

Resolution 17.01

Regarding Changes to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Constitution and Bylaws

Whereas, The 2016 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to:

- Strike the words “Ordained minister/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
- Strike the word “clergy” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
- Strike the words “pastor/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” where appropriate;
- Strike the words “associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess” and replace with the words minister/s of Word and Service”; and
- Make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster; and

Whereas, All existing language in the Southwestern Minnesota (SW MN) Synod Constitution, including bylaws and continuing resolutions, has been editorially corrected to reflect CWA 2016 required language identifying the rosters of this church; and

Whereas, These changes affect the language of non-required sections of the SW MN Synod Constitution; and

Whereas, Amendments that are not required may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote of one assembly under †S18.12; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following changes be adopted:

S7.11.01. The time and place of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced six (6) months prior to the assembly.

S7.22.03. Two retired ministers of Word and Sacrament may be elected at a retired rostered ministers’ retreat to serve as voting members at the Synod Assembly. These two will be granted the privilege of voice and vote at the Synod Assembly to which they were elected.

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister’s service in a congregation of this church.

S7.278. Duly elected...

S10.06. ~~If a member of the Synod Council ceases to be a member in good standing on a roster of this synod, if a minister of Word and Sacrament, or to be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, if a layperson,~~ **meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected,** the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.

S14.33. **The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation that has extended the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.**

S14.34. **Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod within 30 days of the end of the fiscal year of the synod.**

S14.42. **No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.**

S14.47. **All ministers of Word and Service under call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly and the annual Synodical Theological Conference, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.**

S14.47.01. **Within twelve months of assuming office, all ministers of Word and Service under call shall demonstrate completion of at least six contact hours of continuing education in the prevention of sexual boundary violations.**

Submitted by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Resolutions Committee

Codification:

- Added language = underline
- Deleted language = ~~strikethrough~~
- All constitutional provisions = **bold face type**
- All bylaw provisions = light face type