resurrection	Indianapolis, Indiana
02223	Salem	Indianapolis, Indiana
30011	Servants of Christ	Indianapolis, Indiana

02224	Trinity	Lebanon, Indiana
40004	Cross of Grace	New Palestine, Indiana
02205	Bethel	Noblesville, Indiana
02222	St. Stephen	Plainfield, Indiana
10629	St. Paul	Seymour, Indiana
02220	St. Andrew	Speedway, Indiana
30305	New Joy	Westfield, Indiana
16334	Christ	Zionsville, Indiana

Lafayette Conference

02362	First	Attica, Indiana
02363	St. Peter	Camden, Indiana
02364	Christ	Crawfordsville, Indiana
02367	St. Matthew	Delphi, Indiana
02369	St. Paul	Frankfort, Indiana
02365	Phanuel	Hillsboro, Indiana
30436	Christ	Kokomo, Indiana
02371	Holy Trinity	Lafayette, Indiana
02375	Faith	Logansport, Indiana
02386	Trinity	Logansport, Indiana
16416	New Hope	Monticello, Indiana
02377	Gloria Dei	Mulberry, Indiana
07433	Faith	Otterbein, Indiana
10802	Christ	Terre Haute, Indiana
02229	Christus Victor	Terre Haute, Indiana
02230	Trinity	Terre Haute, Indiana
02390	Shiloh	Walton, Indiana
02374	Our Saviour	West Lafayette, Indiana

North Central Conference

02271	Zion	Bristol, Indiana
02274	Augustana	Elkhart, Indiana
02275	Grace	Elkhart, Indiana
02276	Redeemer	Elkhart, Indiana
02282	First English	Goshen, Indiana
10676	Trinity	Goshen, Indiana
02287	Bethany	La Porte, Indiana
02291	St. Paul	Middlebury, Indiana
02290	St. John (Fish Lake)	Millersburg, Indiana
02292	St. Peter	Millersburg, Indiana
02293	First English	Mishawaka, Indiana
02294	St. John	Nappanee, Indiana
02295	St. John	North Liberty, Indiana
02296	Immanuel	Plymouth, Indiana
30540	Living Spirit	Plymouth, Indiana
02298	Bethany	South Bend, Indiana
10795	Christ the King	South Bend, Indiana

02299	Gloria Dei	South Bend, Indiana
02300	Good Shepherd	South Bend, Indiana
20083	Hilltop Church of the Ascension	South Bend, Indiana
02391	Holy Trinity	South Bend, Indiana
02266	Grace	Syracuse, Indiana

Northeast Conference

02238	St. Mark	Albion, Indiana
10566	Calvary	Angola, Indiana
02239	St. Mark	Auburn, Indiana
02242	Zion (Corunna)	Auburn, Indiana
10581	Calvary	Bluffton, Indiana
02268	St. Paul	Bluffton, Indiana
02243	St. Mark (Butler)	Butler Indiana
02263	Eberhard	Columbia City, Indiana
02245	Grace	Columbia City, Indiana
02244	Hope (Coesse)	Columbia City, Indiana
02246	Calvary	Cromwell, Indiana
20075	Epiphany	Fort Wayne, Indiana
02247	Faith	Fort Wayne, Indiana
20076	Gethsemane	Fort Wayne, Indiana
10660	Grace	Fort Wayne, Indiana
02248	Messiah	Fort Wayne, Indiana
02250	Our Saviour	Fort Wayne, Indiana
07722	Resurrection	Fort Wayne, Indiana
30306	Risen Saviour	Fort Wayne, Indiana
10662	St. John	Fort Wayne, Indiana
10663	St. John(Lake Township)	Fort Wayne, Indiana
02251	St. Luke	Fort Wayne, Indiana
10664	St. Mark (Ossian)	Fort Wayne, Indiana
02252	St. Matthew	Fort Wayne, Indiana
02253	Trinity English	Fort Wayne, Indiana
07722a	Come2Go Ministries	Fort Wayne, Indiana
02254	Holy Trinity	Harlan, Indiana
02255	Antioch	Hoagland, Indiana
02237	Mt. Pleasant	Kendallville, Indiana
02256	Mt. Zion	La Grange, Indiana
02257	Emmanuel	La Otto, Indiana
02258	Marquardt	Monroeville, Indiana
02259	St. Mark	Monroeville, Indiana
02260	St. James	New Haven, Indiana
02261	Zion	N. Manchester, Indiana
02264	St. Mark	Saint Joe, Indiana
02265	St. Peter	Spencerville, Indiana
02267	St. Mark	Uniondale, Indiana
10810	Trinity	Wabash, Indiana

### Northwest Indiana Conference

02272	Bethlehem	Chesterton, Indiana
07682	Cross of Christ	Crown Point, Indiana
02278	Bethel	Gary, Indiana
02277	Bethlehem	Gary, Indiana
20078	Griffith	Griffith, Indiana
02283	Christ	Hammond, Indiana
02284	First United	Hammond, Indiana
02285	Gloria Dei	Highland, Indiana
02286	Augustana	Hobart, Indiana
10668	Emmanuel	Merrillville, Indiana
02288	Prince of Peace	Merrillville, Indiana
30558	St. Luke's United	Michigan City, Indiana
10725	St. Paul	Michigan City, Indiana
02297	Augsburg	Porter, Indiana
16371	Holy Shepherd	St. John, Indiana
10808	Christ	Valparaiso, Indiana
02302	Trinity	Valparaiso, Indiana

### South Central Conference

30050	Spirit of Hope	Bowling Green, KY
02331	Gethsemane	Corydon, Indiana
02332	St. Peter	Corydon, Indiana
02360	House of Prayer	Elizabethtown, KY
02344	Zion	Franklin, Kentucky
02345	Christ	Jeffersontown, KY
02337	Faith	Jeffersonville, Indiana
16457	Ascension	Louisville, Kentucky
02346	Bethany	Louisville, Kentucky
02347	Calvary	Louisville, Kentucky
02349	First	Louisville, Kentucky
02358	Good Shepherd (Valley Station)	Louisville, Kentucky
02351	Messiah-Trinity	Louisville, Kentucky
02352	St. John	Louisville, Kentucky
12353	St. Mark	Louisville, Kentucky
02354	St. Paul (Shively)	Louisville, Kentucky
02343	St. Stephen (Fern Creek)	Louisville, Kentucky
02355	Third	Louisville, Kentucky
30307	Grace & Glory	Prospect, KY

### Southeast Indiana Conference

02304	Adams	Batesville, Indiana
02305	St. Mark	Batesville, Indiana
02306	St. Paul	Batesville, Indiana
02308	St. Thomas	Brookville, Indiana
13079	Trinity	Brookville, Indiana
13067	St. Peter (Bear Branch)	Dillsboro, Indiana

13168	St. Peter	Dillsboro, Indiana
02330	Grace	Greensburg, Indiana
02307	St. Paul	Greensburg, Indiana
02310	Emanuel	Lawrenceburg, Indiana
13225	St. John	Lawrenceburg, Indiana
02328	Resurrection	Madison, Indiana
02311	St. Paul	Milan, Indiana
02326	St. Peter	Milton, Kentucky
02312	St. John	Napoleon, Indiana
13309	St. John	Sunman, Indiana
13237	Zion (Manchester)	Sunman, Indiana
13273	St. Paul (Olean)	Versailles, Indiana

### **Chapter 13. CONGREGATIONS**

†S13.01. Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the register of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the Model Constitution for Congregations or one acceptable to this synod, which is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of ELCA.

- a. New Congregations: A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition by this church shall:
  - 1) Accept this criterion for recognition and reception as a congregation, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.
  - 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, and 18 in the Model Constitution for Congregations consistent with requirements of this constitution and the constitution of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the Model Constitution for congregations, the constitution of this synod, or the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be adopted as described in Chapter 16 and 18 of the Model Constitution for Congregations.

- 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of the ELCA as stated in \*C6.01, \*C6.02, and \*C6.03, of the Model Constitution for Congregations.
- b. Congregations from another church body. If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leaders of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should make contact with the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located.
  - c. Recognition and reception. Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the ELCA is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the register of congregations.
- †S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod annually to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.
- S13.03. The governing documents of congregations recognized at the establishment of this church shall continue to govern such congregations. When such a congregation wishes to amend a particular provision of its governing documents, the provision so amended shall be consistent with the governing documents of this church.
- a. All proposed changes in the constitution of incorporation documents of a congregation shall be referred to the Synod Council. The Synod Council shall approve or disapprove of the proposed changes within 120 days of receipt thereof, and shall notify the congregation of its decision; in the absence of a decision, the changes shall go into effect.

- b. The synod shall recognize that congregations may organize themselves in a manner which they deem most appropriate and that there are a variety of ways in which the required elements may be stated.
- S13.11. When a pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or a diaconal minister of this church resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of the synod.
- S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or diaconal minister of this church shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- S13.21. The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges, and all alterations in any alignment, shall be subject to approval by the Synod Assembly or by the Synod Council.
- †S13.22. Each congregation, except those that are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish a relationship with the synod in whose territory it is located.
- S13.23. Subject to the provisions of S13.03, the following shall govern the ownership of property by congregations of this church (ELCA 9.71):
- a. Title to property shall reside in the congregation. The congregation may dispose of its property as it determines, subject to any self-accepted indebtedness or other self-accepted restrictions.
  - b. Title to the undisposed property of a congregation that ceases to exist shall pass to the synod.
  - c. Title to the property of a congregation that is no longer recognized by this church as a result of discipline shall continue to reside in the congregation.
  - d. Title to the property of a congregation that has acted to terminate its relationship with this church by the provisions of 9.62 of the ELCA constitution to relate to another Lutheran church body shall continue to reside in the congregation.

e. Title to the property of a congregation that has acted to terminate its relationship with this church by the provisions of 9.62 of the ELCA constitution to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body shall continue to reside in the congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with the congregation by an established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of the congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of this church.

S13.24. If any congregation of this synod has disbanded, or if the members of a congregation agree that it is no longer possible for it to function as such, or if it is the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or that it is necessary for this synod to protect the congregation's property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Assembly.

S13.25. This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence.

S13.26. Termination of a congregation's relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with constitutional provisions shall act as termination of the congregation's relationship with this synod.

S13.30 Discipline

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

#### **Chapter 14. ORDAINED MINISTERS & ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY**

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

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

- a. Every ordained minister shall:
  1. preach the Word;
  2. administer the sacraments;
  3. conduct public worship;
  4. provide pastoral care; and
  5. speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
  
- b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
  1. offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead;
  2. supervise all schools and organizations within the congregation;
  2. install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
  4. with the council, administer discipline.
  
- c. Every pastor shall:
  1. seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad.
  2. impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
  - 3 endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of this ELCA synod.

S14.03. The pastor shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants,

members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, and shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod.

- S14.04. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.05. Each ordained minister on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the synod assembly.
- S14.06. The pastor shall be a member of the congregation that has extended the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.11. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective pastor.

When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective pastor, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of the synod for the bishop's signature.

- S14.12. No ordained minister shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod.
  - S14.12.01. An ordained minister shall respond with an answer to acceptance or declination to a letter of call within thirty days of receipt of such a call. With the approval of the bishop of the synod and the Congregational Council of the congregation issuing the call, additional time may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- †S14.13. a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:
  - 1. mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;

2. resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
  3. inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;
  4. the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
  5. disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;
  6. the dissolution of the congregation; or
  7. suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.
- b. When allegations of physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office have come to the attention of the bishop of the synod, the bishop in his or her sole discretion may, or when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop shall investigate such conditions personally in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity, competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of the synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of the synod shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of this synod, together with the committee described in \*S14.13b, shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the synod. If either party fails to

assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting 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.

- e. If, in the course of proceedings described in \*S14.13.d., the committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action to the synodical bishop who may bring charges, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the constitution of this synod.
- f. If, following the appointment of the committee described in \*S14.13.b. or d., it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint churchwide/synod fund and with housing provided by the congregation(s).

S14.14. Ordained ministers shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.

S14.15. The parochial records of each congregation shall be kept in a separate book that shall remain its property. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his/her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another field of labor, or
- b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.

S14.16. The pastor shall arrange for satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another field of labor, or
- b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.

S14.17. In the absence of a regularly called pastor, an interim pastor appointed by the bishop with the concurrence of the Congregation Council shall have the rights and duties of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may with the concurrence of the Congregation Council delegate the same in part to a supply pastor. The interim pastor and any ordained ministers who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the parochial records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.

S14.18. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in \*S14.13, a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provision of \*S14.13.

S14.21. All ordained ministers under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivisions to which the congregation belongs.

S14.30 Official Rosters of Laypersons

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

- a. When a congregation of this synod desires to call an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister or a candidate for these official rosters of laypersons of this church:

1. Such a congregation of this synod shall consult the synodical bishop before taking any steps leading to extending such a call.
  2. Issuance of such a letter of call shall be in accord with criteria, policies, and procedures developed by the Division for Ministry, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  3. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- b. An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister shall confer with the bishop of this synod before accepting a call within this synod.
  - c. The call of a congregation, when accepted by an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of death of the individual, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop in accordance with the policy developed by the Division for Ministry, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - d. Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod who are serving under call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly.

## **Chapter 15. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

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

- a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by such a proportionate share of each congregation's annual budget as each congregation determines. This synod shall develop guidelines for determining "proportionate share," and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its determination.
  - b.
  - b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage of each congregation's mission support as determined by the Churchwide Assembly to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to partnership funding with other synods and the churchwide organization. Unless an exception is granted upon the request of this synod by the Church Council, each budget shall include the percentage of congregational mission support assigned to it by the Churchwide Assembly.
- S15.13. The Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in light of changing conditions, by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council.
- S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16% of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.
- S15.21. No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by congregations or organizations related to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council.
- †S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by an independent certified public accountant firm selected by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this

synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.

## **Chapter 16. INDEMNIFICATION**

†S16.01. To the full extent permitted from time to time by law, each person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding, including a proceeding by or in the right of this church, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Synod Council member, officer, employee, agent or member of any committee of this Synod shall be indemnified against judgments, penalties, fines (including, without limitation, excise taxes assessed against the person with respect to an employee benefit plan), settlements, and reasonable expenses, including attorneys fees and disbursements, incurred by the person in connection with proceeding. The indemnification provided by this section shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a Synod Council member, officer, employee, agent or member of a committee of this synod or other organizational unit created by this synod and shall apply whether or not the claim against such person arises out of matters occurring before the adoption of this section. Except as otherwise required by law,

- a. the term “Proceeding” does not include a proceeding by this synod and
- b. indemnification for expenses incurred in a disciplinary hearing described in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be permitted only as provided in \*S16.05. For purposes of this chapter, the term “indemnification” includes advances of expenses.

†S16.02. This synod may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of a person who is or was a Synod Council member, officer, employee, agent, or member of a committee of this synod against any liability asserted against and incurred by the person in or arising from that capacity, whether or not this synod would have been required to indemnify the person against the liability under the provision of the constitution of this synod.

†S16.05 When in proceedings under Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America written changes against an ordained minister or a layperson on an official roster of this church are made by the synodical bishop or written charges against a congregation are made by the Synod Council or the synodical bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, and such determination is not reversed or set aside if an appeal is taken, then indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be decided by the Synod Council.

## **Chapter 17. ADJUDICATION**

†S17.01. The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise with the synod.

†S17.02 The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from ordained ministers, associates in ministry, consecrated deacons and deaconesses, commissioned teachers, certified and commissioned lay professionals, congregations, and organizations within the 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, associate in ministry, consecrated deacon or deaconess, commissioned teacher, or certified or commissioned lay professional shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S17.03. When there is disagreement among units of the synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for a consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Synod

Council requesting it to arbitrate the issue. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.

†S17.04. When a component or beneficiary of a synod has a disagreement on a substantive issue that it cannot resolve, it may address an appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.

†S17.10. Adjudication in a Congregation

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

## **Chapter 18. AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, & CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS.**

†S18.10. Amendments to Constitution

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

†S18.12. Whenever the secretary of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs the 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 the synod. The Church Council,

through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

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

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

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

†S18.20. Amendments to Bylaws

†S18.21. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution or with the constitution and bylaws of this church. The synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws all be reported to the secretary of this church.

†S18.30. Amendments to Continuing Resolutions

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

Current 1/15/2005