

## **Proposed Changes to the Glyndon Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws – Summary**

**Jeff Wallin, 1/11/23**

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly approved a series of changes to the model constitution for congregations. The ELCA advocates that our constitution mirrors this document as closely as we are comfortable with. Most of the revisions are technical and do not change the meaning of our language. The Council recommends that we adopt all of these minor changes. A document outlining all of these changes in detail has been posted on the GLC Website for those who wish a thorough review.

Changes the Council is recommending that actually change some meaning are summarized below.

- A. Add a provision that we will remove ourselves from ELCA affiliation if we employ a pastor who is not approved or affiliated by the ELCA. (C6.04 c.)
- B. If we wish to terminate our relationship with the ELCA, we need to have two congregational meetings to vote on this instead of just one. (C6.05 )
- C. If we are removed from membership in the ELCA we can vote to retain all our property by a simple majority vote at a congregational meeting instead of a 2/3 majority vote. (C7.02-C7.04)
- D. Adopt a more thorough set of disciplinary procedures for staff and lay member behaviors that are outlined in the ELCA constitution versus a single section of this chapter that was previously referenced. (C8.02)
- E. The congregation can hold meetings remotely (by phone, over the internet) as well or in conjunction with in-person meetings.
- F. The Council has recommended we add our own unique language that fixes two areas where the treasurer and/or secretary were inaccurately not listed as Council Members. (c12.02 & C12.02) This language is different from the model language but reflects how our council has been assembled for some time.

The Council has recommended we reject to proposed changes listed below.

- G. Proposed language that gives the Northwest Synod unilateral control over church property if our congregation is about to close due to dwindling membership. Today, we can voluntarily accept Synod guidance and/or control. (C6.04 d.)
- H. Proposed language that the Pastor and Council President be members of virtually all church committees. We want to retain local flexibility and not require this level of commitment for committee participation. (C13.08)