

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

**Chapter 11**

**COMMITTEES AND MINISTRY TEAMS OF THIS SYNOD**

**\*S11.01.** There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, and such other committees as this Synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this Synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

BLS11.01.a. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be composed of the four officers of the Synod and the chairs of the committees of the Synod Council. The officers of the Synod shall likewise serve as the officers of the Executive Committee with the Vice President as the presiding officer.

- b. The provisions of the ELCA Bylaws 20.21.01 through 20.21.24, inclusive, are incorporated herein by reference with respect to the consultation and discipline procedure of ordained ministers.

**\*S11.02.** The Consultation Committee of this Synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.

BLS11.02.01 The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of six persons.

**\*S11.03.** The Committee on Discipline of this Synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ordained ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.

- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this Synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- b. The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four committee members (two clergy and two lay) expire every two years.
- c. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term

**\* S11.04.** The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the Bishop.

**S11.05. This Synod shall have program, support, and coordinating ministry teams, committees, and task forces as designated or provided for in the Bylaws.**

BLS11.05. There shall be four Ministry Teams: Worship and Spirituality, Witness and Service, Connection Building and Leadership Development.

- a. Each Ministry team shall consist of up to twelve members.
- b. Nine members of each Team shall be elected by the Synod Council upon nomination by the bishop, with attention to male/female, clergy/lay and geographical distribution and concern for inclusiveness as described in the Continuing Resolution on inclusiveness.
- c. Up to three members of each Team with particular expertise or interests may be appointed by the Team to serve for an unspecified term not to exceed two years.
- d. Team members elected by the Synod Council shall serve terms of three years and may serve no more than two consecutive terms.
  - 1) Unexpired terms shall be filled by the Synod Council upon nomination by the bishop.
  - 2) Members of the Teams shall take office at the time of the first Synod Council meeting after the annual Synod Assembly, unless they have been named to fill unexpired terms, in which case they shall take office immediately.
  - 3) Following adoption of this bylaw, the initial members of the Ministry Teams shall be elected to terms such that one-third of the terms shall expire in 2002, one-third in 2003, and one-third in 2004. Thereafter this bylaw shall cease to be in effect and the terms of Team members shall be as stated in BLS11.
- e. It shall be the duty of each Ministry Team to oversee the development of programs which will further the achievement of the outcomes and priorities established by the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly. The Ministry Teams shall also carry out further tasks that may be assigned by the Synod Council.
  - 1) The Connection Building Team shall also oversee implementation and communication responsibilities as agreed upon through involvement in Region 7 (the "Northeast Region") and with the churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - 2) The Witness and Service Team, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Division for Outreach, shall be responsible for coordination and review of Division for Outreach support of ministries in this Synod.
- f. The Ministry Teams shall appoint task groups as necessary to carry out programs in their areas of concern and shall assure the necessary coordination and communication among these committees.
  - 1) The number and nature of task groups shall be determined by the Ministry Teams.
  - 2) Members of the task groups need not be members of the Teams.
  - 3) Members of task groups shall normally serve for no more than three years.
  - 4) The duties of each task group shall be assigned by the Ministry Team which appoints it.
  - 5) Each task group shall report to its Ministry Team regularly and at least annually.

- g. The Ministry Teams shall meet at least four times during the year.
- h. Each Ministry Team shall recommend to the Synod Council an annual budget for that Team's area of concern. In preparing this budget recommendation, it will consult with its task groups concerning the needs and plans in each area of its concern. It shall also include in its budget request an amount for new programs that the Team will identify and fund during the budget year.
- i. The Ministry Teams will each elect a chair and a secretary, who shall serve terms of one year and be eligible for reelection.
  - 1) The election shall be held at the Team's first meeting following the Synod Assembly.
  - 2) The chair shall preside at Team meetings. The Ministry Teams will each elect a chair and a secretary, who shall serve terms of one year and
  - 3) The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings, preserving these minutes for the Synod archives.
- j. The Teams shall report regularly and at least annually to the Synod Council and annually to the Synod Assembly.

- BLS11.06.a. There may be support committees to provide for the other ministry functions of this Synod and to assure the availability of resources to meet these needs.
- b. With the exception of the Committee of Deans, the Consultation Committee, and the Committee on Discipline, support committees will be appointed by the Synod Council on nomination by the Bishop, and their duties shall be determined by the Synod Council.

- BLS11.07.a. There shall be a Cabinet composed of the Bishop and Vice President of the Synod, the chairs of the Ministry Teams and the staff persons relating to the Ministry Teams. The function of the Cabinet shall be to provide coordination and communication among the Teams.
- b. The Cabinet shall meet at least four times each year and shall report to the Synod Council after each Cabinet meeting.

## **S11.10. General Provisions**

**S11.11. With the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this Synod who reside outside the territory of this Synod, each member of a committee of this Synod, or any other organizational unit created by this Synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this Synod.**

- BLS11.11. If a member of any Ministry Team, task group, committee, or Mission District 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, the office filled by such a member shall at once become vacant.