



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Notice to Congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod October 25, 2011

Under requirements of S18.13.b this serves as notice to congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod that adoption of the enclosed proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod* will be on the agenda of the 2012 Synod Assembly, May 4 & 5, 2012, Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, Minnesota.

HS18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:

- a. An amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after having been presented in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Synod Assembly over the signatures of at least 100 members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.**

All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.

Enclosed are proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. The Synod Council recommends adoption of these amendments to clarify language and reflect structure of the synod council adopted in bylaw changes. These amendments will be voted on at the 2012 Synod Assembly, May 4 – 5, 2012.

Enclosed are proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. The Synod Council recommends adoption of these amendments. These amendments will be voted on at the 2012 Synod Assembly, May 4 – 5, 2012.

Jodie Archer
Secretary of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod

**Notice of Proposed Amendments to the
Constitution
of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

HS18.13 b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Current Provision	Amended Provision Words inserted are in bold ; words removed are struck out	Rationale
S9.05 The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two persons for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.	S9.05 The Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two persons for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.	Refer to the Synod Nominating Committee for clarity.
S9.13 The Nominating Committee shall nominate person for election by the Synod Assembly to the boards of agencies and institutions of the church according to their respective constitutions.	S9.13 The Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate person for election by the Synod Assembly to the boards of agencies and institutions of the church according to their respective constitutions.	Refer to the Synod Nominating Committee for clarity.
S9.14 The Synod=s Lutheran Youth Organization shall nominate person(s) for election by the Synod Assembly to serve as youth member(s) of the Synod Council.	The Synod=s Lutheran Youth Organization Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate person(s) for election by the Synod Assembly to serve as youth member(s) of the Synod Council.	The synod does not have an active Lutheran Youth Organization. The Synod Nominating Committee has a process in place to identify and nominate appropriate youth to serve on the synod council.
S9.16 The Nominating Committee shall nominate seven persons for the Committee on the Election of a Bishop who shall be elected by the Synod	S9.16 The Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate seven persons for the Committee on the Election of a Bishop who shall be elected	Refer to the Synod Nominating Committee for clarity.

Assembly.	by the Synod Assembly.	
<p>S11.11 This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its teams, committees, and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a board or committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.</p>	<p>S11.11 This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its teams tables, committees, and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a board or committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.</p>	<p>Change to reflect current structure of the synod council.</p>

**Notice of Proposed Amendments to the
Bylaws
of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

HS18.21 This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution nor with the constitution and bylaws of this church. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

Current Bylaw	Amended Bylaw Words inserted are in bold ; words removed are struck out	Rationale
<p>S11.08.01 There shall be a Committee on Candidacy which shall deal with the following: entrance, endorsement, and approval interviews, as well as affirmation and support of candidates. It shall be made up of at least six members including at least one representative from each of the five conferences and at least one member at-large. The conference representative shall be nominated by each conference at its annual meeting and elected by the Synod Council. The Synod Leadership Development Committee shall nominate laypeople, to be elected by the Synod Council. Members shall be elected for a term of 5 years and may serve two consecutive terms.</p>	<p>S11.08.01 There shall be a Committee on Candidacy which shall deal with the following: entrance, endorsement, and approval interviews, as well as affirmation and support of candidates. It shall be made up of at least six members including at least one representative from each of the five conferences and at least one member at-large. The conference representative shall be nominated by each conference at its annual meeting and elected by the Synod Council. The Synod Leadership Development Committee shall nominate laypeople, to be elected by the Synod Council. The Synod Council will approve a nomination process to fill vacancies on the</p>	<p>The revision assures that appropriately qualified people are elected to this committee and that committee members are able to participate at meetings held during business hours.</p>

	committee and will elect members so nominated. Members shall be elected for a term of 5 years and may serve two consecutive terms.	
S11.14.01 Mission Endowment Committee Membership a. The committee shall consist of six elected members and the bishop. Except as herein limited, the term of each member shall be three years. Upon adoption of this resolution by the Synod Council, it shall elect six members to the committee: two for a term of three years; two for a term of two years; and two for a term of one year. Thereafter, after each Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall elect the necessary number for a term of three years. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. After a lapse of one year, former committee members may be reelected. The Synod Council may appoint other advisory members to the committee.	S11.14.01 Mission Endowment Committee Membership a. The committee shall consist of six elected members and the bishop. Except as herein limited, the term of each member shall be three years. Upon adoption of this resolution by the Synod Council, it shall elect six members to the committee: two for a term of three years; two for a term of two years; and two for a term of one year. Thereafter, After each Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall elect the necessary number for a term of three years. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. After a lapse of one year, former committee members may be reelected. The Synod Council may appoint other advisory members to the committee.	Remove language needed to create the Mission Endowment Committee.
S11.14.05 Distribution of Income b. 3. For professional leadership to include rostered personnel continuing education, sabbaticals, professional church workers' continuing education, lay school of theology and seminary debt retirement.	S11.14.05 Distribution of Income b. 3. For professional leadership to include rostered personnel continuing education, sabbaticals, professional church workers' continuing education, lay school of theology and seminary debt retirement.	The Southeastern Minnesota Synod no longer has a lay school of theology.

<p>S12.01.01 Glenville: Deer Creek Valley, First, Round Prairie Cannon Falls: First English, St. Ansgar, Spring Garden, Urland, Wangen Prairie Bixby: Trinity Ellendale: First, Pontoppidan Houston: Cedar Valley, Cross of Christ, Looney Valley Rushford: Rushford Kasson: South Zumbro, St. John's</p>	<p>S12.01.01 Glenville: Deer Creek Valley, First, Round Prairie Cannon Falls: First English, St. Ansgar, Spring Garden, Urland, Wangen Prairie Faribault: Christ, First English, Our Savior's, Nile Our Savior's Chapel SAWC Bixby Hayfield: Trinity Ellendale: First, Pontoppidan Houston: Cedar Valley, Cross of Christ, Looney Valley Rushford: Rushford Trinity Fellowship SAWC Austin: Grace, Our Savior's, Red Oak Grove, St. Olaf, Anyuak Faith Community SAWC Kasson: South Zumbro, St. John's Rochester: Bethel, Gloria Dei, Good Shepherd, Hosanna, Mount Olive, Our Savior, People of Hope, Zumbro, Sudanese Dinka Community SAWC</p>	<p>To reflect congregations that have left the ELCA and recognize Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities.</p>
<p>S12.01.07 Conference of Deans: The deans shall meet at least once a year with the bishop to coordinate the work and meetings of the conferences and consult on issues to be brought to the attention of the conferences. A representative of the Conference of Deans shall be an advisory member of the Synod Council.</p>	<p>S12.01.07 Conference of Deans: The deans shall meet at least once a year with the bishop to coordinate the work and meetings of the conferences and consult on issues to be brought to the attention of the conferences. A representative of the Conference of Deans shall be an advisory member of the Synod Council.</p>	<p>The synod council no longer appoints advisory members.</p>