

READ THIS FIRST

The ELCA 2016 Model Constitution was used as the base document for this revision. If you would like to see it, here's a link.

(http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Model_Constitution_for_Congregations_2016.doc)

You will notice that there are **green** and **yellow** high-lighted sections in the 'New' ELC Constitution.

The green sections are what our "existing" constitution states. The yellow sections are what the Council is recommending that the "New" constitution state.

Background - When a portion of the ELCA's Model Constitution is changed in any form, that section(s) must be reviewed by the synod before it can go into effect for a couple reasons:

- 1) To make sure the change does not violate any other portion of the Model Constitution and
- 2) To protect the congregation from implementing something that may not protect us legally.

Once the synod has approved the change, the congregation (you) must vote again to ratify those sections just like the states would do. It is a constitution after all. The motion to ratify must pass with at least a 2/3 majority vote at a Congregation Meeting.

So what happens after we vote the first time?

Once we approve the proposed changes, the revised constitution is sent to the synod for their approval. In the meantime, all of the sections not high-lighted go into effect immediately. The green sections from the "old" constitution will remain in effect until the next Congregation Meeting when we vote to ratify the changes, the yellow high-lighted sections. When we ratify the changes (2/3 majority vote), the green sections go away.

There are a several numbering conventions used in the constitution.

Sections with an asterisk [*] are required, *i.e.* ***C2.01**. . These sections must be used without alteration or amendment in any manner. Non-asterisk section can be modified, but the synod must approve the modification. See above for the explanation.

Sections with six digits, **C11.01.01.**, *indented and in italics* are ELC bylaws. Bylaws take a Congregational Vote to change.

Sections that are numbered like this **C13.06.A08**, *indented and in italics* are ELC Continuing Resolutions. Continuing Resolutions can be modified by the Congregation Council (2/3 vote) or a Congregational Vote (majority).

Some numbers in the sequences are missing. This is intentional. They are reserved by the ELCA for future use.

If you have questions, you can submit them through the ELC website here under the Ministry Area of Constitution. <http://www.evergreenlutheran.org/suggestions/>

Okay, now that you have the basics – Happy Reading.

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Constitution Revision Committee
