

Highlights of the New Constitution

Why do we have this document?

- It reflects the theology of our church
- It demonstrates our commitment to being part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church
- It is rooted in Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and our history
- It is required by the Constitution of the ELCA

Why is it important beyond these reasons?

- It is the governing document of the congregation
- It clearly defines our direction, our intentions, and our expectations
- It can be the “last word” if questions arise

This new Constitution combines our three previous governing documents (Constitution, Bylaws, Continuing Resolutions.) This was done as a result of a strong recommendation from the Synod’s Constitution Committee. Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions are still within the Constitution and can be found by their code designation (*see page 1 of new Constitution.*)

This new Constitution was reviewed and approved by the New Life Council for submission to the Synod Constitution Committee in August 2023, then reviewed by the Synod Constitution Committee and approved by the Synod Council on September 8, 2023.

Red wording denotes updates (carried over from current governing documents or modifications.)

Significant modifications:

- 1) Audit Committee: the size has been expanded from 2 to 3. This was made after consultation with the Synod constitution committee and New Life Council.
- 2) Mission ~~Endowment~~ Fund (now to be called Mission Fund.) After consultation with the Synod, we learned this fund is not a true endowment (which means much different legal language would be required) and that it is not a true endowment is the original intention, structure and purpose of this fund. It is only a labeling change, nothing has been altered in how this fund operates.
- 3) The amount the New Life Council may approve for a contract that is unbudgeted in the spending plan: former limit was \$10,000; new limit is \$25,000.
- 4) Language around standing committees was updated to reflect current ministry structure and allow for flexibility in years to come, so that the ministry structure may always serve the vision of New Life.
- 5) Language around the Treasurer and Financial Secretary duties and responsibilities were updated to better reflect and define operations.
- 6) Definition of voting membership has been updated to include persons who worship virtually.

Any questions? Constitution Task Force Members: Jerry Streeky, Joe Giganti, John Beaugard, and Pastor Rakel.