




Statement of Purpose (*C4.01)

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.







Powers of the Congregation





*C5.01 The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.

*C5.02 The powers of this congregation are invested in the congregational meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.





Decisions that must be made at congregational meeting (*C5.03)

- Call or terminate call of rostered minister
 - Adopt amendments to constitution
 - Approve annual budget
 - Acquire real and personal property
 - Sell, mortgage, lease, transfer property
 - Elect council members
 - Terminate relationship with ELCA
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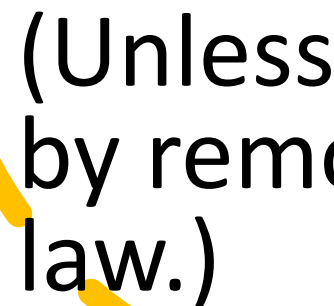
Congregational Meetings (Chapter 10)

- Must have at least one regular meeting a year (as a non-profit corporation)
- Special meetings must state purpose (no other business transacted)
- Notice of all meetings –preceding two Sundays, 10 days in advance, by mail or electronic means
- Voting by absentee ballot not permitted
- Robert's Rules of Order



Congregational Meetings (Chapter 10)

C10.08 This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication.



(Unless prohibited in your constitution meetings by remote communication are allowable by state law.)



Meetings Held by Remote Communication

Planned by council

Document decision in council minutes

Develop a plan – format that provides for
roll of voting members (quorum)
oral communication
voting

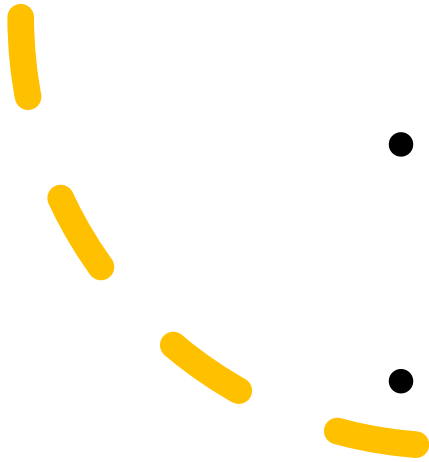


Clearly communicate the plan to members



Establishing a quorum


Same requirements as per an in-person meeting

- Oral roll call
 - Use Listing from digital platform
 - If platform provides names, can print a list of participants
 - Must verify if more than one participant from single post
 - Must be able to identify call-in only participants
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Facilitating Oral Communication

Critical to not only share information but to encourage participants can engage

- If using Zoom, or similar platform, have individuals watching for those who wish to speak (waving hand, raising hand...)
 - Invite those on phone only to engage
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Voting

Written Ballot:

- Drive-in ballots
 - Must state a time limit
 - Must verify voter participated in meeting

Verbal Vote:

- Roll call (yea/nay)
- Raising of hands
 - Only works for those who have video access
 - need to be able to identify multiple voters from same post
 - Would have to offer a roll call vote for those not on video

Polling Feature on Digital Platforms



Purpose of meeting

For church members to make decisions that affect their common life together as the priesthood of all believers





Prayer and Grace

Begin and end with prayer

Recognize that these are challenging times – give each other grace

Keep it simple – it can be done

