

## Summary of 2016 Amendments to Model Constitution for ELCA Congregations

The following are areas of major change resulting from action made in the August 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly that are reflected in these amendments.

1. Statements were added emphasizing ELCA supporting Christian unity in the world. (\*C3.02, \*C3.04)
  
2. Three rosters of lay ministry (associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers) were consolidated into a single roster called 'ministers of Word and Service'. Also, the name of the current clergy roster was changed to 'ministers of Word and Sacrament'. (\*C.5.03c, \*C5.03d, \*C6.03, & throughout remaining chapters)
  
3. Procedures were added for calling and dismissing 'ministers of Word and Service'. (\*C9.21....\*C9.31)
  
4. A new class of 'Seasonal' congregational membership was added. (\*C8.02e)
  
5. Changes requirement from simple majority to two-thirds majority of congregation vote to:
  - a. Sever congregation's relationship with ELCA. (\*C7.03, \*C.7.04)
  - b. Call a pastor or terminate a pastor's call against bishop's committee recommendation. (\*C9.01, \*C9.05e)
  - c. Adopt or amend Bylaws or ratify without change a constitution amendment adopted at previous annual meeting. (\*C17.02, \*C16.02b)

The majority of amendments are **required** for congregation constitutions. Required provisions are noted with an asterisk (\*) included with paragraph number.