

Constitution Revision Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are you revising the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions?

A: Our constitution last underwent a full revision in 1995. We want it to be up-to-date in order to reflect how our congregation functions. Also, the ELCA periodically updates the model constitution, which ours is supposed to reflect.

Q: So what are the changes?

A: The changes are of three kinds: 1) removing grammar and spelling errors, making formatting consistent throughout the document; 2) removing inaccurate and out-of-date language; and 3) including necessary changes to reflect the ELCA model constitution. Sections marked with a * are mandatory from the ELCA and may not be excluded or altered.

Q: How do I tell the difference between the old and new?

A: In both the printed and online copies, the current constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions are printed in black ink. Sections to be removed are indicated by lines through the words. Sections to be added are printed in green (or gray, for black & white copies).

Q: What do we do now?

A: Read the proposed updates carefully. If you have questions, direct them to the council members. At the January 2018 Congregational Meeting, we will vote to approve the proposed changes. The proposed Continuing Resolution changes will then go into effect. Because two sets of votes are required for changes to the constitution and bylaws, we will vote again at the January 2019 meeting.