Rostered Ministers and Congregation Leaders,

The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly convening August 5-10 in Milwaukee, WI amended the Model Constitution for Congregations. I recommend you to take

* [2019 amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Amendments_to_the_Model_Constitution_for_Congregations_2019.docx)
* [Rationale for the 2019 Amendments](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Rationale_for_Amendments_2019.pdf)
* [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Model_Constitution_for_Congregations_2019.docx)

to your Congregation Councils for approval to present to the annual meetings according to **\*C16.04.**

**Chapter 16.**

**AMENDMENTS**

**\*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 a vote of approval.

**Constitutions**

Each of this church's expressions—congregations, synods and the churchwide organization—has a constitution.

* [Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Constitutions_Bylaws_and_Continuing_Resolutions_of_the_ELCA.pdf)

**Synods**

* [2019 Constitution for Synods](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Constitution_for_Synods_2019.docx)

**Congregations**

* [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Model_Constitution_for_Congregations_2019.docx)
* [2016 Constitución Modelo para Congregaciones](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Constitucion_Modelo_para_Congregaciones_2016.docx)

**Amendments**Each churchwide assembly has amended the constitutions.

* [2019 amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Amendments_to_the_Model_Constitution_for_Congregations_2019.docx)
* [2016 Enmiendas a la Constitución Modelo para Congregaciones](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Enmiendas_a_la_Constitucio%CC%81n_Modelo_para_Congregaciones_2016.docx)
* [2019 Recommended Amendments to the Constitution for Synods](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Recommended_Amendments_to_Synod_Constitution_2019.docx)
* [2019 Required Amendments to the Constitution for Synods](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Required_Amendments_to_Synod_Constitution_2019.docx)
* [Rationale for the 2019 Amendments](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Rationale_for_Amendments_2019.pdf)

It is recommended that ELCA congregations and synods review the adopted amendments for their constitutions as soon as possible after each churchwide assembly to incorporate the required changes and to consider the recommended changes.

[*Guide for Use of the Model Constitution for Congregations*](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Guide_for_Use_of_the_Model.pdf) is a helpful reference for congregations reviewing their constitutions. Congregations are encouraged to work with their synod's Constitution Committee from the outset of their work; this may ensure a greater likelihood that the synod will approve the proposed changes (\*C17.03., new \*C16.03.).

The churchwide assembly meets every three years. Amendments to any synod constitution are approved by the synod assembly. Amendments to any congregation constitution are approved by the congregation at its regular meeting. These meetings are governed by parliamentary procedure. Basic information on parliamentary procedure can be found [here](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Parliamentary_Procedure.pdf).

### [Constitutions - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - ELCA](https://www.elca.org/Constitution)

<https://www.elca.org/Constitution>

Rev. Lowell Bolstad

***➤ Review by synod***

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