



Writing and Amending the Congregation Constitution

Review and amend your congregation's constitution to keep it current!

Each churchwide assembly, which meets every three years, has amended the [Model Constitution for Congregations](#), and those amendments will have a direct effect on the governance of ELCA congregations.

[The 2016 Churchwide Assembly adopted several amendments](#) that describe the congregation's relationship with the global church, outline changes regarding pastors and deacons, establish processes for seasonal membership and clarify parish authorization.

Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are encouraged to review their constitutions during the months after a churchwide assembly. The synod is ready to assist the congregation throughout the review process.

The process for amending a congregation's constitution is framed in Chapter 16 of the [Model Constitution for Congregations](#). If the text is preceded by an asterisk, the provision is required; changes to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* are for the congregation's consideration and possible adoption.

[Guide for Use of the Model Constitution for Congregations](#) is a helpful reference for congregations reviewing their constitutions.

For more information, visit the "[Congregations](#)" page of the Office of the Secretary.

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