

GUIDELINES FOR SYNOD ADMINISTRATION OF A PARISH

To enable the Lower Susquehanna Synod to enter into the synod administration of a parish the following are resolved:

1. That the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council be authorized to assume the administration of a parish, at the request of a parish or with its concurrence.
2. That the bishop be authorized, in consultation with the Parish Council, to recommend a pastor.
3. That the pastor be called by the Synod Council for a specified term not to exceed four years.
4. That the bishop, each congregation of the parish, and the pastor sign a written agreement stating clearly the expectations of the synod, the congregation, and the pastor. This agreement will be adopted by the parish.
5. That, if the synod assumes any financial responsibility, the existing policies governing financial aid to congregations will apply, including but not limited to the Synod Constitution (**S11.01.02**) and the Constitution of the ELCA (**9.62i**).
6. That the pastor be remunerated by the parish. Such remuneration shall not be less than, but may be more than compensation guidelines or mandates operative in the synod. Each successive year of the agreement that parish will comply with the action of the Synod Assembly regarding minimum salary guidelines in budgeting for pastoral ministry.
7. That a review committee be appointed by the Synod Council at the outset of the agreement. The bishop will be a consultant to this committee.

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

- a. shall be composed of three persons, one of whom will be designated chair. The three persons will include a member of the Synod Council at the time of appointment, a person from outside the conference in which the parish is located, and at least one lay person. This committee will serve until the termination of the agreement.
- b. shall receive a full and complete description of the events leading to synod administration from the bishop at the time of appointment.
- c. shall hold an initial meeting with the pastor and Parish Council within six weeks of the pastor's arrival in the parish. Subsequent meetings will be held at six months and thereafter at least annually. Meetings will be arranged by the review committee chair in consultation with the bishop and/or the bishop's staff designee.
- d. shall report to the Synod Council through the bishop's office.
- e. shall check the progress in meeting the expectations of the synod, the pastor and the parish. The committee may make suggestions on how to fulfill these expectations.

GUIDELINES FOR SYNOD ADMINISTRATION OF A PARISH (Cont.)

- f. shall report to the Synod Council on the parish's ability to call a pastor at the agreed-upon date for termination of synod administration. An earlier date of termination may be requested by any party.
- g. May recommend that the synod administration agreement be extended for up to an additional three years.

Adopted April 4, 1992

8/95--lbg

11/96--bph

Proposed amendments from the Director for Evangelical Mission and the synod secretary 9/24/2022

Amended September 24, 2022 (SC22.09.42.)