

Summary of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws revisions

The council appointed a small committee to review the current governing structure of the congregation. The committee presented some proposals to the Council to eliminate some officers and to update the scope and duties of the boards. These recommendations require changes to both the constitution and the bylaws. Both documents were reviewed to incorporate the suggested changes as well as to conform the documents to the current Synod and District guidelines.

CONSTITUTION

- Replaces the outdated Mission statement with the current mission statement that was approved by the voters' assembly.
- Moves the list of officers to the bylaws and eliminates the position of Financial Secretary.
- Changes the requirement for two meetings to amend the constitution to one meeting.
- Other technical changes to eliminate redundancy and conform to Synod and District recommendations.

BYLAWS

The goal was to simplify the board structure to maximize the efforts of our volunteers and staff. Other changes, such as eliminating positions and changing meeting requirements, were made to conform to what has become our current practice.

- Requires only an annual meeting of the voters' assembly, with other meetings as needed.
- Renames the Board of Elders to Board of Spiritual life.
- Eliminates the position of Financial Secretary, assigning its functions to the Treasurer.
- Removes the position of General Counsel.
- Removes the reference to specific boards except for Board of Spiritual life, allowing future changes in board structure without bylaws amendment.
- Suggests moving all of the board descriptions from the bylaws to a policy manual. This manual can be updated by the voters' assembly without prior approval from the District and Synod.

BOARD REALIGNMENT and UPDATED DESCRIPTIONS

The Board of Elders becomes Board of Spiritual life with an updated description. The goal was to facilitate participation by men and women in a way that remains faithful to Lutheran teaching and the unique role of the pastoral office. The term "Elder" in scripture is often associated with "Pastor", which can lead to confusion as to the role and authority of "elders" within the congregation. This change in title is meant to avoid such confusion.

The Board of Evangelism is renamed the Board of Evangelism and Community Service with some changes in the description and duties. The goal is to broaden the duties of the board to include other community outreach beyond evangelism activities.

The Board of Stewardship is merged with the board of Finance and the duties of the combined board are updated. Along with the elimination of the Financial Secretary, this streamlines and consolidates the financial oversight duties of the Treasurer and Council to more closely reflect our current practice.

The board of planning is eliminated. If needed, such a board or committee could be reinstated by the voters' assembly.

Small changes were made to other board descriptions, including specifying how the Boards support and coordinate with the current staff.

