Constitution and Bylaw Changes

From time to time congregations make changes to their constitution and bylaws. *Do not include in your constitution or bylaws statements of belief, such as, the sanctity of marriage, etc. Such statements are valued, but the Synod believes singling out one doctrinal understanding in the constitution or bylaws tends to diminish other doctrinal positions of the Synod. Feel free to add statements of belief as such in your congregation's handbook of operations.

If your congregation is in the process of making such changes, please note the following:

1) 2019 Handbook, Synod Bylaw 2.4.1

2.4 Continued Eligibility of Congregations

2.4.1 A congregation desiring to retain membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall continue to have a constitution and bylaws approved by the Synod.
   (a) A member congregation which desires to revise its constitution and/or bylaws shall, as a condition of continued eligibility as a member of the Synod, submit a proposed revised constitution and/or revised bylaws to the district president.
   (b) The district president shall refer such to the district constitution committee for review to ascertain that the provisions are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, the Confessions, and the teachings and practices of the Synod.
   (c) Upon advice of the constitution committee and recommendation by the district president, the district board of directors shall determine if the changes are acceptable to the Synod.
   (d) Upon favorable action by the district board of directors, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are acceptable to the Synod, and the congregation may proceed with formal adoption of the revised constitution and/or bylaws and remain a member in good standing of the Synod.
   (e) Upon formal adoption of the proposed revised constitution and/or bylaws, the congregation shall provide to the district a dated copy of the action taken, accompanied by a copy of the dated revised constitution and bylaws.
   (f) Until a congregation formally adopts a revised constitution and/or bylaws using this process, the Synod shall consider the existing constitution and bylaws to be in effect for all purposes.

2.4.2 A copy of the signed constitution shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance by the district board of directors shall be reported to the next regularly scheduled convention of the district.

2) The RM District Constitution Committee are volunteers appointed by the District President. The timing of the review depends on the committee's workload and personal schedules. When the committee's review is completed they will either make a recommendation to take to vote at the next BOD meeting and an email notification of such will be sent to contact person. Should the committee recommend changes as part of their review, a letter will be mailed to the congregation to the attention of the contact person.

*3) While the congregation’s revisions are being reviewed by the Committee, the congregation continues operating under their previously RM BOD approved constitution and bylaws. (*Contact the district office for last approved date.)

4) Mail to: RM District LCMS, Attn: District Constitution Committee, 14334 E. Evans Ave., Aurora, CO 80014
   A copy of the OLD and the NEW version for review. Include a *cover letter with contact name/phone/email along with a *detailed list of the changes. The committee will accept electronic documents for review as long as the proposed changes are noted in the document itself—colored font, italics, bold or underlined.

For more detailed information, please contact the district office at 303-695-8001.

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