

# 1999 AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

*as approved by the 1999 Churchwide Assembly  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Denver, Colorado • August 16-22, 1999*

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
*September 14, 1999*

+++

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

*To amend \*C6.05.g. and \*C6.05.h. in the Model Constitution for Congregations to clarify the application of these provisions in accord with churchwide constitutional provisions 9.62.g. and 9.62.h.:*

\*C6.05.g.<sup>1</sup> If Since 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.

<sup>1</sup> *This provision is to be used in the constitutions of all congregations that formerly were a part of the Lutheran Church in America, in accord with provision 9.62.g. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

\*C6.05.h.<sup>2</sup> If Since this congregation was established by the Evangelical 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.

<sup>2</sup> *This provision is to be used in the constitutions of all congregations that have been established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accord with provision 9.62.h. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

*To amend \*C9.05.d. in the Model Constitution for Congregations to be consistent with †S14.13.d. in the Constitution for Synods:*

\*C9.05. d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the synod together with the committee described in \*C9.05.b. shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting at a ~~regularly~~ legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop.

*To amend the Model Constitution for Congregations by the addition of a section on ecumenical pastoral ministry:*

C9.20. Ecumenical pastoral ministry

C9.21. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synodical bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, an ordained minister of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily under contract as pastor of this congregation.

*To amend \*C20.02. to conform to \*C9.02. in the Model Constitution for Congregations and churchwide constitutional provision 9.21.d. and churchwide bylaw 9.21.01. to read:*

\*C20.02. Whenever a letter of call is being recommended for extension to an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended to the congregation by the synodical bishop to serve the congregations of a parish . . . [*with the remainder unchanged*].

xc: Randall R. Lee, Paul A. Schreck, David L. Alderfer, Alpha E. Ekstrom, Phillip H. Harris, Scott S. Fintzen, Kenneth F. Aicher

((CA9-CONGR.C99))