

What to Know Before You Vote on Proposed Changes to the St. Michael Lutheran Church Constitution

We need to update our constitution.

Provisions in ELCA's Model Constitution for Congregations marked with an asterisk (*) are required verbatim.

- Most of the provisions in the model constitution's twenty chapters are marked with an asterisk. Whenever there is an ELCA National Assembly, changes to the model constitution are adopted and those changes need to be included in congregational constitutions. The changes we will be adopting are predominately from 2016, but also include a few changes we missed in previous years.

What is different?

- Some terminology
 - Example: The terms "ordained minister/s," "clergy," and "pastor/s" are replaced with "minister/s of Word and Sacrament" in most cases.
- Additions, deletions, and other changes identified in the new model constitution
 - Examples: seasonal members (*C8.02.e; new), ministers of Word and Service (*C9.21-*C9.31; new), and parish authorization (chapter 20; updated).
 - To see all the details, review the nine-page "Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations as Approved by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly" document which is available on St. Michael's website under "Latest News".
- Changes from previous model constitutions
 - When reviewing our current constitution, we discovered it doesn't include some updates from previous years.
 - Example: Our constitution currently lacks chapter 20.

What is the same?

- Most of the information in our current constitution remains the same.
- Local options within the body of the Constitution which apply to the structure and management of St. Michael are unchanged.

The congregational council recommends the congregation approve the draft constitution. The required changes are helpful. The parts of the constitution we control continue to reflect our congregation's way of organizing and supporting our ministry.