

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

Trinity Constitution – Current vs. Proposed Language – All Changes

January 2018

Clause	Current	Proposed	Comment
*C2.02b	b. The proclamation of God’s message to us as both law and Gospel is the Word of God...	The proclamation of God’s message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God...	“Law” is capitalized
*C2.02.c	c. The canonical Scriptures...God’s revelation centering Jesus Christ	c. The canonical Scriptures...God’s revelation centering in Jesus Christ	“in” is added
*C2.04	This congregation accepts the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true...	This congregation accepts the Apostles’, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds as true...	Comma removed after Nicene
*C3.02.	The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.	This church confesses the one, holy, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.	New *C3.02. (required)
*C3.03.	None	The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through	C3.0.2. in current constitution moved to C.3.0.3 due to insertion of new C.3.0.2 (above).

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		<p>congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.</p>	
*C3.04.	None	<p>This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God’s mission in the world.</p>	New required clause added.
*C3.05.	None	<p>The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or “this church”) as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific</p>	Currently C3.03. Moved to C3.05. “(Effective 01.27.2013)” will be revised once approved.

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		references may be made herein. (Effective 01.27.2013)	
*C4.01.	The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.	The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming and sanctifying activity in the world.	Comma removed after “redeeming”
*C4.02.d.	d. Serve in...working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless,...	d. Serve in...working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, standing with the poor and powerless,...	Removed “and” before “standing”
*C4.03.c.	c. Challenge, equip, and support all members...	c. Challenge, equip and support all members...	Comma removed after “equip”
*C4.04.	This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational group and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions in the section on the Congregation Council.	This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational group and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions in the section on the Congregation Committees.	“Council” changed to “Committees” in last line.
*C5.03.c.	c. call or terminate the call of associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers in conformity with the applicable policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;	c. call a minister of Word and Service;	Required change – associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers now “minister of Word and Service”.
*C5.03.d.	d. None	d. terminate the call of a minister of Word and Service in conformity with the constitution of the	d. added to address termination and change to “minister of Word and Service”

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		Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;	[Note: original d, e, f, g, h, i now relettered as e,f, g, h, l, and j]
*C5.03j	The Congregation is authorized to: j. elect its Congregation Council, and require the members of the council to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and	The Congregation is authorized to: elect its [officers][,] [and] Congregation Council, [boards, and committees,] and require [them] [the members of the council] to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution[,] [and] bylaws[,] [and continuing resolutions]; and	Language in brackets are options. Council recommends retaining the current language reflects our processes. The Congregation does not elect its officers or boards and committees.
C5.05	None (not a required clause)	This congregation shall have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in this congregation's [bylaws] [continuing resolutions]. The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.	Council recommends retaining current language (i.e. no clause). Trinity does not have bylaws for mission endowment fund and does draw some operating budget monies from the Mission Endowment Fund
*C6.02.	This congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the Purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.	This congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.	"Purposes" changed to lower case ("purposes")
*C6.03.c.	This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod. These special circumstances are limited either to calling a candidate approved for the roster of ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or	This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and	The clergy are now on the roster of "Ministers of Word and Sacrament" (required change)

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	to contracting for pastoral services with an ordained minister of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion.	with the approval of the bishop of the synod. These special circumstances are limited either to calling a candidate approved for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or to contracting for pastoral services with a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion.	
*C6.03.d.	This congregation agrees to consider associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers for call to other staff positions in the congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.	This congregation agrees to consider ministers of Word and Service for call to other staff positions in the congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.	Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers, etc. are now grouped as ministers of Word and Service (required change)
*C6.05.	A congregation may terminate its relationship with this church by the following procedure: (Effective 01.27.2013)	This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:(Effective 01.27.2013)	“church” to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” “(Effective 01.27.2013)” will be revised with new approval date.
*C6.05.a.	The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the congregation council.	The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council.	“Congregation Council” capitalized.
*C6.05.e.	A copy of the resolution, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, shall be sent to the bishop within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted, at which time	A copy of the resolution, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the	“paragraphs g., h., and i. below.” revised to “paragraph g., and h. below” to reflect new numbering.

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	<p>the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to paragraphs g., h., and i. below. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that the congregation has voted by a two-thirds vote to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, the congregation will be conclusively presumed to be an independent or non-Lutheran church.</p>	<p>vote, shall be sent to the bishop within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted, at which time the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to paragraphs g., and h. below. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that the congregation has voted by a two-thirds vote to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, the congregation will be conclusively presumed to be an independent or non-Lutheran church.</p>	
*C6.05.f.	<p>Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of this church, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.</p>	<p>Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of the ELCA, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.</p>	<p>“church” changed to “ELCA”</p>
*C6.05.g.	<p>Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in *C6.05. shall be required to receive synod council approval before terminating their membership in this church.</p>	<p>This congregation shall abide by these covenants by and among the three expressions of this church:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in *C6.05. shall be required to receive Synod Council approval before terminating their 	<p>Additional covenants added. “Synod Council” capitalized (required change)</p>

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		<p>membership in this church.</p> <p>2) Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.</p> <p>3) Congregations established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to satisfy all financial obligations to this church and receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.</p>	
*C6.05.h.	<p>If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above, another special meeting to consider termination of relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's second meeting as specified in paragraph d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow</p>	<p>If this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above, another special meeting to consider termination of relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If</p>	<p>Reformatted to agree with other preceding paragraphs</p>

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	all requirements of *C6.05. and may begin no sooner than six months after that second meeting.	this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's second meeting as specified in paragraph d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow all requirements of *C6.05. and may begin no sooner than six months after that second meeting.	
*C6.06.	If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected. (Effective 01.27.2013)	If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected. (Effective 01.27.2013)	"program" removed and "(Effective 01.27.2013)" will be revised with new approval date.
*C6.07.	If this congregation considers developing an additional site to be used regularly for worship, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. (Effective 01.27.2013)	If this congregation considers developing an additional site to be used regularly for worship, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. (Effective 01.27.2013)	"program" removed and "(Effective 01.27.2013)" will be revised with new approval date.
*C7.04.	If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this	If two-thirds of the voting	Text in first sentence revised

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	<p>congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body and have followed the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05., title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. (Effective 01.27.2013)</p>	<p>members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body and have followed the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05., title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. (Effective 01.27.2013)</p>	<p>and “(Effective 01.27.2013)” will be revised with new approval date.</p>
<p>*C8.02.c.</p>	<p>Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.</p>	<p>Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this</p>	<p>Provision about bylaws added to end (required change).</p>

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		<p>congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.</p>	
*C8.02.d.	<p><i>Associate</i> members are persons holding membership in other Lutheran congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, or persons who wish to retain a relationship with this congregation while being members of other congregations. They have all of the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.</p>	<p><i>Associate</i> members are persons holding membership in other [ELCA] [Lutheran] [Christian] congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. These individuals have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights or other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.</p>	<p>Model Constitution gives congregations the choices of “ELCA, Lutheran, or Christian”.</p> <p>The Congregation Council recommends “Christian”.</p>
*C8.02.e.	<p>None.</p>	<p><i>Seasonal</i> members are voting members of other ELCA congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation. The Congregation Council may grant</p>	<p>Seasonal membership added (required).</p>

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		<p>seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or for membership on the Congregation Council or on a call committee of, this congregation;2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with the ELCA;4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly;5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and	
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		6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members.	
Chapter 9	THE PASTOR	ROSTERED MINISTER	Required Title Change
*C9.01	Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by the Congregation Council to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.	Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by [this congregation] [the Congregation Council] to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.	Wording of first sentence revised Model Constitution gives choice of "this congregation" or "the Congregation Council". Recommend keeping the Congregation Council. Call Committee is appointed by the Council not elected by Congregation.
*C9.02	Only a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended for the congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.	Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacraments of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacraments who has been recommended for the congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.	The roster for clergy is now "Ministers of Word and Sacrament"
*C9.03	Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,	Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical	"Ministers of Word and Sacrament"

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	<p>a. Every ordained minister shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) preach the Word; 2) administer the sacraments; 3) conduct public worship; 4) provide pastoral care; and 5) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world. <p>b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead; 2) supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation; 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and 4) with the council, administer discipline. <p>c. Every pastor shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; 2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and 4) endeavor to increase the support given by congregations to the work of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and of the New England Synod of the ELCA. 	<p>Lutheran Church in America,</p> <p>a. Every minister of Word and Sacraments shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) preach the Word; 2) administer the sacraments; 3) conduct public worship; 4) provide pastoral care; 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications; 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's 	<p>Sections a, b, c, reformatted into sections a and b.</p>
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		<p style="text-align: center;">love for the world.</p> <p>b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead; 2) relate to all schools and organizations of this congregation; 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; 4) with the council, administer discipline; and 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of the New England Synod of the ELCA. 	
*C9.05.a.	<p>a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which, except in the case of the death of a pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:</p>	<p>The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:</p>	<p>Required changes from Model.</p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term; 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted; 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor; 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor; 5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty; 6) the dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or 7) suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings. 	<p>a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term; 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted; 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions; 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor; 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months; 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the 	
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		<p>roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;</p> <p>7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;</p> <p>8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or</p> <p>9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.</p>	
<p>*9.05.b.</p>	<p>b. When allegations of physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office have come to the attention of the bishop of the synod, the bishop in his or her sole discretion may, or when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of the allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop shall, investigate such conditions personally in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.</p>	<p>b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of the synod,</p> <p>1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or</p> <p>2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by</p>	<p>Required changes from Model.</p>

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		<p>an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.</p>	
*9.05.c.	<p>c. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity, competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of the synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of the synod shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.</p>	<p>c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4 above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of the synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled. 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</p>	<p>Required changes from Model.</p>

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		served or in another appropriate call.	
*9.0.5.d.	d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the synod together with the committee described in *C9.05.b. shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority 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 simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.	d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the 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 pastor and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor'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 the congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.	Required changes from Model.
*9.05.e.	e. If, in the course of proceedings described in *C9.05.d., the committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action to the	e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the	Required changes from Model.

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	synodical bishop, who may bring charges in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the constitution of this synod.	congregation may dismiss the pastor 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.	
*9.05.f.	f. If, following the appointment of the committee described in *C9.05.b. or d., it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint synodical and churchwide fund and with housing provided by the congregation(s).	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 constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.	Required changes from Model.
*C9.06	At the time of a pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor may be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.	At the time of a pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor shall be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.	"may" changed to "shall"
*C9.07	During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a	During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a	"ordained pastor" to "rostered minister" "(Effective 01.27.2013)" will be

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	supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served. (Effective 01.27.2013).	regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any rostered minister providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served. (Effective 01.27.2013)	revised with new approval date.
*C9.09	When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, the Congregation Council and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revisited through a similar consultation.	When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, the Congregation Council and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.	“revised” to “revised”
C9.15	None (not required)	Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synodical bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the	Council recommends acceptance. Trinity has done this before (e.g. Father Alden Flanders from Episcopal Diocese).

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between the congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synodical bishop and approved by the congregation.	
*C9.21	None	Authority to call a minister of Word and Service shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by [this congregation][the Congregation Council] to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.	Required by Model. Council recommends [the Congregation Council] – Council appoints/elects the Call Committee
*C9.22	None	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 synodical bishop may be called as a deacon of this congregation.	Required clause about Ministers of Word and Service added.
*C9.23	None	Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical	Required language about ministers of Word and Service

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		<p>Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;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;c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;g. Be grounded in a gathered	<p>added.</p>
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*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		<p>community for ongoing diaconal formation;</p> <p>h. Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and</p> <p>i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.</p>	
*C9.24	None	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.	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.
*9.25a	None	<p>The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and this congregation shall be as follows:</p> <p>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 death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:</p> <p>1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a</p>	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		<p>specific term;</p> <p>2) resignation of the deacon, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;</p> <p>3) inability to conduct the ministry of Word and Service effectively in this congregation in view of local conditions;</p> <p>4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon;</p> <p>5) suspension of the deacon through discipline for more than three months;</p> <p>6) resignation or removal of the deacon from the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church;</p> <p>7) termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;</p> <p>8) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or</p> <p>9) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.</p>	
*9.25.b.	None	When allegations of physical	Required language about

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		<p>disability or mental 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"> 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or 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. 	<p>ministers of Word and Service added.</p>
<p>*C9.25.c.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's</p>	<p>Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.</p>

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		<p>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 as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and the restoration of the deacon to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.</p>	
*C9.25.d	None	<p>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</p>	<p>Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.</p>

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		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.	
*C9.25.e.	None	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.	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.
*C9.25.f.	None	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	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.

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		with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.	
*C9.26.	None	The deacon shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. installation in another field of labor, or b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer. 	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.
*C9.27	None	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.	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.
*C9.28	None	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	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.

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		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.	
*C9.29	None	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.	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.
*C.9.31	None	The deacon(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.	Required language about ministers of Word and Service added.
C10.01	The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws. (Effective 01.27.2013)	The [annual][semi-annual][quarterly] meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.	Council recommend keeping [annual]. “(Effective 01.27.2013)” will be revised upon approval.
C10.02	A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council or the president of this congregation and shall be called by the president of the congregation upon the written request of the one hundred of the voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted. (Effective 01.27.2013)	A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the [senior] pastor, the Congregation Council or the president of this congregation and shall be called by the president of the congregation upon the written request of the lesser of 75 voting members or 10% of the voting	Council recommends the lesser of 75 members or 10% of voting members “(Effective 01.27.2013) will be revised upon approval.

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		<p>members. The president of the Congregational Council shall call a meeting upon request of the synodical bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted. (Effective 01.27.2013)</p>	
C10.03	<p>Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail to all [voting] members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient. Electronic notice of meetings may be provided in addition to notice by regular mail. (Effective 01.27.2013)</p>	<p>Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, to all [voting] members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient. Electronic notice of meetings may be provided in addition to notice by regular mail. (Effective 01.27.2013)</p>	<p>Council recommends notification by electronic means.</p> <p>“(Effective 01.27.2013)” will be revised upon approval.</p>
C10.04	<p>Seventy-five (75) voting members shall constitute a quorum. (Effective 08.31.2013)</p>	<p>The lesser of seventy-five (75) voting members or 10% of voting members shall constitute a quorum. (Effective 08.31.2013)</p>	<p>Council recommends lesser of 75 voting members or 10% of voting members.</p> <p>“(Effective 08.31.2013) will be revised upon approval.</p>
C11.01d	<p>If the Congregation Council elects its officers, the president,</p>	<p>[If the treasurer is not selected</p>	<p>Council recommends keeping</p>

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

	<p>vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council. The treasurer, whether selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council or not, shall have voice and vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.</p>	<p>from the elected membership of the Congregational Council, the treasurer shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregational Council].</p>	<p>current language. Treasurer has voice <i>and</i> vote.</p>
<p>C11.02</p>	<p>The Congregation Council shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of this congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.</p>	<p>The [congregation] [Congregation Council] shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of this congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>The officers shall be elected by the [congregation] [Congregation Council] by written ballot and shall serve for one year. The term shall begin on _____ (month and day) and end on _____ (month and day).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>The pastor shall be <i>ex officio</i> president of the congregation and the Congregation Council. The [congregation][Congregation Council] shall elect by written ballot the other officers of the congregation who shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin</p>	<p>Council recommends keeping first clause and [Congregation Council] as it reflects current practice.</p>

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		<p>at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>The pastor shall be <i>ex officio</i> president of the congregation and the Congregation Council. The [congregation][Congregation Council] shall elect by written ballot the other officers of the congregation who shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin on _____ (month and day) and end on _____ (month and day).</p>	
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*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

C12.01	<p>The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) and other rostered leaders and not more than 15 nor less than 12 members of this congregation including the officers of this congregation and may include the one youth member specifically described in C12.12. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected and serve, subject to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive, regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause.</p>	<p>The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) and other rostered leaders and not more than 15 nor less than 12 members of this congregation including the officers of this congregation and may include the one youth member specifically described in C12.12. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected and serve, subject to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive, regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause.</p> <p>Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregational Council in other circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s)[, the officers of the congregation,] and [_____ members] [not more than _____ nor fewer than _____ members] of the congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth and at least one of whom shall be a young adult.</p>	<p>Council recommends accepting Option 1 which adds the legal action language proposed by the model (see yellow highlights).</p>
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*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		<p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for _____ years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected at a legally called meeting of the congregation during the month of _____. Their term of office shall be for _____ years, with the term of office beginning on _____ (month and day) and ending on _____ (month and day). Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship the Sunday prior to the date they assume office.</p>	
C12.04d	<p>The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following: To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.</p>	<p>The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following: To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.</p>	<p>Council recommends that model language should be adopted as it now fits the nomenclature for rostered ministers.</p>

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C12.04h	To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide units of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.	To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.	Council recommends change from “units” to “organization” to match Model.
C12.04j	None (not required)	To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel. (Recommended by Model – not required)	Council recommends adoption of model language.
C12.05a	The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation. The Congregation Council shall be the board of trustees of this congregation and, as such, shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except as otherwise provided herein.	The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation. The Congregation Council shall be the board of [trustees] [directors] of this congregation and, as such, shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except as otherwise provided herein.	Council recommends “trustee”. In our use of the term, “trustee” reflects the responsibility and trust that the Congregation has placed with the Council for the responsible stewardship of its property and resources. “trustees” often used for non-profit organization; “directors” in “for profit” organizations. “Trustee” signifies a higher level of fiduciary trust/responsibility than “director”.
C12.05c	The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$10,000 for items not included in the budget.	The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$25,000 for items not included in the Annual Operating Budget. Additionally, the Congregation Council shall	NOTE: THIS WILL REQUIRE TWO CONGREGATIONAL VOTES.

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		be able to enter into contracts of any amount when there is an unforeseen and urgent concern regarding the safety and protection of people and/or property.	<p>RATIONALE: \$10,000 limit was established at least 30 years ago. \$10,000 adjusted for inflation and brought forward to today comes to about \$25,000.</p> <p>Council Recommends: ACCEPT PROPOSED AMOUNT (\$25,000) and SAFETY LANGUAGE.</p>
C12.05d	The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption and may incur obligations more than \$10,000 in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on by or in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.	The Congregation Council shall prepare an Annual Operating Budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption and may incur obligations more than \$25,000 in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting, unless as a result of an unforeseen and urgent concern regarding the safety and protection of people and/or property. The annual operating budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on by or in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.	<p>NOTE: THIS WILL REQUIRE TWO CONGREGATIONAL VOTES.</p> <p>RATIONALE: \$10,000 limit was established at least 30 years ago. \$10,000 adjusted for inflation and brought forward to today comes to about \$25,000.</p> <p>Council Recommends: ACCEPT PROPOSED AMOUNT (\$25,000) and SAFETY LANGUAGE.</p>
C12.06	The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws are carried out.	The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution, its bylaws [and the continuing resolutions] are carried out.	Council recommends adding language about continuing resolutions.
C12.11	The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the	The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may	Council recommends adopting to bring into

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	pastor or the president and shall be called at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.	be called by the pastor or the president and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.	agreement with Model.
C12.12	A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when such person requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to an agenda of routine matters, which shall be the only business of the meeting.	A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including a called pastor or interim pastor serving the Congregation , except when such person requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to an agenda of a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business of the meeting. Chronic repeated absence of the pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregational Council, following consultation with the synodical bishop.	Council recommends adopting Model language with regard to “a called pastor or interim pastor”
C13.02	A Nominating Committee of six voting members of this congregation, two of whom shall be outgoing members or former members of the Congregation Council and one of whom shall be a pastor of this congregation, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee, with the exception of the pastor, are not eligible for consecutive reelection.	A Nominating Committee of six voting members of this congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members or former members of the Congregation Council and one of whom shall be a pastor of this congregation, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee, with the exception of the pastor, are not eligible for consecutive reelection.	Council recommends “if possible” (proposed by Model)
C13.03	An Audit Committee of three voting members may be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee	An Audit Committee of three voting members shall be elected by the	Inserting “shall” instead of “may” and “will”,

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	members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office will be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for reelection. In the absence of an audit committee, a review shall be conducted annually by an independent accountant.	Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office shall be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for reelection. In the absence of an audit committee, a review shall be conducted annually by an independent accountant.	respectively, will bring into compliance with Model.
C13.04	A Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year.	Mutual Ministry Committee(s) (in the absence of a mutual ministry committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president [vice-president ¹] and the rostered minister. Term of office shall be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year.	Council recommends retaining Current language with change to “rostered minister” instead of “pastor”.
C13.05	When a pastoral vacancy occurs a Call Committee , of at least six but no more than nine voting members shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.	When a pastoral vacancy occurs a Call Committee , of at least six but no more than nine voting members shall be appointed by [this congregation] [the Congregation Council]. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.	Council recommends keeping current language. Council appoints the Call Committee.
C13.06	Other congregational committees may be formed as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.	Committees of this congregation may be formed as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.	Council recommends adopting to bring into compliance with model language.
C13.07	Duties of congregational committees shall be specified	Duties of congregational committees shall be	Council recommends

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	in the bylaws.	specified in the [bylaws] [continuing resolutions].	retaining current language to reflect current practice.
C13.08	None (not required)	The pastors, or interim pastor shall be <i>ex officio</i> a member of all committees and boards of this congregation. [The president of this congregation and shall be <i>ex officio</i> a member of all committees and boards of this congregation, except the Nominating Committee.]	Council recommends accepting proposed language from Model.
C14.02	Special interest groups, other than those of the official organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregation Council.	Special interest groups, other than those of the official organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregation Council [and specified in a continuing resolution].	Council recommends proposed language to bring into compliance with Model.
*C15.01	Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps: a) a private admonition by the pastor b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses and c) citation to appear before the Congregation Council. If, of any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a. and b. hereof, the president (if not the pastor) or vice president shall administer such admonitions.	Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of this congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of members (s) of the congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary: a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses and c) written referral of the matter by the Congregation	Changes are required by the Model.

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		<p>Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and d) written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by paragraphs a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.</p>	
<p>*C15.02</p>	<p>The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>. If discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor, who shall advise the Congregation Council of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused. The written citation that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council and requests the presence of a member charged with the offense shall be sent at least ten days prior to the meeting. If the member charged with the offense fails</p>	<p>The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>. If the counseling, censure, and admonitions pursuant to *C15.01. do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three laypersons and two ministers of Word and Sacrament). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to the consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges</p>	<p>Changes are required by the Model.</p>

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	<p>to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Congregation Council may proceed with the hearing and may pass judgment in the member's absence.</p>	<p>from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate. The panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it.</p>	
<p>*C15.03</p>	<p>Members of the Congregation Council who participate in the preparation of the written charges or who present evidence or testimony in the hearing before the Congregation Council are disqualified from voting upon the question of the guilt of the accused member. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Congregation Council who are not disqualified but who are present and voting, and renewed admonition prove ineffectual, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions (Effective 01.27.2013):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. censure before the council or congregation; b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or c. exclusion from membership in this congregation. <p>Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.</p>	<p>If the consultation panel fails to resolve the matter, that panel shall refer the case in writing, including the written charges and the accused member's reply, to the Committee on Discipline of the synod for a hearing. A copy of the panel's written referral shall be delivered to the vice president of the synod, the Congregation Council, and the accused member(s) at the same time it is sent to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall then select six members from the Committee on Discipline to decide the case and shall appoint a member of the Synod Council to preside as nonvoting chair. Those six members, plus the nonvoting chair, comprise the discipline hearing panel for deciding the case. The Congregation Council and the accused member(s) are the parties to the case.</p>	<p>Changes are required by the Model.</p>

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*C15.04	The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Congregation Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final.	The discipline hearing panel shall commence and conduct the disciplinary hearing in accordance with the provisions governing discipline of congregation members prescribed in the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i> .	Changes are required by the Model.
*C15.05	Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of a) evidence that injustice has been done or b) evidence of repentance and amendment.	By the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the discipline hearing panel who are present and voting, one of the following disciplinary sanctions can be imposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership for a designated period of time; b. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership until the pastor and Congregation Council receive evidence, satisfactory to them, of repentance and amendment of life; c. termination of membership in the congregation; or d. termination of membership in the congregation and exclusion from the church property and from all congregation activities. 	Changes are required by the Model.

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<p>*C15.06</p>	<p>For disciplinary actions in this congregation, “due process” shall be observed as specified in 20.41.04. in the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>. (Effective 01.27.2013)</p>	<p>The written decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be sent to the vice president of the synod, the accused member(s), and the Congregation Council as required by the <i>Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>. The decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be implemented by the Congregation Council and recorded in the minutes of the next council meeting.</p>	<p>Changes are required by the Model.</p>
<p>*C16.01</p>	<p>Unless provision *C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the <i>Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least 25 voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation’s members by mail of the proposal together with the council’s recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>Unless provision *C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the <i>Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i>, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least [25] voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation’s members of the proposal together with the Council’s recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.</p>	<p>Changes required by the Model.</p> <p>Council recommends that 25 voting members can propose amendments.</p> <p>Note: Amendments now in Chapter 16.</p>

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

<p>*C16.03</p>	<p>Any amendments to this constitution that result from the process provided in *C16.01. and *C16.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The amendment shall become effective within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the synod unless the synod informs this congregation that the amendment is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the constitution of the New England Synod of the ELCA.</p>	<p>Any amendments to this constitution that result from the process provided in *C16.01. and *C16.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The synod shall notify the congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.</p>	<p>Changes required by the model.</p>
<p>*C16.04</p>	<p>This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the <i>Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i> as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of 25 voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.</p>	<p>This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the <i>Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</i> as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of</p>	<p>Changes required by Model.</p>

*=Required by Model Constitution. Yellow highlights reflect options in Model and Council Recommendations.

		the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.	
*C17.02	Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.	Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.	Required by Model. Note: bylaws now in Chapter 17.
*17.03	Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members by mail of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.	Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members by mail of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.	Changes required by Model.