

## Required Changes to the Constitution of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kulpsville, PA

The following changes are required to bring CLC’s Constitution into compliance with the most recent ELCA required updates to the Model Constitution for Congregations. There are additional places where a constitution committee may want to alter wording to conform to recommended wording from the ELCA in the future, but these are all required changes that must be made without any deviation from the exact wording and punctuation in the *ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations*.

Any wording that is omitted from our current constitution is shown ~~stricken~~. Any additions are shown both underlined and in italics.

### REQUIRED CHANGES

| Provision  | Change   | Explanation   |
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| C01.02.    | Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, <u><i>Kulpsville</i></u>   | The entire legal name of the congregation is required |
| *C04.02.d. | Serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, <del>and</del> justice <u><i>and equity</i></u> for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, <u><i>caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations,</i></u> and standing <u><i>in solidarity</i></u> with the poor and <del>powerless</del> <u><i>oppressed</i></u> and committing itself to their needs. |   |
| *C06.01    | <del>the</del> <u><i>Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod</i></u>   | Correcting a typo in our current constitution         |
| *C06.05.a. | Unless <del>he or she is a</del> <u><i>the bishop and/or the bishop’s designee are</i></u> voting members of this congregation, <del>the bishop or the bishop’s designee</del> <u><i>they</i></u> shall have voice but not vote at the first meeting.  |   |
| *C06.05.d. | Unless <del>he or she is a</del> <u><i>the bishop and/or the bishop’s designee are</i></u> voting members  |   |
| *C09.03.a  | Every <del>ordained</del> minister <u><i>of Word and Sacrament</i></u> shall:  |   |
| *C09.03.a  | Renumbering – C09.03.c.2 to C09.03.a.5   |   |
| *C09.03.a  | Renumbering – C09.03.c.3 to C09.03.a.6 and replace “ <del>through distribution of its periodicals and other publications</del> ” with “ <u><i>through available channels of effective communication;</i></u> ”   |   |
| *C09.03.a  | Renumbering – C09.03.c.1 to C09.03.a.7 and replace “ <del>strive to extend</del> ” with “ <u><i>witness to</i></u> ”   |   |
| *C09.03.a  | Renumbering – C09.03.a.5 to C09.03.a.8 and   |   |

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|             | change speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, <del>calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world</del> <i>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.</i>   |   |
| *C09.03.b   | Each <del>ordained minister</del> <i>pastor</i>  |   |
| *C09.03.b.2 | <del>supervise</del> <i>relate to</i>  |   |
| *C09.03.b.3 | Remove “and”   |   |
| *C09.03.b.5 | Renumbering – C09.03.c.4 to C09.03.b.5   |   |
| *C09.03.b.6 | <i>encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.</i>  |   |
| *C09.05.a   | <i>for any of the following reasons:</i>   |   |
| *C09.05.a.4 | <del>physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor</del> <i>inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the pastor;</i>   |   |
| *C09.05.a.6 | <del>ordained ministers</del> <i>Ministers of Word and Sacrament</i>   |   |
| *C09.05.b.  | allegations of <del>physical disability or mental incapacity</del>   |   |
| *C09.05.b.1 | in his or her <i>who has</i>   |   |
| *C09.05.c   | <del>physical disability or mental incapacity</del>  |   |
| *C09.05.c   | Upon removal of the disability and the restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call <i>resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.</i> |   |
| *C9.12.a    | <del>Parochiat</del>   |   |
| *C9.14.     | <del>Parochiat</del>   |   |
| *C9.14.     | <del>his or her</del> <i>the secretary's</i>   |   |
| *C9.22      | Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or 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.   | Provision not included in previous constitution |
| *C9.23.     | Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:<br>a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for  | Provision not included in previous constitution |

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|         | <p>proclamation and service;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, 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;</li> <li>d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God’s world that affirms the gifts of all people;</li> <li>e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God’s mission;</li> <li>f. Practice stewardship that respects God’s gift of time, talents, and resources;</li> <li>g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;</li> <li>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</li> <li>i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.</li> </ul> |   |
| *C9.24. | The specific duties of the deacon, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the deacon shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.   | Provision not included in previous constitution |
| *C9.25. | <p>The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and this congregation shall be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a deacon, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the deacon’s death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;</li> <li>2) resignation of the deacon, which</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | Provision not included in previous constitution |

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|  | <p>shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3) inability to conduct the ministry of Word and Service effectively in this congregation in view of local conditions;</li><li>4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the deacon;</li><li>5) suspension of the deacon through discipline for more than three months;</li><li>6) resignation or removal of the deacon from the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church;</li><li>7) termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;</li><li>8) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or</li><li>9) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.</li></ol> <p>b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office of minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or</li><li>2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of this congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.</li></ol> <p>c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under</p> |  |
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paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the deacon's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of this congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the deacon and then to this congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the deacon's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by this congregation and by the deacon, if appropriate. If the deacon and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the deacon's call, this congregation may dismiss the deacon only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's

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|          | constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.  |  |
| *C9.26.  | This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former deacon before calling a successor. A deacon shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting.   | Provision not included in previous constitution                          |
| *C9.27.  | When a deacon is called to serve in company with another rostered minister or other rostered ministers, the privileges and responsibilities of each rostered minister shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the rostered ministers, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.  | Provision not included in previous constitution                          |
| *C9.28.  | With the approval of the bishop of the synod, this congregation may depart from *C9.25.a. and call a deacon for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the deacon and representatives of this congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of *C9.25.a. | Provision not included in previous constitution                          |
| *C9.29.  | The deacon shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the deacon shall hold membership in one of the congregations.  | Provision not included in previous constitution (note: there is no C.30) |
| *C9.31.  | The deacon(s) shall submit a report of ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.   | Provision not included in previous constitution                          |
| *C15.02. | member of <del>the</del> <i>this</i> congregation  |  |
| *C15.02. | two <del>clergy</del> <i>rostered ministers</i>  |  |
| *C15.11. | <del>Shall have access to</del> <i>may petition</i> the synod bishop   |  |
| *C15.11. | <del>the chair of the congregation council</del> <i>president of this congregation</i> of their intent <i>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. 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</i>             |  |

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|  | <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of the synod shall consider</p> <p>the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.</p> |  |
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