

## 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### Questions and Answers

1. Does the congregation have to approve the *2019 Churchwide Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*?

An updated constitution protects the congregations legally, practically and avoids confusion. Therefore, although not required to do so, congregations are encouraged to update their constitutions by incorporating the newly adopted churchwide amendments to bring their constitutions into conformity with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. By incorporating the new amendments a congregation includes all the provisions in their constitution that are common to congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Should a congregation's constitution not be updated, the current model prevails.

2. How do we go about updating our congregation's constitution?
  - a. Obtain the 2019 Model Constitution, the *Guide for Use of the Model Constitution for Congregations*, and the 2019 amendments. (add links)
  - b. Appoint a Task Force to review and recommend updates and amendments to the Congregation Council.
  - c. Contact a member of the Synod's Constitution Committee to review the proposed updated constitution.
  - d. Congregation Council makes recommendation to the congregation in a legally called meeting.
  - e. Congregation votes on the updated constitution.
  - f. The Secretary of the Congregation Council sends the updated constitution to the Secretary of the Synod.
  - g. If you need help with this process, contact any member of the Constitution Committee.

#### Constitution Committee

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