

Summary of edits to FLC Constitution for consideration @ 2024 Annual Meeting

The FLC Congregational Council adopted the following Continuing Resolution in July 2023 following discussion of the need to undertake this effort at the annual visioning retreat in January;

“The FLC Congregational Council empowers a committee starting in July 2023 to examine and thoroughly review our current Constitution (2016) and the current ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations for opportunities to edit the former. Specifically the FLC Council would like to consider changes to the terms of office for Council and program board members so as to alleviate some of the ongoing problem of recruiting new people for these roles. Council also requests revised definitions for the scope of all existing program boards and potential development of a streamlined process for empowering and chartering new ad hoc and task force type groups. This committee of four to six members should meet regularly over the second half of 2023 with a draft presentation of edits requested at the 12/19/23 Council meeting.

Members; Elisa Reid, Brian Gohlke, David Moore, Steve Shulta, Tim Drinkwater.”

This group has met five times as directed by this Council C.R. and we are recommending the following areas to be edited;

Chapter 10, Congregational meeting, specifically bylaw C10.01.01, will reschedule the regular (annual) Congregational meeting to occur on or before the last day of June, starting in 2024. To align with our desire to similarly change the fiscal year for FLC.

Chapter 12, Congregational Council; We are recommending allowing three, 3-year terms in lieu of just two terms previously allowed. Also recommending that we adopt the optional ELCA language that allows Council to appoint program board members in lieu of electing them, and that these terms of office and limits match those for Council.

Chapter 13; Organizations within the Congregation; recommending revisions to current bylaws containing program board descriptions to better serve the ongoing needs of the organization.

Adopting all changes in required text (sections preceded with an asterisk) in the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations. This model has been edited twice, in 2019 and in 2022 since the last FLC Constitution edits were made, based on the 2016 model.

Five documents, including the current FLC Constitution, the proposed new Constitution, two summaries of the ELCA model edits from 2019 and 2022 and this one page summary, will be available for congregational member review by December 28, 2023 as is constitutionally required ahead of consideration at the 2024 annual meeting(s).

