

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVISION TO THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reason for change:

The constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America provides that when a member congregation wishes to amend its own constitution it must be amended to conform to the model approved by the ELCA which contains a number of required provisions. Our constitution was last amended in 1992 without reference to the ELCA model constitution and without any review by the synod. This proposed revision is intended to bring our constitution in line with the ELCA requirements while retaining those provisions which are unique to our own constitution.

Proposed Revisions:

Although the format has changed, the majority of the content of this revision is the same as our current constitution. Actual wording is changed since the required ELCA provisions must be used without alteration. The following is a summary of the changes made:

- Preamble: Required wording
- Chapter 1: Required wording resulting in a format change only of present Article I
- Chapter 2: Required wording which expands present Article II
- Chapter 3: Required wording not found in present constitution
- Chapter 4: Required wording which significantly expands former Article III.  
Note that paragraph C4.04 provides for the adoption of a mission statement
- Chapter 5: Required wording essentially the same as present Article IV paragraphs 1-3. Paragraph C5.04 of the revision is a new provision which has no counterpart in our present constitution. Paragraph 4 of the present Article IV is eliminated. However, state law contains a similar requirement for the sale or encumbrance of real property. Paragraph 5 of present Article IV is now found in paragraph C7.01 of the revision. However, it now provides that upon dissolution undisposed property goes to the synod.
- Chapter 6: Required wording which expands present Article V
- Chapter 7: Required wording not found in the present constitution which deals with ownership of property in the event of a severance of the relationship with the ELCA. Present paragraph 5 of Article IV is incorporated in this chapter.
- Chapter 8: Required wording which retains present Article VI but expands upon it.
- Chapter 9: Required wording which restates and expands present Article VIII
- Chapter 10: Reformatting of present Article IX. Paragraph C10.02 includes the pastor as having the power to call a special congregational meeting.

- Chapter 11: Reformatting of present Article X
- Chapter 12: Reformatting of present Article XI
- Chapter 13: Required wording not found in the present constitution which provides a mechanism for discipline of members
- Chapter 14: Required wording which reformats present Article XII but adds a requirement that changes be sent to the synod after approval.
- Chapter 15: Required wording which reformats present Article XIII but adds a requirement that changes must be sent to the synod for approval and a requirement that changes may be made to the constitution by simple majority vote if the change is solely to conform with an amendment to the ELCA model constitution.
- Chapter 16: Required wording not found in the present constitution which provides for continuing resolutions by the church council.
- Chapter 17: Required wording not found in the present constitution which allows the congregation to adopt indemnification provisions to protect members, officers and employees of the church against the cost of civil or criminal proceedings.