Proposed (Rev 7) CLC Constitution changes

- **C5.04*-** changed from “Congregation” to “Council” for electing voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- **C5.05 added — Mission endowment fund:** The revised version creates a mission endowment fund, governed by the bylaws, for mission work beyond the congregation’s operating budget.
- **Chapter 10 — Congregation meetings:**
    - The annual-meeting rule changes from one annual meeting at a bylaw-specified time to **at least one regular meeting each year designated as the annual meeting**.
    - **Quorum drops from 10% to 5%** of voting members.
- **C10.08 added — This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication or its equivalent. These meetings will be considered equivalent to in-person meetings and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.**
- **C10.09 added — “Ex officio” as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.**

- **Chapter 11 — Officers:**
    - The revised draft corrects “more then” to “more than” in the one-office and consecutive-term rule.
    - **C11.04 is removed:** the pastor is no longer designated as keeper of the congregation’s seal.
- **Chapter 12 — Congregation Council:**
    - **Council size changes:** from **7–10 members plus the pastor(s), president, and vice president** to **5–10 members total, including the pastor(s), president, and vice president**. The revised version encourages seven or more members to reduce strain on ministry and council members.
    - **Employment authority expands:** instead of responsibility for salaried lay workers and negotiating independent-contractor services, the council is

responsible for **hiring, negotiating terms, managing contracts, and supervising salaried church employees and independent contractors**.

- **Annual report deadline moves:** from the annual meeting before **March 1** to the annual meeting before **January 15**; it also states that pastoral call and compensation are governed by Chapter 9.
- Minor wording updates include "more than seven full years" and reference to consultation with the **synod bishop**.

- **Chapter 13 — Committees:**
  - **Nominating Committee:** reduced from **six members, including two outgoing council members if possible**, to **three members, including one outgoing council member if possible**.
  - **Audit Committee:** changes from prohibiting all council members to allowing **no more than one** council member.
  - **Call Committee:** changes from **six voting members elected by the congregation** to **5–7 voting members elected by the Congregation Council**.
  - **President's ex officio role:** the revised version also excludes the president from the **Call Committee**, in addition to the Nominating and Audit Committees.
- **Chapter 14 — Organizations:**
  - Special-interest groups must now be authorized by the Congregation Council **and specified in a continuing resolution**. The earlier version was the same but placed the continuing-resolution language in brackets.
- **Chapter 18 (CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS)— *C18.03 added** (sending continuing resolutions to the synod)

Bylaw changes

- **Section 1 — Annual meetings:** increases from **two meetings** to **three meetings**: one before March 1 for annual reports, plus a second and third meeting in November for council elections and budget adoption.
- **Section 3(g) — Financial officers:**
  - Removes the requirement that all financial officers give corporate surety, with the congregation paying the premium.

    - Adds a preference that financial officers have **current FBI clearances and Pennsylvania background checks**.

- **Section 8 — Cemetery Committee:**
    - Corrects “Cemetery Committee, The” to “Cemetery Committee.”
    - Changes “gravesite” to “grave site” in the cemetery-care provision; the underlying duties remain the same.
- **Section 9 added — Endowment Fund Operating Guidelines:**
    - Adds detailed governance for the Christ’s Evangelical Lutheran Church endowment fund, including a five-member committee, meeting and quorum rules, dual-signature checks, reporting, investment oversight, distribution limits, asset-allocation ranges, amendment procedures, and disposition of the fund if the congregation ceases to exist.
    - The guidelines provide that gifts and bequests accumulate until principal reaches **$100,000**; thereafter, up to **80% of investment income** may be distributed for specified purposes, not for the annual operating budget.

Formatting, punctuation, and wording cleanups are excluded above unless they alter a rule, responsibility, threshold, or organizational structure.