

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD CONSTITUTION

The following recommendations consider ONLY the Recommended Provisions to the Model Constitution for Synods, as approved by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, as prepared and provided to the secretary of this synod by the Office of the Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 2019.

The following amendments to the Constitution for Synods – Recommended Provisions – are recommended by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council for adoption by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly. (S.C.19.10.54)

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

CHAPTER 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled granted disability status, 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. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw ~~10.02.03. 10.01.04~~, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

CHAPTER 8: OFFICERS

S8.11.01. When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.

S8.14. The synodical bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

CHAPTER 10: SYNOD COUNCIL

S10.08. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.

S10.078.01. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATIONS

S13.25. This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.

S13.40. ~~Synodically Authorized~~ Synod-authorized **Worshipping Communities**

CHAPTER 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

S14.14. 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, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a **Lutheran** congregation nearer to their place of residence.

CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS

S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent 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.

The following amendments to the Constitution for Synods – Recommended Provisions – are NOT recommended by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council for adoption by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly at this time. **(S.C.19.10.54)**

S14.17. No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A 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-president** of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

S14.42. 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-president** of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call

Only those provisions as moved by the Synod Council for presentation and adoption by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly will be considered at the 2021 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly.