

# 2005 AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

*as approved by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Orlando, Florida • August 8-14, 2005*

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
August 19, 2005

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

*To adopt a new provision as \*C9.14. in the Model Constitution for Congregations to be consistent with the requirements of S14.15. in the Constitution for Synods of this church:*

**\*C9.14.** The parochial records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of the congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another field of labor or the granting by the synod of retired status to the pastor.

*To amend provision C11.01. and C12.01. in the Model Constitution for Congregations [square brackets in the model indicate optional text within a provision] to provide the option of election of the treasurer from outside the membership of the Congregation Council:*

**C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

- Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
- The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- Officers of this congregation shall serve similar offices of the Congregation Council and shall be voting members of the Congregation Council.
- If the Congregation Council elects its officers, the president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council. [If the treasurer is not selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council, the treasurer shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.]

**C12.01.** The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) [, the officers of the congregation,] and [ \_\_\_\_\_ members] [not more than \_\_\_\_ nor fewer than \_\_\_\_ members] of the congregation. . . [with remainder of provision unchanged].

*To add a new optional provision as C13.08. in the Model Constitution for Congregations to provide the option of a definition of the pastor's role [and perhaps the president's] in committees of the congregation:*

**C13.08.** The [senior] pastor of this congregation shall be ex officio a member of all committees and boards of the congregation. [The president of this congregation shall be ex officio a member of all committees and boards of the congregation, except the Nominating Committee.]