



Constitution Confusion

GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS
FOR CONGREGATIONS



Part I Overview: Governing documents and the Model Constitution for Congregations

Part II Making the Constitution your own: Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions

Three levels

Constitution

Bylaws

Continuing Resolutions

Model Constitution for Congregations

Required sections:
“must be used
without alteration
or amendment.”

Process for Amending the Constitution, Bylaws, & Continuing Resolutions

1. Obtain latest amendments from CWA
2. Incorporate CWA amendments
3. Determine any other amendments
4. Submit amendments to synod for review
5. Congregation vote (special or regular meeting)
6. Submit adopted amendments to synod for approval

Process for Amending the Constitution, Bylaws, & Continuing Resolutions

To amend constitution clauses
Two paths

Required clauses (C16.04)

Majority vote if 30 day notice

Others 30 day notice

Two votes:

Majority – 2/3

Process for Amending the Constitution, Bylaws, & Continuing Resolutions

To amend bylaws

30 days notice

Majority vote

Process for Amending the Constitution, Bylaws, & Continuing Resolutions

To amend continuing resolutions

Majority of congregation

2/3 congregation council

Remember that all amendments are to be sent to the synod after adoption

Thank you

Upper Susquehanna Synod Constitution Committee

Model Constitution for Congregations

<https://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Constitutions>