

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Roseville

## Constitutional Amendments, Final Draft

December 21, 2023

One June 25, 2023 our congregation voted to approve amendments to our constitution. Our proposed changes were then submitted to the St. Paul Area Synod for review. On January 28 our congregation will conduct the final vote on the amended constitution, which includes a number of changes required by the ELCA. If approved, the changes will take effect immediately.

This document shows all of the changes we adopted in June. They are highlighted and underlined. The full constitution, as amended, is available on request from the church office. Also available is a document that shows exactly what changes were required by the ELCA.

- C5.05.** This congregation shall have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in this congregation's ~~bylaws~~ **continuing resolutions**. The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.
- C10.05.** Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted. **with the exception that up to 4 voting members, engaged as on-site child care attendants at the time of a meeting, may submit a vote by proxy.**  
(Note: The exception was removed at the direction of the Synod.)
- C10.07.** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedures of ~~all meetings of this congregation~~ **the semi-annual and special meetings of this congregation and meetings of the congregation council.**
- C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer  
a) Duties of the officers shall be specified in the job descriptions in the bylaws and ~~reported at the annual meeting.~~ **continuing resolutions**
- C12.01.** The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and not more than ~~twelve~~ **six** additional nor fewer than ~~six~~ **three** members of the congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth. ~~and at least one of whom shall be a young adult.~~ Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) resigns, b) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or c) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause.
- C12.02.** The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) **and officers, whose election and terms are addressed in C11.02 and**

**C11.03** shall be elected by written ballot to serve for ~~two years~~ **one year** or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than ~~two~~ **four** full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

- C12.05.**
- c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts involving the expenditure of up to 3 per cent of the current annual congregation **operating** budget for items not included in the budget.
  - d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual **operating** budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than 3 percent in excess of the anticipated receipts **as stated in the approved operating budget** only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full planned support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.

**C12.13.** **The Congregation, Congregation Council and its committees may allow participation in meetings, or hold meetings exclusively, by remote communication, including electronically and by video or telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous oral communication or its equivalent as governed by current rules of order applicable to that meeting. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.**

(Note: Reference to "simultaneous aural communication or its equivalent" was added at the direction of the Synod)

**C13.08.** Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in the Bylaws **and continuing resolutions.**

**\*C16.01.** Unless provision \*C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least **fifty** voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

(Note: New language adopted by the ELCA requires that we state a number of members required to initiate a constitutional amendment in cases where the congregation council declines to act. Fifty is suggested as that is consistent with state rules for nonprofits and is also our quorum.)