

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**  
*Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod,*  
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**Chapter 10**  
**SYNOD COUNCIL**

- \*S10.01.a.** The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of this Synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this Synod, with the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this Synod who reside outside the territory of this Synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the Bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.
- b.** The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be three years.

**\*S10.02.** The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this Synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not precluded by provisions of this constitution and bylaws or the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.

**S10.03.** The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- a.** Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this Synod.
- b.** Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- c.** Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- d.** Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to action under the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a complete report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- e.** Issue letters of call to ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers as authorized in Chapter 7 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- f.** Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this Synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this Synod.
- g.** Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- h.** Pass upon the propriety of the constitutions of the several congregations of this Synod.
- i.** Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this Synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.

BLS10.03. The Synod Council shall:

- a. Determine the time and place for each meeting of the Synod Assembly and propose its agenda and program.
- b. Elect staff officials upon nomination of the Bishop.
- c. Set the salaries of officers and staff officials of this Synod.
- d. Institute and oversee a system of personnel practices applicable to all Synod officers, staff officials, and other employees.
- e. Elect the representatives of this Synod who are to serve, in addition to the Bishop ex-officio, on the governing bodies of the interchurch agencies to which this Synod is related.
- f. Select persons from the required category in filling vacancies.
- g. Have the power to borrow money on such property as this Synod may own or hereafter acquire and to execute mortgages, bonds and warrants, or other instruments of indebtedness for the same.
- h. Provide for an annual physical examination of all investments and securities held by this Synod.

**S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.**

**S10.05. No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service, nor shall simultaneously be a Mission District Dean.**

**S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to be a member in good standing on a roster of this Synod, if an ordained minister, an associate in ministry, a deaconess of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or a diaconal minister; or ceases to be a voting member of a congregation of this Synod, if a layperson, or is absent without excuse from two successive regular meetings of the Synod Council, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.**

**S10.07. The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, the manner of their selection, and its additional duties and responsibilities shall be set forth in the Bylaws.**

BLS10.07. The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of this Synod, two youth, and twenty other members. The twenty other members of the Synod Council shall be elected to terms of three years, as follows:

- (1) one person by each Mission District. These shall be divided into categories of clergy, lay male, and lay female.
- (2) the remaining members of the Council shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. These shall include categories of clergy, lay male, and lay female. The clergy category shall include a female. At least two elected members shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. The Nominating Committee shall implement the method of allocation. Council members may serve two consecutive terms. The youth members shall be elected by the Synod Assembly to a two-year term upon nomination by the Nominating Committee, and there shall be one male and one female youth member, elected in alternating years. The terms of the youth members and of the twenty other members of the Synod Council shall begin at the close of the annual Synod Assembly.