

Augustana's Constitution and Bylaws were last revised in 2001. Since then, many changes have been made to the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations which Augustana's Constitution should now incorporate. In addition, since 2001 Augustana has changed in ways that should also be reflected in the Bylaws. Altogether, the changes include:

* Format changes **required** by the **ELCA** Model Constitution for Congregations:

~ becomes a single document that contains three provision types: Amendments, Bylaws, Continuing Resolutions

* Substantive changes **required** by the **ELCA** Model Constitution for Congregations (Amendment provisions):

~ a few terminology changes: e.g. Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service

~ many new and revised required Amendment provisions: call and termination, withdrawal from ELCA, etc.

* Substantive changes **offered** by the **ELCA** Model Constitution for Congregations (Amendment provisions):

~ two additional membership categories: Associate, Seasonal (*available to future Congregation Councils*)

~ a new flexibility to choose a treasurer who is not an elected member of the Congregation Council

* Format changes proposed by the **Augustana** Lutheran Church Congregation Council:

~ restructure and incorporate Augustana's Bylaw provisions into the constitution at appropriate topics

** Substantive Amendment changes proposed by the **Augustana** Lutheran Church Congregation Council:

~ eliminate the provision related to an official Augustana Seal

- *The seal is not being used (and is lost or missing).*

~ reduce the size of Congregation Council from 18 to 9 elected members

- *Augustana staff growth has lessened the burden of the Congregation Council.*

~ increase the Congregation Council's limit for entering into non-budgeted contracts from \$25,000 to \$100,000

- *To more realistically reflect current potential costs.*

~ increase the Congregation Council's limit for spending beyond anticipated receipts from \$25,000 to \$50,000

- *To more realistically reflect current potential costs.*

** Substantive Bylaw changes proposed by the **Augustana** Lutheran Church Congregation Council:

~ add provisions articulating the responsibilities of the Congregation Council officers

- *This will fill in a gap that exists in our current bylaws.*

(Both our current constitution and the ELCA model specify that duties should be documented in the bylaws.)

~ add/revise provisions articulating the duties of the congregationally elected committees

- *This will fill in a couple of gaps that exists in our current bylaws.*

~ eliminate the Preschool Committee and related provisions

- *Current circumstances have not required an active committee.*

~ add provisions related to the Columbarium Committee

- *This is a new committee formed to oversee the Augustana Memorial Garden and Columbarium*