

## CONSTITUTION UPDATE NOTES

Changes made by Lee Smith and John Shriver on April 10 2022 to bring the current 2012 constitution up to date and in compliance with the 2019 Model constitution.

1. COVER PAGE: Change to indicate this is the constitution for Messiah Lutheran Church  
Date: 2022  
Include dates of Council approval, congregation approval and ratification
2. Page 2 and 3: Substitute 2019 Model Introduction for 2012 Model Introduction
3. Required provisions: All sections marked with an asterisk are required in an updated constitution.
4. The updated constitution must be submitted to the synod for review and approval.
5. A church may amend a constitution to bring it into conformity. Approval not required.
6. Bylaws and continuing resolutions appear in the constitution following the provision to which they apply. They may not conflict with a required provision. Bylaws are adopted using a congregation meeting.
7. Continuing resolutions describe operations and practices, and responsibilities of committees or other units in a congregation. Continuing resolutions can be adopted using a congregation or council meeting.
8. Brackets indicate alternatives that must be selected by congregation for their constitution.
9. Page 1: Retain definitions of pastor and bishop.
10. Chapter 1: Name and Incorporation. Retain definition of the seal for Messiah
11. Chapter 2: Confession of the Faith. No change
12. Chapter 3: Nature of the Church. Add second section \*C3.02 as in the 2019 Model, and increment following section numbers (C3.03, C3.04, and C3.05).
13. Chapter 4: Purpose. Minor editorial or text changes in \*C4.03.

\*C4.04 contains a statement in brackets that states that the descriptions of committee responsibilities prepared by Council shall be contained in Continuing Resolutions in the section on Congregation Committees (delete "Council" in this sentence).

\*C4.05 Delete “from time to time” and add “and periodically review” to be in compliance.

14. Chapter 5: Congregation. Make minor editorial or textual changes to be in compliance.

In C5.03d, delete “associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal minister” and add “a minister of Word and Service”.

In C5.03j, delete “boards and committee” and “them”. Our congregation has not been charged with the duty of approving boards and committees in general. Make minor textual changes that follow.

C5.03.01 Retain the bylaw defining the MLC fiscal year.

C5.04: Make minor editorial changes

C5.05: We need to decide if the mission endowment fund is described in a bylaw or a continuing resolution.

15. Chapter 6: Church Affiliation. Make minor editorial changes to be in compliance.

C6.03: Substitute Ministers of Word and Sacrament where indicated in 2019 model.

C6.04: Make additions as required. Substitute name of SE synod in blank.

C6.05: Made require changes as indicated. This describes the details for how a church (congregation) may separate from the ELCA.

16. Chapter 7: Property ownership. Make substitutions as indicated.

17. Chapter 8: Membership. Make minor changes as indicated.

C8.02d: Associate members: Decide if this is limited to Lutherans.

Note Bylaw C8.02.01. Baptized persons received by affirmation of faith into this congregation shall first have been instructed in Lutheran doctrine by the pastor(s).

Note Bylaws C8.05.01, 02, and 03.

18. Chapter 9: Pastor

Note change of “Pastor” to “Rostered Minister”

\*C9.01 Choose “congregation” or “Council”

Make necessary changes reflecting new use of Ministers of Word and Sacrament

Note that the merging of C9.05 section e and f got a little complicated. Essentially we have no options here and must use the new model text.

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Question:

Who serves as "President" between the time when a pastor resigns and an interim is installed?