



The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Thank you, fellow members, for taking the time to consider this recommendation by your Council. It came from our ongoing efforts to keep our operating documents (Constitution, bylaws, and resolutions)

- in alignment with each other,
- in conformity with ELCA models,
- clear and easily usable by congregation leadership and membership.

We believe that periodically this kind of “house cleaning” is necessary for good organizational ‘hygiene’ and efficiency.

Following a thorough review of our current congregational Constitution, the Council unanimously recommends that we bring our Constitution into conformity with the current ELCA model Constitution.

Bringing the LCGS Constitution into conformity will

1. provide for internal consistency throughout the document,
2. revise the formatting to make it more usable and understandable,
3. give us a solid foundation upon which to adopt bylaws and continuing resolutions in the future.

At our Annual Meeting (May 17, 2009) the Council will ask the congregation for a vote of approval that we bring our Constitution into conformity with the current ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations. The procedure for doing this is in our current Constitution (see C17.04). It states:

*“Whenever the Model Constitution for Congregations is amended by the Church-wide Assembly, this Constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a simple majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments at least 30 days prior to the meeting.”*

This is a first step at a thorough review and “house cleaning” of our working documents. It is our intention to next tackle possible issues related to our bylaws (i.e. possible conflicts with our Constitution, obsolete holdover items, or duplications/redundancies). We have already begun the process and identified some areas in need of ‘hygiene’; this will be a project to pursue following our 2009 Annual meeting. Our recommendations will be shared with you this coming year in a fashion similar to our examination of the Constitution and subsequent recommendation above. Meanwhile, our existing bylaws are still in force.

We prayerfully ask for your support in this endeavor,  
Sincerely,

Council



Ron Tuvey, President  
Leo Eliason, VP Business  
Marcia Riggers, VP Programs  
Carolyn Wagner, Secretary  
Ralph Birmingham  
Gery Gerst  
Jamie Huzinga  
Marcia Kjesbu  
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