

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS
AS RECOMMENDED BY THE 2025 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY
AND PRESENTED TO THE 2026 GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Sections of the *Constitution for Synods* not marked by a dagger are non-required provisions. These provisions represent wording recommended by the Churchwide Assembly. In accordance with provision †S18.12., whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs synods that the Churchwide Assembly has amended non-required provisions within the *Constitution for Synods*, the synod constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the *Constitution for Synods* shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by the synod; presentation at a prior Synod Assembly is not required in the case of recommended provisions. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of any changes to the synod constitution.

Following are recommended amendments to the *Constitution for Synods* that were approved by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. Additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~; all changes are **highlighted**.

**Chapter 7.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit **persons currently serving as synod-authorized ministers and/or** lay representatives of authorized worshiping communities **and/or outreach ministries** of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

**Chapter 9.
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons ~~(plus ties)~~ who receive the greatest number of legal votes **(including ties in the final qualifying position)** on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons ~~(plus ties)~~ who receive the greatest number of legal votes **(including ties in the final qualifying position)** on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons ~~(plus ties)~~ who receive the greatest number of legal votes **(including ties in the final qualifying position)** on the previous ballot.

**Chapter 10.
SYNOD COUNCIL**

S10.05. ~~No e~~lected members of the Synod Council shall **not** receive compensation **solely** for ~~such~~ **their** service as council members, but may be reimbursed for expenses.

S10.06. **No person related to a synod staff member shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Synod Council. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the synod employee, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).**

**Chapter 11.
COMMITTEES**

S11.04. ~~The~~^A Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.

Chapter 13.

CONGREGATIONS

S13.40. **Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities and Outreach Ministries**

S13.41. ~~Authorized worshiping~~ **Worshiping** communities **and outreach ministries, authorized by the synod and** acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.