OFFICIAL NOTICE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SYNOD CONSTITUTION

To: The congregations and the rostered ministers of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA  
From: Beth A. Schlegel, synod secretary  
Date: December 1, 2020  
Re: Notification of proposed amendments to the constitution of this synod

This is the official notice of proposed amendments to our governing documents. Some amendments are the result of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and were included in the Bulletin of Reports for the 2020 Synod Assembly and are denoted here by (CWA). Other amendments are recommended by the Synod Council as a result of a comprehensive review of our documents in comparison to the Model Constitution for Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Congregations of this synod are required to be notified at least six months in advance of the synod assembly when amendments to provisions of the synod constitution recommended by the Synod Council are proposed. This is that notification.

Proposed amendments to bylaws and continuing resolutions will be included in the Bulletin of Reports.

The Synod Council recommends adoption of the following proposed amendments to the constitution of the Lower Susquehanna Synod:

†S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and the congregations St. Michael and Zion, Klingerstown, in Schuylkill County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the previous Synod Assembly.

S7.13. Written Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod in accordance with the bylaws of this constitution. (CWA)

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 this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. (CWA)

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit persons representatives from congregations under development and of authorized worshiping 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. (CWA)

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister’s service in a congregation of this church. (CWA)

S7.35. Immediately after the Order for the Opening of the Assembly, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall certify to the chairperson of the Synod Assembly the total number of persons who are eligible to vote at that assembly in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of this synod.
S8.14. The synodical bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize. (CWA)

S9.05. The Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor. (CWA)

S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor. (CWA)

S9.07. The Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor. (CWA)

S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council, shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption. (CWA)

If we accept proposed S10.04, all subsequent provisions in the chapter will be proposed for renumbering as follows:

S10.045; S10.056; S10.056.01; S10.067; S10.067.01; S10.067.02; S10.067.03; S10.067.04; S10.067.05; S10.067.06; S10.067.07; S10.067.08; S10.067.09

S10.08. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council, unless otherwise ordered by the council. (CWA)

S12.06. The Committee of Deans shall be composed of the deans of all the conferences of this synod, who are elected to offer the rostered leaders and congregations of their respective conferences prayerful and practical support on behalf of the bishop by caring for the development of this church within the conference, by providing leadership to congregations in the call process, and by serving as liaison between the bishop and the congregations. Annually, at the first meeting after the Synod Assembly, the Committee of Deans shall elect a chair, vice chair, secretary, and one member-at-large, who shall comprise the Executive Committee. The Committee of Deans shall make an annual report to the Synod Assembly. This committee shall meet regularly to receive reports and guidance from the bishop, to receive reports and pertinent information from the bishop’s staff, and to support one another in carrying out the functions of the office of dean.

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. (CWA)

S13.40. Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities (CWA)

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. (CWA)

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. (CWA)

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. (CWA)

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. (CWA)

Have questions about these proposed amendments? Contact Secretary Beth Schlegel at bschlegel@lss-elca.org or 717-652-1852, ext. 118.