

Grace Lutheran Church Constitution Update

Grace Lutheran Church's current constitution was approved over 30 years ago in 1988. In 2001, an updated version of the constitution was drafted but it stalled and never brought to a congregational vote. Over the years, there have been times of starting and stopping the review process of our constitution, but without ever reaching completion. The transition of our pastoral leadership provoked a review of our church documentation, which in turn, began a renewed effort to update our constitution. In conjunction with our internal review, in 2019, the Synod also released a new model constitution for ELCA churches. This provided a solid template for Vision Board to follow to update our constitution, aligning it to the new Synod model. In June, we completed the steps required by the Synod to bring our proposed constitution to you for a congregational vote of approval.

As you review our proposed constitution, here are a few considerations to guide you.

- The constitution is structured into chapters, each with a specific focus.
- The "C" in front of the number system symbolizes that the document is a "Congregational" constitution.
 - Chapter statement codes are bolded. The first number in the coding represents the chapter, the second number represents the statement number within that chapter.
 - Bylaw codes within each chapter are not bolded. The first and second numbers follow the same representation of the chapter statements. The third number represents the bylaw order under each chapter statement.
 - An example of this can be seen on the bottom of page 11 and top of page 12 in Chapter 10, statement 1, bylaws 1 and 2.
- The items with an asterisk in front of them are required, as written, by the Synod. The items without an asterisk could be customized for our congregation.
 - Chapters that could be customized are as follows:
 - Chapter 1 – Name and Incorporation
 - Chapter 10 – Congregation Meeting
 - Chapter 11 – Officers
 - Chapter 12 – Congregation Vision Board
 - Chapter 13 – Congregation Committees
 - Chapter 14 – Organizations Within This Congregation
 - Customized chapters are where you might focus your attention if you are wanting to limit your review. Bylaws throughout the document are also customized to Grace Lutheran Church.