

**1989 AMENDMENTS
TO
MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS
as approved by the 1989 Churchwide Assembly
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Rosemont, Illinois • August 23–30, 1989**

by Assembly Action CA89.4.22

- C3.02.** At the beginning of the third sentence, change “This church” to *The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, so that the provision reads:
- C3.02. 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. *The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, 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.
- C4.03.h.** Add *churchwide organization of the* after “the synod, and the” and before “Evangelical Lutheran,” so that the amended provision reads:
- C4.03.h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the *churchwide organization of the* Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- C5.03.** In second line, change “the congregation’s” to *this congregation’s*.
- C5.03.** Add to “a” as provided in Chapter 9 and to “b” as provided in Chapter 9, so that the amended provisions read:
- a. call a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
- b. terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
- C6.03.e.** Change “or” to *and* in last sentence, “in America and with the constitution of the synod.
- C6.05.b.** In third line, change “the congregation.” to *this congregation*.
- C6.05.g.** Add *foregoing* in second line after “in addition to the” and before “provisions in” so that the provision reads:
- C6.05.g. If this congregation was a member of the Lutheran Church in America it shall be required, in addition to the *foregoing* provisions in C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating its membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- C6.05.h.** Add a new provision, which reads:
- C6.05.h. *Congregations that are established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.*
- C6.06.** Add in second line *in which it is territorially located* after “of the synod” and prior to “before any steps”, so that the amended provision reads:
- C6.06. If this congregation is considering relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod *in which it is territorially located* before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.
- C7.04.** In sixth and ninth lines, change “the congregation” to *this congregation*.
- C8.01.** In second line, change “the congregation” to *this congregation*.
- C8.04.c.** Change “and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” to, *synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* so that the amended provision reads:
- C.8.04.c. support the work of this congregation, *synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.
- C9.03.** Change the *format* and edit text of this provision as follows:
- C9.03. a. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every ordained minister shall:
- 1) preach the Word;

- 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care; and
 - 5) speak publically 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 of this congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
 - 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 work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of the _____ Synod of the ELCA.
- C9.04.** Add to the final sentence , *which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.*, so that the amended provision reads:
- C9.04. The specific duties of the pastor compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call, *which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.*
- C9.05.a.1)** Delete as unnecessary “of years” at end of item 1, so that the provision would read, . . . *completion of a call for a specific term.*
- C9.07.** Add *in the congregation* after “rights and duties” and before “of a regularly called pastor in sentence one.
- C9.11.** Add a comma in the first line after “the synod” and before “the congregation”.
Delete “of years” at the end of the second line.
Delete a comma in the fifth line after “representative of the bishop” and before “shall meet with the pastor. . . .”
- C9.12.** Add a second paragraph to the previously existing provision. The second paragraph reads as follows:
The pastor shall be a member of the congregation that has extended the letter of all. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- Chapter 13.** Delete “al” on Congregation, so that the chapter title reads:
CONGREGATION COMMITTEES
- C13.02.** Change first sentence by adding , *if possible*, between “two of whom shall be” and “outgoing members. This would provide for the possibility that there are no outgoing members of the Congregation Council.
- C13.05.** Replace “shall be appointed by the Congregation Council with *shall be elected by this congregation* so that C9.01. and C13.05. are consistent.
- C13.06.** Delete “al” on congregation in first line.
- C13.07.** Delete “al” on congregation in first line.
- C15.03.** Add after “two-thirds majority vote” *of the members* and after “Congregation Council” *and renewed admonition prove ineffectual*, so that the amended provision reads:
- C15.03. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote *of the members* of the Congregation Council *and renewed admonition prove ineffectual*, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:
- a. censure before the council or congregation;
 - b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
 - c. exclusion from membership in this congregation. Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.
- C16.04.** Add *by the secretary of this congregation* after “shall be sent” and before “to the synod”, so that the amended provision reads:
- C16.04. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent *by the secretary of this congregation* to the synod.