
Conformity with the Model Constitution and current New Synod practices. Several Synod specific bylaws are recommended for removal which allows for maximal flexibility in the future without artificial constraint from the governing documents.

- †S7.11. **A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially.**
- S7.11.01. The time and place of the Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced at the preceding assembly.
- ~~S7.11.02. A regular Synod Assembly shall be held annually.~~
- ~~S7.11.03. The Synod Council shall prepare the proposed agenda and program for each Assembly.~~
- ~~S7.11.04. Holy Communion shall be administered at each Assembly.~~
- ~~S7.11.05. All appointments for the conduct of general religious services or public meetings shall be made by the bishop.~~
- S7.11.062. The bishop shall appoint appropriate Assembly committees including, but not limited to, the following:
- a. A Committee of Reference and Counsel, which shall receive from proposers' resolutions of a general character (that is, not germane to a pending question or report) and report on same to the Assembly with its recommendations. In addition, the committee shall recommend special orders for the hearing of representatives, grant or deny permission for the distribution of printed matter not issuing from the office of the secretary, and give such assistance as the bishop may desire in the course of the Assembly. The Committee shall explain to the Assembly the rationale for their actions;
 - b. A Committee on Registration and Attendance, which shall register all members attending the Assembly, receive excuses for those absent from the Assembly, record those absent without excuse, ~~and make a full report thereon to the synod;~~
 - c. A Committee on Minutes, which shall receive a copy of the minutes of each Assembly ~~from the secretary,~~ examine same with care, and make recommendations thereon; and
 - d. ~~A Committee on Conduct of Elections (see Ch. 7.7. below)~~
- S7.11.073. In making committee appointments, the bishop shall give due regard to the provisions of Constitution Section †S6.04.
- S7.11.084. All resolutions of a general character which are to be brought before the Assembly must be submitted in writing to the Committee of Reference and Counsel sixty (60) days in advance of the Assembly. Otherwise, all such resolutions may be introduced at an Assembly only by a majority vote of the Assembly in each individual case.

- ~~S7.11.09.~~ The minutes of each Assembly shall be submitted by the secretary to a Committee on Minutes, which shall examine the same with care and make recommendations thereon. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the Assembly shall be the responsibility of the bishop and secretary of the synod.
- S7.11.105. The bishop and secretary shall, after making any necessary corrections therein, certify two copies of the printed minutes of each Assembly as the official protocol of said Assembly, and shall submit the same to the next regular Assembly for approval and deposit in the archives.
- S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod. The secretary shall mail distribute a bulletin of reports to all ministers and lay voting members-elect at least twenty (20) days prior to each regular Synod Assembly.
- S7.13.01. The reports of boards and committees shall be signed by the respective chairperson. ~~Minority reports shall be signed by the members dissenting.~~
- S7.14. ~~One half of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, as determined in accordance with Sections †S7.21. and S7.22., must be present to open the Assembly. Thereafter, one half of the voting members who have registered their attendance at the Assembly shall constitute a quorum.~~ One-third of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- S7.14.01. No less than 120 days prior to any Synod Assembly, ~~the secretary shall (a) determine~~ the percentages of lay and ordained persons likely to be voting members at the Assembly based on the eligibility provisions of the Constitution Sections †S7.21. and S7.22. shall be determined and, ~~(b)~~ report the percentages to the Synod Council.
- S7.14.05. Congregations shall send the credentials of their Assembly voting members to the secretary at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Assembly. ~~The secretary shall prepare the Roll of the Synod in accordance with the credentials received and no change shall be made in the roll of voting members without authorization by the congregation sending the voting member. The roll shall be presented at the first business session.~~

Conformity with the Model Constitution and current New Synod practices.

- S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. ~~Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~
- S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay representatives of congregations under development and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. ~~Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged~~

~~under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.~~

~~S7.26.01. The Synod Council may permit representatives of Mission Settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered congregations and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly consistent with †S7.21.~~

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.

Conformity with the Model Constitution

- S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:
- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.
 - b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
 - c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church.
 - d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
 - e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations. In the event the Synod Assembly does not meet, the annual audit report shall be rendered to the Synod Council.
 - ~~f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.~~

Recommend removal for maximal flexibility and efficiency.

S9.02.02. All elections shall be by ballot. The order of presentation of nominees on the ballot shall, on the first ballot, be determined by lot. Thereafter, continuing candidates shall be listed in the order of votes received on the immediately preceding ballot.

Recommended removal for conformity with current New Jersey Synod practice.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed annually by the Synod Council of from six to nine persons. The Synod Council may appoint the Mission District Deans to serve in this role. The Synod Bishop and Synod Secretary shall serve ex-officio with voice, but not vote. ~~The Nominating Committee shall provide at least one nomination for Counselor for each Mission Cluster.~~ The Nominating Committee shall provide nominations to the Synod Assembly for Synod Council and for ELCA Churchwide Voting Members for positions available after Mission District elections of nominees. The Nominating Committee shall designate categories for Mission Districts electing nominees for Synod Council and Churchwide Voting Members.

Editorial revision for better clarity

S9.03.02. The names of nominees shall appear on the printed ballot with mission district and congregation indicated. The Nominating Committee shall, in its reports, provide brief data concerning each nominee, including mission district and congregation.

Recommended removal to reflect current practice

S9.04.01. With respect to the election of a bishop:

- a. Except when the first ballot results in the election of a bishop, the Committee on Conduct of Elections shall make available to the Assembly the following information concerning each person who receives the votes of at least 5% of the voting members present and voting: age; degrees; earned and honorary; pastorates; other positions held in the church; civic and community activities; and memberships on boards, commissions and special committees of the church.
- b. Normally, only one ballot shall be taken at one session. ~~During the counting of the first ballot, an extended devotional period should be conducted.~~ It is deemed essential to allow sufficient time between ballots to allow voting members to pray and analyze the results of the previous ballots.

Recommend removal as there is no steering committee of Region 7

S9.11. ~~The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.~~

Recommended revision for inclusivity and accountability

S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which ~~she or he was~~ elected or misses two consecutive meetings without excuse, the office filled by such member shall at once

become vacant.

Recommended revision for clarity. Removes redundancies. Provides Bylaws about Synod Council membership that are in agreement with required Constitutional provisions (i.e. young adult member). Reordering for conformity with the recommended practice of ordering of germane bylaws and continuing resolutions following paragraphs of the constitution.

S10.07.01 To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

S10.07.02. Membership

- a. The 22 non-officer members of the Synod Council shall be composed as follows: 1) twelve lay members, six of whom shall be male and six female; 2) nine clergy members, one or more of whom shall be female; and 3) one youth member who may be male or female.
- b. At least two of the 22 members shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- c. The youth member of the Synod Council shall be a person under the age of 18 at the time of election.
- d. All elected members of the Synod Council shall be voting members of a congregation of the New Jersey Synod, ELCA.
- e. The elected chairpersons of official associated organizations are accorded voice but no vote at regular Synod Council meetings.

S10.07.02. Membership

- a. The 22 non-officer members of the Synod Council shall be composed as follows: nine clergy members and thirteen lay members, including at least one youth (under the age of 18 at the time of election) and at least one young adult (between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election).
- b. At least two of the 22 members shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- c. The elected chairpersons of official associated organizations are accorded voice but no vote at regular Synod Council meetings.

S10.07.03. Terms of Office

- a. The term of office of elected members of the Synod Council shall be three years except for the term of the youth member, which shall be two years. No elected member shall be eligible to serve more than two full terms consecutively.
- b. Terms for elected members of the Synod Council (other than the youth member) shall be arranged so that one third of them are elected each year.

S10.07.04. Meetings

- a. The Synod Council shall meet at least three times a year. Special meetings may be called by the bishop or vice president of the synod.
- b. A majority of the members of the Synod Council shall constitute a quorum.
- c. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure at all meetings of the Synod Council.

d. Meetings of the Synod Council shall be open to the public except when the Council declares itself to be in executive session.

e. The Chairperson of the Synod Council may accord the privilege of voice without vote to persons representing interests germane to subjects under consideration by the Council.

S10.07.05. Vacancies occurring ad interim on the Synod Council shall be filled by Council appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

S10.08. ***Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.***

S10.08.01. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

S10.08.02. Meetings

a. The Synod Council shall meet at least three times a year. Special meetings may be called by the bishop or vice president of the synod.

b. A majority of the members of the Synod Council shall constitute a quorum.

c. Meetings of the Synod Council shall be open to the public except when the Council declares itself to be in executive session.

d. The Chairperson of the Synod Council may accord the privilege of voice without vote to persons representing interests germane to subjects under consideration by the Council.

Editorial revision. Removal of a formational continuing resolution. that is superseded by subsequent by bylaws and continuing resolutions.

Chapter 11.

COMMITTEES

(names of other organizational units)

†S11.01. **There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

S11.01.01. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the bishop, vice president, secretary, treasurer(s) of the synod, and at least one at-large member of the Synod Council elected by the Synod Council. The Executive Committee shall function at the direction of the Synod Council.

†S11.02. **The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected**

by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.

Revision to reflect ELCA Constitution and practice.

~~S11.02.01. There shall be a Consultation Committee consisting of twelve (12) persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers, who shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.~~

~~A Consultation Committee shall be a utilized standing committee of the synod. The bishop of the synod shall be a member of the Consultation Committee ex officio except in instances when the bishop brings charges against an ordained minister. The following procedure shall be employed:~~

~~a. There shall be a Consultation Committee consisting of twelve (12) persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers, who shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. Two ministers of Word and Sacrament and two lay members shall be elected by the Assembly at two year intervals beginning in 2012.~~

~~1) None shall be eligible for a consecutive term. Elections beginning in 2002 shall be for a full six year term. From this committee the Synod Council, or a committee authorized by the Synod Council to make the selection, shall appoint five persons (three ministers of Word and Sacrament and two lay persons) to serve as a special Consultation Committee to consider a dispute. When circumstances demand special expertise, (i.e., language other than English, legal or academic skills, etc.) the Synod Council, or a committee authorized by the Synod Council to make the selection, may include as many as two other persons (of the five members) whose expertise meets the special need. These two other persons do not have to be among the twelve persons elected by the Synod Assembly. The special Consultation Committee shall meet with the accused and the accuser(s) in an effort to resolve the issues. If as a result of the consultation the charges are withdrawn, no further proceedings shall be required. If the charges are not withdrawn, the special Consultation Committee shall:~~

~~a) in the case of charges that do not anticipate disciplinary action, submit a report in writing to the bishop of the synod which sets forth the charges and the action or actions recommended by the special Consultation Committee; or~~

~~b) in the case of charges that may result in disciplinary action, refer the charges in writing to the Synodical Committee on Discipline for a hearing.~~

~~e) In the case of charges which do not anticipate disciplinary action, the bishop shall convey the recommendations of the special Consultation Committee to the parties. If either party does not accept the recommendations, that~~

party may appeal the matter to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

S11.02.01. A Consultation Committee shall be a utilized standing committee of the synod. The bishop of the synod shall be a member of the Consultation Committee ex officio except in instances when the bishop brings charges against an ordained minister. The following procedure shall be employed:

1. None shall be eligible for a consecutive term. From this committee the Synod Council, or a committee authorized by the Synod Council to make the selection, shall appoint five persons (three rostered ministers and two lay persons) to serve as a special Consultation Committee to consider a dispute. When circumstances demand special expertise, (i.e., language other than English, legal or academic skills, etc.) the Synod Council, or a committee authorized by the Synod Council to make the selection, may include as many as two other persons (of the five members) whose expertise meets the special need. These two other persons do not have to be among the twelve persons elected by the Synod Assembly. The special Consultation Committee shall meet with the accused and the accuser(s) in an effort to resolve the issues. If as a result of the consultation the charges are withdrawn, no further proceedings shall be required. If the charges are not withdrawn, the special Consultation Committee shall:
 - a) in the case of charges that do not anticipate disciplinary action, submit a report in writing to the bishop of the synod which sets forth the charges and the action or actions recommended by the special Consultation Committee; or
 - b) in the case of charges that may result in disciplinary action, refer the charges in writing to the Synodical Committee on Discipline for a hearing.
 - c) In the case of charges which do not anticipate disciplinary action, the bishop shall convey the recommendations of the special Consultation Committee to the parties. If either party does not accept the recommendations, that party may appeal the matter to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

†S11.03.

The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.

- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- b. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

~~S11.03.01. A Committee on Discipline, shall be a utilized standing committee of the synod. The bishop shall not be a member of the Committee on Discipline. The following procedure shall be employed:~~

- ~~a. There shall be a Committee on Discipline which shall be composed of 12 persons, of whom six shall be rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons. They shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years each without consecutive reelection. Two ministers~~

of Word and Sacrament and two lay members shall be elected by the Assembly at two-year intervals beginning in 2012.

- 1) When a specific case arises, the chairperson of the Committee on Discipline shall advise the vice president of the church of the need for the appointment of six persons from the churchwide committee to serve with the synodical committee. The vice president, as chair of the Church Council, shall bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Church Council for the selection of the six.
- 2) In each specific case that may result in discipline, the synodical committee, as thus constituted, shall, within 45 days after receipt of the charges, meet with the ordained minister and the accuser(s) and render its judgment. If the charges are sustained, the committee shall impose the discipline appropriate to the case. Written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and a copy of the charges shall be delivered to the accused ordained minister and to the accuser(s) at least 20 days prior to the date of the hearing. At the hearing, the accuser(s) may present evidence in support of the charges and thereafter the accused ordained minister shall be entitled to present evidence. The accused and the accuser(s), or other person acting on behalf of either of them, shall be entitled to question the other party or any of the witnesses appearing on behalf of the other party. A verbatim record shall be made by a stenographer or by tape recording of the hearing.
- 3) The decision of the Committee on Discipline shall be final unless, within 30 days, the accused ordained minister shall appeal the case to the Committee on Appeals. The decision of the Committee on Appeals shall be final. (ELCAC20.60.)
- 4) If, in the course of the proceedings, it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the parish being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the parish without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint churchwide/synod fund and with housing provided by the congregation.

S11.03.01. A Committee on Discipline, shall be a utilized standing committee of the synod. The bishop shall not be a member of the Committee on Discipline. The following procedure shall be employed:

- a. There shall be a Committee on Discipline which shall be composed of 12 persons, of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons. They shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years each without consecutive reelection.
 - 1) When a specific case arises, the chairperson of the Committee on Discipline shall advise the vice president of the church of the need for the appointment of six persons from the churchwide committee to serve with the synodical committee. The vice president, as chair of the Church Council, shall bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Church Council for the selection of the six.
 - 2) In each specific case that may result in discipline, the synodical committee, as thus constituted, shall, within 45 days after receipt of the charges, meet with the ordained minister and the accuser(s) and render its judgment. If the charges are sustained, the committee shall impose the discipline appropriate to the case. Written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and a

copy of the charges shall be delivered to the accused ordained minister and to the accuser(s) at least 20 days prior to the date of the hearing. At the hearing, the accuser(s) may present evidence in support of the charges and thereafter the accused ordained minister shall be entitled to present evidence. The accused and the accuser(s), or other person acting on behalf of either of them, shall be entitled to question the other party or any of the witnesses appearing on behalf of the other party. A verbatim record shall be made by a stenographer or by tape recording of the hearing.

- 3) The decision of the Committee on Discipline shall be final unless, within 30 days, the accused ordained minister shall appeal the case to the Committee on Appeals. The decision of the Committee on Appeals shall be final. (ELCAC20.60.)
- 4) If, in the course of the proceedings, it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the parish being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the parish without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint churchwide/synod fund and with housing provided by the congregation.

Significant revision in structure of the following bylaws and continuing resolutions for conformity and clarity. This revision complies with the recommended practice of germane constitutional elements, bylaws and continuing resolutions being placed together and in subsequent order. Proposed bylaw changes have been principally moved into coordinating continuing resolutions by Synod Council action. Conformity of ordering and congruency with current synod practice.

†S11.05. **The Audit Committee of this Synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom is a member of the Synod Staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod’s accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.**

S11.06. **Additional Synod Committees and Teams ~~Other~~
Synodical Committees and Teams ~~Organizational Units~~**

S11.06.01. ~~There shall be the following additional Synod Council committees:~~

- a. ~~An Executive Committee (as mandated by the constitution).~~
- b. ~~A Fiscal Management, Administration and Property Committee.~~
- e. ~~An Assembly Committee.~~
- d. ~~A Personnel Committee.~~
- e. ~~A Constitution Review Committee.~~
- f. ~~An Ecumenical Interfaith Team.~~

There shall be the following additional Synod Council committees: Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property; Assembly; Personnel; Advisory Committee on Legal Matters; Constitution Review; Candidacy; Compensation Aid; Global Mission; Fund for Mission; Excellence in Ministry Unleashed (EMU); Ecumenical and Interfaith; Investment; and Brauning Travel Fellowship.

S11.06.02. ~~There shall be the following Synod Council related committees/ Teams:~~

- a. ~~An Advisory Committee on Legal Matters.~~

- b. A Constitution Review Committee.
- c. An Ecumenical Interfaith Team.
- d. A Mutual Ministry Committee.

There shall be the following Mission Teams: Discipling and Witness Mission Team, Justice and Peace Mission Team, Leadership Mission Team, Mission Advocacy Table (Team), and Youth Ministry Mission Team.

S11.06.03. Mission Teams

- a. There shall be the following Mission Teams:
 - 1) Discipling and Witness Mission Team
 - 2) Justice and Peace Mission Team
 - 3) Leadership Mission Team
 - 4) Mission Advocacy Table (Team)
 - 5) Youth Ministry Mission Team
- b. Each Mission Team shall normally consist of between eight (8) and ten (10) persons. These persons shall be proposed for appointment by the Bishop and confirmed in their appointment by the Synod Council. Terms are normally to be three (3) years each, and no one shall normally serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms.
- c. The overall composition of a Mission Team should reflect the inclusiveness and diversity expectations as outlined in the Constitution. It is also desirable that there be wide geographic representation.
- d. Each Mission Team shall be directed by a Team Leader (Convener) whose appointment shall be proposed by the Bishop and confirmed by the Synod Council. In addition, each Mission Team shall designate one member to be the Communicator and another to be the Global Vision Advocate.
- e. Each Mission Team shall normally meet two to three times per year, or as the Team deems necessary. In addition, there should be an annual gathering of all the Teams to coordinate ministry plans in accordance with the New Jersey Synod's Mission Directions.
- f. Each Mission Team shall make an annual report in writing to the Synod Council for inclusion in the annual Bulletin of Reports prepared for the Synod Assembly. From time to time, additional reports may be made to the Synod Council, or requested by the Synod Council. Proposals for new major programs or when new policy or a change of policy is sought, shall be presented to the Synod Council.
- g. The Mission Team Leader or his/her designee shall represent the interests of the Mission Team in the development of the annual spending plan of the Synod.
- h. Each Mission Team may establish sub units of a continuing nature for program implementation purposes.
- i. Appropriate arrangements for staff services shall be made in consultation with the Bishop or the Bishop's designee by the Mission Team Leader.

S11.06.043. It is the intention of the Synod to achieve a wide participation of laity, rostered lay persons, and ordained ministers in the Synod's decision-making and mission

implementing practices. However, no person shall be expected to serve on more than one Mission Team or other related unit at the same time.

S11.06.054

In addition to and consistent with that which is stipulated by the Constitution and Bylaws, the Synod Council shall, at its initial meeting following the annual Synod Assembly, review and adopt a Continuing Resolution to provide for the function and structure of the above-named Synod Council Committees, Synod Council Related Committees, and Mission Teams. Other organizational units of, or related to, the Synod, shall be identified in the Continuing Resolution.

S11.06.05

The Synod shall have a relationship, primarily through the Synod Council, with several institutions and agencies in order to enhance their function as partners in mission. These ministry partners may, by agreement with the Synod, request the appointment of members to their governing boards. Such appointments shall be made by the Synod Council upon nomination of the Bishop who shall have had previous consultation with the Synod Council Executive Committee.

S11.06.06

This Synod shall have a relationship with churchwide and synod organizational units for women, men, and youth, which exist or may come into existence in order to enhance their function as partners in mission. The presidents of such organizations, recognized by this church and this Synod, shall be invited to meetings of the Synod Council and, if not a member of the Synod Council, shall be accorded voice but no vote.

Recommend revision for conformity with current synod practice.

S12.01.02

Mission Clusters and Mission Districts Purposes and Functions:

- a. Mission Clusters and Mission Districts provide local intersection for congregations, institutions, agencies, synod, and regional Churchwide expressions. They are organized to enable the synod to fulfill its responsibility for strategic planning and implementing the mission of the church on its territory, including, but not limited to:
 - 1) Developing and implementing strategic planning goals for the mission of the church on its territory.
 - 2) Being involved in the process of allocating resources and the placement of personnel on the territory.
 - 3) Planning and implementing programs to strengthen congregational ministries in proclamation, worship, fellowship, service, and advocacy, etc.
 - 4) Facilitating communications among the various expressions of the church.
 - 5) Performing functions which strengthen the corporate mission of the church on that territory; i.e. elections, conferences, worship, fellowship events, study, training, etc.
 - 6) Encouraging relationships with secular and religious organizations dedicated to advocating for justice and providing services to meet human needs on their territory.
- b. Mission Clusters may meet as seems useful to the congregations and their leaders, ~~with an annual fall meeting encouraged~~. Mission Districts shall meet in Assembly each year, no later than six weeks prior to the annual Synod Assembly, for the purpose of electing nominees for Synod Council and Churchwide Voting Members (in those years designated for

elections), and for other mission related purposes deemed helpful. Mission Clusters may schedule meetings in conjunction with the meeting of the District Assembly.

S12.01.04

Mission Clusters and Mission Districts Leadership and Elections:

a. A Mission Cluster will organize itself in a fashion most appropriate to the context. ~~Each Mission Cluster may choose other officers in addition to the Counselor, as deemed appropriate. All other officers and members of the Mission Cluster Council or Cabinet may be either lay or clergy, and chosen as deemed most appropriate by the Cluster.~~

~~Mission Cluster assemblies may be held at least annually each fall, and may be attended by all pastors of ministries and any members of congregations within the cluster. Congregations shall have the same voting privileges (normally clergy, two laypersons, one male and one female) as they would have in the Synod Assembly.~~

b. The Mission Cluster Counselor shall be a ~~pastor from~~ minister of Word and Sacrament under call in one of the congregations in the cluster, elected for a three year term. ~~One or two nominees will be provided by the Synod Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.~~

In the event that any Counselor shall be unable to complete ~~his/her~~ their full term of office, a successor shall be appointed by the Bishop to serve until the next ~~fall~~ meeting of the Mission Cluster. This person shall be eligible for election to a subsequent full term.

c. Mission Districts shall meet in assembly each year, no later than six weeks prior to the Synod Assembly, for the purpose of electing nominees for Synod Council and a Churchwide Assembly Voting Member (in those years designated for such elections).

d. The Mission District Deans are appointed annually by the Bishop from the Mission Cluster Counselors. The Dean presides at all meetings of the Mission District. The Dean is a member of the Conference of Deans which meets with the Bishop and Assistants ~~at least quarterly.~~

Revision for conformity with Model Constitution.

S12.02.02

Social Ministry Organizations

a. Recognition of social ministry agencies or institutions shall be granted or withdrawn by the Synod Assembly in accordance with the standards and procedures established by the ELCA ~~Division for Church in Society.~~

Recommended revision for conformity of recommended language.

S12.02.03

Reports

a. Agencies and institutions recognized by this synod shall report annually to the Synod Assembly. The trustees elected or nominated by the synod may, as a group, append comments and recommendations to such reports.

b. In order to promote relations of mutual benefit, the synod shall accord to

the synodical units of the official associated organizations of the this church the privilege of presenting their causes through reports to the regular Synod Assembly, and that the elected chairpersons of such organizations be accorded voice but no vote in the Synod Assembly. They shall, upon invitation, appoint consultants to their assemblies and councils.

Conformity with Model Constitution.

S14.13. The pastor (a) shall keep accurate **parochial** records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.15. ~~Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit the annual Congregational Reports of his or her ministry to the bishop, secretary or synodical statistician not later than January 31 of each year.~~

Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod 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.

S14.17. ~~No minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of the New Jersey Synod or minister under call to a ministry of the New Jersey Synod shall accept or resign a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within fourteen days after receipt of the written letter of call. In exceptional circumstances, with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.~~

No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament 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 president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

S14.34. ~~Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit the annual Congregational Reports of his or her ministry to the bishop, secretary or synodical statistician not later than January 31 of each year.~~

Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod 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.

S17.11.01 ~~Procedure for Appeal to Synod Council:~~

- a. When a Congregation Council's disciplinary decision is appealed by the disciplined member to the Synod Council (ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations, Chapter 15), the Synod Council shall review the decision to determine whether the Congregation Council's actions have been consistent with the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations, Chapter 15. Discipline of Members. Members of the Synod Council who have a conflict with the disciplined member and/or the congregation, are disqualified from participating in the Synod Council deliberations on the appeal.
- b. To appeal, the disciplined member shall file the appeal within ninety (90) days of the Congregation Council's decision by notifying the Bishop in writing. If the reason(s) for the appeal are not stated in the notice of appeal, the Bishop shall request in writing from the Appellant the specific point(s) to be pressed on appeal. The response to the Bishop's written request shall be received in writing within (30) days of the date of the Bishop's letter.
- e. The following documentation shall be obtained by the Office of the Bishop:
 - 1) From the Congregation Council
 - a) Certification by Pastor of:
 1. private admonition by the pastor;
 2. admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses;
 3. the dated citation to appear before the Council;
 - b) Minutes of the Congregation Council meeting(s) dealing with the matter;
 - c) All correspondence among the Pastor, members of the Congregation Council and the disciplined member pertaining to the disciplinary action and all documents submitted at the time of the hearing;
 - d) A copy of the written notification of the disciplinary action taken;
 - e) A written response, not to exceed four pages, to the Appellant's brief on the matter.
 - 2) From the Appellant:
 - a) Written notice requesting appeal, including points on which Appellant is relying;
 - b) A written brief on the matter, not to exceed four pages;
 - c) The Executive Committee shall review the actions of the Congregation Council as attested in the aforementioned documentation. The Executive Committee may conduct a hearing in which the Appellant may be heard in one part, and Congregation Council members heard in a second part. Time provided for both shall be equal. Rules and procedures for such a hearing are at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Upon completion of this review, the Executive Committee shall make one of the following recommendations to Synod Council:
 1. the disciplinary actions of the Congregation Council be upheld on the basis that they are consistent with the provisions of the ELCA

~~Model Constitution for Congregations, Chapter 15; or~~

~~2. the disciplinary actions of the Congregation Council be nullified on the basis that they are not consistent with Chapter 15 of the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations, and, therefore, the parties shall be publicly reconciled.~~

~~3. Such action shall be taken not later than the second regular Synod Council meeting after receipt by the Bishop of this documentation and any other materials the Bishop deems pertinent.~~

~~d) A 2/3 majority vote of the Synod Council, who are not disqualified but who are present and voting, is required to nullify any disciplinary action of the Congregation Council.~~

~~e) The decision of the Synod Council regarding the disciplinary procedures of the Congregation Council shall be final.~~