

RESOLUTIONS SECTION INDEX

	page
Synod Council Recommendations	
2016 Amendments to <i>Constitution for Synods</i>	6 – 2
Conference Realignment and Representation on Synod Council	6 – 7
Resolutions Process	6 – 8
Resolutions Submitted	
Pacifica Synod Assembly Location Rotation to Hawai'i	6 – 9

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS
AS APPROVED BY THE 2016 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**
Official Notice of Required Provisions

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
August 19, 2016

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

Under †S18.11., required provisions are to be introduced at once into the synod's constitution upon this formal certification by the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Required provisions become effective immediately upon their adoption by the Churchwide Assembly and this subsequent formal notification of their adoption. Therefore, no vote of the Synod Assembly is needed for such required provisions; neither is such a vote to be taken.

Amendments that are not required (i.e., those not marked by a dagger) may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote at one assembly under †S18.12. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of adoption.

In coordination with the following amendments, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

- strike the words "ordained minister/s" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament";
- strike the word "clergy" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament";
- strike the words "pastor/s" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament" where appropriate;
- strike the words "associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Service"; and
- make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster.

CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS

- S7.11.01.** The time and place of the Pacifica Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced 12 months prior to the assembly.
- S7.22.** ~~The This synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained rostered ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.~~
- S7.24.** ~~Ordained ministers Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or~~

until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant an **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that **ordained** minister's service in a congregation of this church.
- S8.55.** Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be four years. **If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a four year term.**
- S10.03.** The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
...
d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service and of other official rosters**, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
e. Issue letters of call to **ordained rostered ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers** as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
...
S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of **ordained** ministers on the **rosters** of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S13.11.** When a **pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal rostered** minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.
- S13.12.** A congregation under financial obligation to its former **pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal rostered** minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

Chapter 14.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LAY ROSTERED MINISTERS

S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament

- S14.013.** The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.014.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them,

upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.

S14.015. Each **ordained** minister **of Word and Sacrament** on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S14.127. No **ordained** minister **of Word and Sacrament** shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. **An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

S14.215. All **ordained** ministers **of Word and Sacrament** under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

S14.30. **~~Official Rosters of Laypersons~~ Ministers of Word and Service**

S14.33. **The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.**

S14.34. **Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.**

S14.42. **No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.**

S14.47. **All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.**

**ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS FOR SYNODS
INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

In coordination with the following amendments, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

- § strike the words “ordained minister/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
- § strike the word “clergy” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
- § strike the words “pastor/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” where appropriate;
- § strike the words “associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Service”; and
- § **make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster.**

These editorial corrections are recommended for approval by the Pacifica Synod Council. The authority to make these editorial corrections is extended to synod secretaries who has informed the synod council.

- S7.13.01** Notices of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given in writing and mailed to all ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod, all active associates in ministry, consecrated deacons and deaconesses ministers of Word and Service, commissioned teachers, certified or commissioned lay professionals on the roster of this synod, and to each congregation related to this synod. The written notice shall be mailed by the secretary of this synod no later than sixty days prior to the scheduled meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.22.b.** Ten percent (10%) of all retired ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall have the right to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly. The selection of these retired ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament to serve as voting members shall be done in a process established by the Synod Council. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of members in the congregations so that at least 60 percent of the voting membership of the Synod Assembly shall be laypersons. The additional lay representation shall be determined in compliance with †S7.21.c.
- S7.22.c** Ten percent (10%) of all retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses and retired diaconal ministers ministers of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall have the right to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly. The selection of these retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses and retired diaconal ministers ministers of Word and Service shall be done in a process established by the Synod Council.
- S7.22.A12** Retired pastors ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of the Pacifica Synod serving congregations in an interim position under a contract with the congregation and with the approval of the synod, notwithstanding the provisions above (S7.22b), shall be voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c.
- S8.11.01** This synod shall establish a "Mutual Ministry Committee" to give support and counsel to the bishop and staff. It shall consist of two ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and four laypersons appointed by the Synod Council in consultation with the bishop. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall serve during the bishop's term of office, and shall meet with the bishop and staff at least semi-annually, or more frequently as the bishop requests.

- S8.12.01** The Bishop shall establish a Candidacy Committee which shall have responsibility for the recommendation of certification of candidates for the position of ordained minister of Word and Sacrament or ~~associate in ministry~~ minister of Word and Service.
- S8.14.01.a** The designated representative shall be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament of this church.
- S9.04.02** During the year in which a bishop is to be elected, each Conference of the Synod described in the bylaws shall be requested to submit to the Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force up to 12 names of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament of the ELCA as potential candidates for Synod bishop.
- S10.06.** If an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who is a member of the Synod Council ceases to be a member in good standing on the roster of this synod, or to be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, such position held by such person shall at once become vacant. If a layperson who is a member of the Synod Council ceases to be a member of a congregation of this synod, the position held by such member shall at once become vacant. If a clergy minister of Word and Sacrament or lay person moves from the conference they represent, such conference position held by this person shall at once become vacant.
- S10.07.02.** All geographic areas of the synod shall be represented on the Synod Council as provided herein. Synod Council members, called "conference representatives," shall be elected by Synod Assembly members from geographic areas, called "conferences." The conference representative from each conference shall be either an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament affiliated with a congregation, agency, institution located within the conference or shall be a layperson who is a voting member of a congregation of this synod which is located within the conference. The Synod Council will establish a formula designating clergy/lay, male/female to each conference. In the event a conference representative to the Synod Council, if an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament ceases to be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament affiliated with a congregation, agency, institution located within the conference from which s/he was elected or, if a layperson ceases to be a voting member of a congregation of this synod located within the conference from which s/he was elected, then the term of such a conference representative shall automatically terminate upon the termination of his/her status or affiliation.
- S11.02.01** Members of the Consultation Committee shall be elected at Synod Assembly with elections occurring every two years for two ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons of the Committee. If a position on the Consultation Committee becomes vacant, an election at the next regular Synod Assembly will be held to fill the unexpired term. If the unexpired term is two years or less, the person filling the vacancy is eligible for election to a full six-year term following completion of the unexpired term.
- S11.03.01** Members of the Committee on Discipline shall be elected at Synod Assembly with elections occurring every two years for two ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons of the Committee. If a position on the Committee for Discipline becomes vacant, an election at the next regular Synod Assembly will be held to fill the unexpired term. If the unexpired term is two years or less, the person filling the vacancy is eligible for election to a full six-year term following completion of the unexpired term.
- S12.01.01 e** Each conference shall have a dean who shall be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this synod with his/her principal place of ministry within the conference.

Conference Realignment and Representation on Synod Council

Whereas S12.01 of the Pacifica Synod's Constitution says, "This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions or area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and partners as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for Missional purposes among congregations, synods, the Churchwide organization, and other partners"; and

Whereas S12.01.01 of the Pacifica Synod's Constitution says, "This synod shall be subdivided into conferences in a manner that takes into consideration local geography, proximity of churches, and other relevant factors resulting in logical groupings for the purpose of mission and administration"; and

Whereas S10.07.02 of the Pacifica Synod's Constitution says, "All geographic areas of the synod shall be represented on the Synod Council as provided herein"; and

Whereas there have been significant shifts in where congregations of the Pacifica Synod are located due congregations being established in the Synod and congregations leaving the Synod,

Be it resolved that a task force comprised of one Dean and one Council member from each of the four geographical areas of the Synod (San Diego, Orange County Inland Empire and Hawaii) be established to study and recommend a grouping of congregations for shared ministry and representation on Synod Council and committees; and

Be it further resolved that this task force will report back to Synod Council for action no later than March 2018.

Submitted by the Pacifica Synod Council

Resolutions Process and Background Information

The resolutions process enables individuals or groups within the synod to bring a request for action to the Synod Assembly, which is the Synod's highest legislative authority.

The Synod Council has established a 90-day deadline, prior to the beginning of the annual Synod Assembly, for resolutions to be submitted to the synod office. The Synod Council appoints a Resolutions Committee which meets prior to the Assembly in order to review the resolutions received.

It is the responsibility of the Resolutions Committee to:

- ensure that resolutions comply with the constitution of the synod
- ensure that resolutions are submitted in proper form
- review the appropriateness of the subject and desired action
- make sure there is a plan for implementation
- seek to eliminate duplication of resolutions submitted on the same subject matter

The Resolutions Committee works with individuals or groups who are submitting resolutions to assist them in presenting their resolutions in the best form possible.

The Resolutions Committee reports its work to the Synod Council and to those who have submitted resolutions. If the Resolutions Committee rules that a resolution is unconstitutional or inappropriate, the individual or group submitting the resolution may appeal that decision to the Synod Council.

It is not the job of the Resolutions Committee to offer its opinions on a particular resolution. The work of the committee is to ensure that resolutions conform to the requirements set for them and then to place those resolutions before the assembly in a clear manner, so that the Synod Assembly as a whole may debate and decide the issues that are before them.

If the Secretary of the Synod receives any resolutions after the 90-day deadline, they will also be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee. These resolutions will be brought before the Synod Assembly, but will be placed on the agenda only with the consent of the Assembly.

Any resolutions which are not considered by the Synod Assembly due to lack of time, are referred to the Synod Council for action.

17-01: A Resolution Related to the Pacifica Synod Assembly Location Rotation to Hawai'i

Sponsors: Clergy of The Hukilau Conference, Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Rev. Jeff M. Lilley	Rev. Ruth Peterson	Rev. Kathryn Zurcher
Rev. J.P Sabbithi	Rev. Phyllis Hörmann	Rev. Timothy Mason
Rev. Keith Wolter	Rev. Diane Martinson	Rev. Leslie J. Mahraun
Rev. Steven Jensen	Rev. Wendi Gordon	Rev. John Lunn
Rev. Steve Brauner	Rev. David Barber	Rev. Anke Flohr

Background

At the 2008 Pacifica Synod Assembly it was resolved: “that the Pacifica Synod vote in its 2008 synod assembly to include Hawaii in the synod assembly rotation which is normally Orange Country, San Diego, and the Inland Empire; and conduct an annual synod assembly every seven years in Hawaii...”

WHEREAS the congregations of the Hukilau Conference have joyfully hosted the 2007 and 2014 synod assemblies and thank their partners in ministry for coming to the Hawai’ian Islands and

WHEREAS the economic health and forecast of many congregations of Pacifica Synod have become increasingly uncertain and the projected cost of holding the Pacifica Synod Assembly in Hawai’i has increased significantly due to the reluctance of hotels to offer significant discounts in the current economy, increases in travel costs, and rising venue costs, and

WHEREAS the cost for mainland congregations to send voting members to Hawai’i has grown beyond what might have been envisioned in 2008, and

WHEREAS the congregations and leadership of Hukilau Congregations are no longer able to effectively host the Pacifica Synod Assembly on a regular basis without undue hardship and expense.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pacifica Synod vote in its 2017 synod Assembly to no longer include Hawai’i in the regular synod assembly rotation which is normally Orange Country, San Diego, and the Inland Empire and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pacifica Synod hold future assemblies in Hawai’i only when economically feasible after consultation with the Hukilau Conference leadership.

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- Author/Contact Person: Rev. Jeff M. Lilley pr.jeff@lchwelcome.org
 - Financial Impact to Pacifica Synod Budget- positive
 - Relevant Resolutions: 12-02 (attached), Recommendation by Synod Council 2008 (attached)
 - Conflict with Pacifica Synod Constitution and bylaws- none