



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

MEMORANDUM

To: Bishops and Secretaries of the synods of the ELCA
From: The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary *WCB*
Date: February 1, 2016
Subject: Official notice of the proposed 2016 amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

As the duly elected secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and pursuant to the provisions of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, I hereby provide official notice of proposed amendments to the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church, which have been recommended by the Church Council to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. This notice and the accompanying proposed amendments are available on the ELCA website.

ELCA constitutional provision 22.11.a. states that a six-month notice must be provided to synods for adoption of constitutional amendments by a regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly:

The Church Council may propose an amendment, with an official notice to be sent to the synods at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the next regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly present and voting.

Further, regarding bylaws, ELCA constitutional provision 22.21. states:

Bylaws not in conflict with this constitution may be adopted or amended at any regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly when presented in writing by the Church Council or by at least 15 members of the assembly. An amendment proposed by members of the assembly shall immediately be submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel for its recommendation. In no event shall an amendment be placed before the assembly for action sooner than the day following its presentation to the assembly. A two-thirds vote of the members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption.

Regarding continuing resolutions, ELCA constitutional provision 22.31. states:

Continuing resolutions not in conflict with the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Such continuing resolutions become effective immediately upon adoption. Matters related to the administrative functions of the churchwide organization shall be set forth in the continuing resolutions.

Please also note that nothing in this notice requires action at your 2016 Synod Assembly.