

GLC Constitution and Bylaw Changes and Continuing Resolution

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Agenda - Outline

- ELCA requires that we adopt in the GLC constitution certain provisions that it designates as mandatory. When the ELCA amends the “mandatory” provisions in its model constitution, we must amend our constitution to conform.
- We have discretion as to certain other constitutional changes, as well as with respect to our By-Laws and Continuing Resolutions
- We have made and proposed to the Congregation Council the following:
 - Amendments to the GLC Constitution to conform to changes required/mandated in the ELCA Model Constitution
 - Other discretionary amendments to the GLC Constitution that we determined should be made
 - Changes to the GLC By-Laws to update them and conform to Constitutional Changes and changes in congregational management and operations; and
 - A Continuing Resolution to authorize the formation of a GLC Endowment Fund
- Council has approved these changes and recommends them to the Congregation for approval. They will be considered at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on October 17

Mandatory Constitutional Amendments

- Additions in Green and Deletions in Yellow
 - Most are not substantive
- Non-Substantive Mandatory Additions
 - Sections 4.03(g) and 4.05
 - Section 5.04
 - Section 7.04
 - Section 8.02 and 8.05
 - Sections 9.02, 9.03, 9.05, 9.08, 9.12, 9.14, 9.21, 9.23, 9.25, 9.26
 - Section 13.05
 - Section 15.11
 - Section 16.02
 - Section 17.04
 - Section 18.03

Mandatory Constitutional Amendments – Additions – cont.

- Substantive Additions
- C6.04c. and d – add new circumstances in which the ELCA or Metro Chicago Synod can terminate GLC’s affiliation with the ECLA
 - c. This congregation is removed from membership in the ELCA according to the procedures for discipline of the ELCA or in accordance with provision 9.23. of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA
 - d. The Metropolitan Chicago Synod takes charge and control of the property of this congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the synod pursuant to †S13.24. of the synod constitution. This congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the next Synod Assembly.
- Provision 9.23 of the ELCA Constitution and S13.24 of the Metro Chicago Synod Constitution are in the appendix.
- Section 6.05 – termination of congregational relationship with ELCA
 - While the changes may seem substantive, they are actually clarifying.
 - The termination process previously required two meetings, but did not say so clearly; this change simply spells out the two-step process with greater clarity

Discretionary Constitutional Amendments

- C10.01
 - Clarifies that the congregation shall have at least one regular meeting per year at the specified in the bylaws, and that one regular meeting be designated as the annual meeting of this congregation.
 - Changed to comply with state law requiring a specified annual meeting and to allow for additional regular meetings if desired.
- C10.08
 - Clarifies that the congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication.
 - The pandemic has demonstrated the need for such flexibility
- C12.01
 - Grants the congregation the authority to adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council.
 - The congregation is not required to do so, but this addition provides flexibility to address specific problems that could arise
- C13.08
 - Provides that the Pastor is an ex-officio member of all committees

Proposed Bylaws Changes

- Section 2.01 provides additional specificity regarding the duties of the nominating committee and the process for floor nominations for congregational elections
 - The amendment makes clear that floor nominations will be considered and Robert's Rules of Order will be followed
- Sections 3.06 and 3.07 clarify the duties and obligations of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary
- Sections 4.05 and 4.07-4.11 provide additional description of the duties and work of standing committees
- Section 6.01 provides that a majority vote at a meeting of the congregation shall be necessary to amend these bylaws.

Continuing Resolution

- Authorized by Section 18 and Section C5.05 of our constitution
 - Section C18.01 and C18.02 provide that the congregation may adopt continuing resolutions by majority vote
 - Section C5.05 provides that it is the “goal of this congregation to have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in this congregation’s continuing resolutions. The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.”
- Process allows the congregation to consider and adopt the proposal to create a GLC Endowment Fund

Appendix

- Provision 9.23 of the ELCA Constitution
 - Provision 9.23 of the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA provides that “a congregation that maintains as its pastor a minister of Word and Sacrament who has resigned or been removed from this church’s roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or that calls as its pastor one who has not been approved for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament may be removed from the roster of congregations of this church by the Synod Council upon recommendation of the synod bishop.”

Appendix

- **Section 13.24 of the Metro Chicago Synod Constitution**

- f.†S13.24. The Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of a congregation of this synod to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod, if any of the following apply:

- g.a. The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as a congregation.

- h. b. The congregation has abandoned its property.

- i. c. The remaining members of the congregation decide that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance.

- j. d. The Synod Council determines that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance or that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized.

- k. e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration.

- l. The congregation shall have the right to appeal any such decision to the next Synod Assembly.