

SYNOD CONSTITUTION UPDATES & PROPOSED CHANGES

At the recent 2022 Churchwide Assembly, several changes were made to the required provisions in the model synod constitutions. Our synod secretary, Chad Langdon, reported the substantive changes to the Synod Council and according to †S18.11, amendments to required provisions in the Constitution for Synods passed by the Churchwide Assembly are automatically incorporated into the constitutions of individual synods.

The new model synod constitution also had some options and recommended changes to make. At the October 2022 Synod Council meeting, we discussed these optional changes and made some decisions.

- Recommended constitutional provision changes may be adopted by a majority vote at the Synod Assembly. This applies to changes 2, 4 & 5 listed below.
- By-laws may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a Synod Assembly. This applies to changes 1 & 3 listed below.

In addition to changes required by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, the synod council proposes the following changes, which will be presented for adoption at the 2023 Central States Synod Assembly:

Change #1 was made to address the ability to have online assemblies. We deliberately wanted to keep an annual assembly. This is a change to a by-law.

S7.11.01. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held annually. The time and place time, place, and format of the synod assembly shall be determined by the synod council.

Change #2 was recommended by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and made so that it is easier to have a quorum for Synod Assemblies. This is a change to a provision, but is not required.

S7.14. One-half One-third of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, as defined by †S7.21., S7.24., S7.27., shall constitute a quorum.

Change #3 was made to combine the following two provisions into one, ensuring that all rostered ministers (retired, on disability, and on leave from call) may attend the Synod Assembly as voting members. This is a change to a by-law.

S7.22.01. ~~———— All retired ministers, and those designated as disabled on the rosters of this synod shall serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly. All registration fees (not including housing and meals) will be waived for all retired ministers on the rosters of this synod. In the event at least 60 percent of the assembly membership is not lay, the retired ministers of word and sacrament together with the ministers of word and sacrament on leave from call will caucus and elect the appropriate representation.~~

S7.22.02. ~~———— All rostered ministers on the roster of the synod who are on leave from call, may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. In the event at least 60 percent of the assembly membership is not lay, the retired ministers of word and sacrament together with the ministers on leave from call will caucus and elect the appropriate representation.~~

S7.22.01. All retired ministers, those designated as disabled on the rosters of this synod, and all rostered ministers who are on leave from call may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. All registration fees (not

including housing and meals) will be waived for all retired ministers on the rosters of this synod. In the event at least 60 percent of the assembly membership is not lay, the retired ministers, those designated as disabled on the rosters of this synod, and the rostered ministers on leave from call will caucus together and elect the appropriate representation.

Change #4 recognizes a change in the required provision coming from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. The required provision struck the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” and replaced them with a broader description of what that might look like. We felt it was important however, to keep the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” so we added them back in as an additional statement.

The required provision change:

†S14.12. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

[...]

8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Our addition to the required provision:

9) proclaim God’s love for the world.

Change #5 recognizes a change in the required provision coming from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, but seeks to make the same correction listed above in Change #4. Whereas Change #4 addresses the duties of a minister of Word and Sacrament, this change addresses the duties of a minister of Word and Service. Again, we felt it was important to keep the words “proclaiming God’s love for the world” so we added them back in as an additional statement.

The required provision change:

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

[...]

c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Our addition to the required provision:

j. proclaim God’s love for the world.