

To: Congregations of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

From: Judy Bush, Secretary
Indiana-Kentucky Synod



Subject: Proposed Synod Constitution Changes

Date: November 28, 2016

Greetings from your Synod Council.

The Synod Council met November 18-19 and is proposing changes to the Synod Constitution. According to †S18.13.b. of the Synod Constitution, notice of proposed changes to the Synod Constitution is to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. These changes will be considered for adoption at the next Synod Assembly, June 1-3, 2017. If you would like to discuss, please contact a Synod Council member. The Synod Constitution may be found on the website under resources.

During the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in August, changes were made to synod constitutions. Mandatory changes have been made to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Constitution. There were non-mandatory changes made to the model Synod Constitution during the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council is proposing changes be made to the Synod Constitution in accord with those changes made by Churchwide Assembly; these changes may be found below and on the following pages.

Note: Changes are highlighted. Additions are underlined. Deletions are struck through in the text.

- S7.11.01.** The time and place of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced six months prior to the assembly. 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.
- S7.22.** The ~~This~~ synod may establish processes that permit retired ~~ordained-rostered~~ ministers, ~~retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above.~~ The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. ~~above.~~ If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ~~leaders~~ ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.24.** ~~Ordained ministers~~ Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the ~~rosters of ordained ministers~~ of this synod. ~~Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod.~~ Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.
- S7.278.** 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.
- S8.55.** Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be for the remainder of the officer's term. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer for the remainder of the term.
- S10.03.** The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
...

- d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service and of other official rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- e. Issue letters of call to ordained-rostered ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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- S11.11.** This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S11.142.** 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.
- S13.11.** When a pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12.** A congregation under financial obligation to its former pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.
- S14.013.** The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, ~~and~~ (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- ~~**S14.06.** 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.~~
- S14.015.** Each ordained minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S14.127.** No ordained minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- S14.215.** All ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.
- S14.33.** The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.34.** Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- S14.47.** All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.