

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO **Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions** **for HOSANNA! Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- C1.02.** For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws and continuing resolutions, the congregation of HOSANNA! Evangelical Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as “this congregation.”

Chapter 5.

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- *C5.04.** This congregation or the Congregation Council shall elect from among ~~its~~the voting members of the congregation laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- C5.05.** If this congregation should establish endowment funds they will operate as specified in this congregation’s continuing resolutions. The purpose of the mission endowment fund would be to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.

Chapter 7.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- *C7.03.** If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer relate to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to transfer relate to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Central States Synod.

Chapter 9.

ROSTERED MINISTER

- *C9.02.** This congregation may call as a pastor only:
a. Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop ~~may be called as a pastor of this congregation.~~
- *C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
1) preach the Word;
2) administer the sacraments;
3) conduct public worship;

- 4) provide pastoral care;
- 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
- 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through available channels of effective communication;
- 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and
- 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, [proclaiming God's love for the world](#), advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

***C9.06.** At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor ~~shall~~[may](#) be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.

***C9.15.** Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synod bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between this congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synod bishop and approved by this congregation.

***C9.22.** ~~Only This congregation may call as a deacon only:~~

- [a.](#) a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- [b.](#) a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop ~~may be called as a deacon of this congregation.~~

***C9.23.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
- b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, [proclaiming God's love for the world](#), advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;
- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
- h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

***C9.23.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

Chapter 10.

CONGREGATION MEETING

C10.02. *No update necessary, as Hosanna! already utilizes a fixed percentage.*

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

***C15.01.** Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of this congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of this congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15–17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary:

- a. ~~a)~~ private counsel and admonition by the pastor,
- b. ~~b)~~ censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses,
- c. ~~c)~~ written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and
- d. ~~d)~~ written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod.

If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by ~~paragraphs~~ a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

***C15.11.** When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in ~~†S14.18.d~~ ***C9.05.d**. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Chapter 16.

AMENDMENTS

***C16.02.** An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:

- a. be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and
- b. be ratified ~~without change-unchanged~~ at the next regular meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

Chapter 20.

PARISH AUTHORIZATION

[Required provisions when congregation is part of a parish]*

***C20.04.** Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with the pastor as provided in ~~*C9.05.d †S14.18.d. of the synod constitution of the synod named in *C6.01.~~ In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.

***C20.05.** Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with a minister of Word and Service as provided in ~~*C9.05.d †S14.43.d. of the synod constitution of the synod named in *C6.01.~~ In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.



July 28 – August 2
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



RATIONALES FOR 2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE ELCA¹

- C1.02.** Insertion for comprehensiveness.
- *C5.04.** See explanation for †S7.21. above.
- *C7.03.** Consistency with 9.71.d. of the ELCA constitution.
- *C9.02.** Formatting for clarity.
- *C9.03.** See explanation for 7.31.02. above.
- *C9.06.** It is not always possible for a synod bishop to appoint an interim pastor for every congregation.
- *C9.15.** Provision is being changed to “required.” With the increasing use of exchangeability of rostered ministers with full communion partners, it is advisable that all congregations make allowance for that possibility.
- *C9.23.** See explanation for 7.31.02. above.
- C10.02.** The recommendation is to use a fixed percentage of voting members to request a Congregation Meeting, rather than the option of a given number of voting members.
- *C15.01.** Formatting correction and consistency of constitutional language.
- *C15.11.** It is more logical to cross-reference within the *Model Constitution*, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.
- *C16.02.** Consistency of constitutional language.
- *C20.04.** It is more logical to cross-reference within the *Model Constitution*, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.
- *C20.05.** It is more logical to cross-reference within the *Model Constitution*, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.

The process for amending Hosanna’s constitution to bring it into conformity with the Model Constitution for congregations is dictated in C16.04: This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of this congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of this congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to this congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council’s recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of this congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following the congregation’s vote of approval.