

## **Introduction to St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church Proposed Constitution and Bylaws**

### ELCA 2022 Model Constitution and Format:

- The ELCA Model Constitution was initially adopted at the Constituting Convention and has been updated and amended by subsequent churchwide assemblies. The most recent amendments occurred in 2022.
- Sections of the current Model Constitution **marked by [\*]** are **required** provisions when a congregation amends its governing documents.
- Those provisions **not marked** by [\*] are **recommended** provisions. They may be included, omitted, or altered as each congregation wishes.
- Each congregation's amended document is reported to the St. Paul Synod. Changes to any required provision only become effective when approved by the synod.
- The Model Constitution does not contain bylaws, which are left to the discretion of each congregation.
- Congregation bylaws should be incorporated into its Constitution following the constitutional sections to which they apply.

### SPR Procedure and Format:

- The Congregation Council formed a subcommittee to review the current SPR Constitution and Bylaws, the ELCA 2022 Model Constitution, and recommend updates.
- The subcommittee studied the current SPR Constitution and Bylaws. It compared both documents to the ELCA Model 2022 sections and made recommendations to the Congregation Council for updates incorporating the 2022 Model and SPR history, mission, and current practices.
- The Congregation Council reviewed and discussed each recommendation. It decided to accept, amend, or change each provision. When final decisions were made, the Congregation Council reviewed the document once more and adopted this final proposed Constitution with Bylaws at its November 12, 2024 meeting to send to the congregation for first consideration at the January 26, 2025 Annual Congregation Meeting. It will be considered at a second meeting in January 2026.
- The Congregation Council approved all **required** provisions in the ELCA 2022 Model Constitution to be incorporated into the proposed SPR Constitution.
- The Congregation Council approved most of the **recommended** provisions of the ELCA Model Constitution. It made changes to the ELCA recommended provisions in Sections C5.05, C10.04 (previously adopted by Congregation), C10.07, C12.02, C12.03, C12.04, C12.05, C12.07, C13.02, C13.03, and C13.04.
- The Congregation Council also reviewed the current SPR Bylaws and approved updates to reflect provisions in the 2022 Model Constitution as well as our current practice and congregational mission. Proposed bylaws are included in this combined document. *Bylaws are indented and appear in italics* following each relevant constitutional section.

## List of Amended Constitution Sections

<b>Section</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
*C 4.02 d.	ELCA	Assembly proposal
C 5.05	SPR	Adopted by Congregation Council
*C 6.05 a. & d.	ELCA	Inclusive language
*C 9.03 a. 8)	ELCA	Assembly proposal
*C 9.12	ELCA	Deleted “parochial”
*C 9.13	ELCA	Inclusive language
*C 9.14	ELCA	Deleted “parochial,” inclusive language
*C 9.23	ELCA	Assembly proposal
*C 9.25	ELCA	Inclusive language
*C 9.31	ELCA	Inclusive language
C 10.04	SPR	Previously adopted by Congregation
C 10.07	SPR	Reflects Synod Procedure
C 10.08	ELCA	“or its equivalent” added
C 10.09	ELCA	“ex officio” defined
C 12.02	ELCA/SPR	“as applicable” allows deacon’s preference
C 12.03	SPR	CC “may,” rather than shall
C12.04 b)	SPR	Added SPR Constitution racism provision
C 12.05 c)	SPR	Deleted CC authority limitation to contract for specified amount due to C12.05 d) (limiting CC authority to create deficits)
C 12.05 d)	SPR	Substituted budget percentage rather than dollar amount
C 12.05 e)	ELCA	Deleted synod treasurer to allow greater flexibility in receipt of funds
C 12.07	SPR	“periodic review” substituted for annual review.
C 12.13	ELCA	“or its equivalent” recognizes various means of communication, e.g., those with hearing difficulties.
C 13.02	SPR	No term limit on nominating committee service
C 13.03	SPR	Deleted and updated by Bylaw C11.01a11
C 13.04	SPR	No term limit on mutual ministry committee service
C* 15.02	ELCA	Inclusion of all rostered ministers
C* 16.02	ELCA	Updated for precision
C* 16.04	ELCA	Updated for precision
C* 20.02	ELCA	Editorial Change
C* 20.03	ELCA	Editorial Change