

CONSTITUTION

Glacial Ridge Conference

Southwestern Minnesota Synod – ELCA

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be Glacial Ridge Conference of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this conference shall be to foster interdependent relationships between the congregations of this conference, to work together in support of the programs of the conference, institutions, synodical and churchwide units, and work in all ways to further our common ministry and mission.

ARTICLE III. RESPONSIBILITIES

The conference shall have responsibility for:

- a. joint worship, inspiration, and study,
- b. offering resources for congregational ministry,
- c. fulfilling legislative responsibilities in the selection of representative to synod councils, board or committees,
- d. encouraging participation in and support for the entire mission of the Church,
- e. meeting in assembly at least once a year, and may meet at any other time during the year for worship, inspiration, study and resource sharing,
- f. a special meeting may be called by the Conference dean, the executive board, or by a resolution from one-third of the conference's congregations
- g. The conference shall have its own treasury and receive and disburse funds for purposes consistent with the responsibilities of the conference.
 - 1) Conference funds shall be collected on a per confirmed member basis by the Glacial Ridge Conference Assembly

- 2) The records of the treasury shall be audited annually following the close of the fiscal year by two persons appointed by the Chairperson and an auditor's report shall be given at the next assembly.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

- a. The conference assembly shall elect officers as specified in the constitution.
 - 1) This conference shall elect a chairperson, a dean, a secretary, and a treasurer who shall serve no more than two consecutive full two-year terms. The chairperson shall be a lay person. The dean shall be an ordained minister. The secretary and treasurer may be either a lay person or an ordained minister.
 - 2) The terms of office shall begin immediately following the annual spring conference assembly.
 - 3) The dean and treasurer shall be elected on even-numbered years; the chairperson and secretary shall be elected on the odd-numbered years.
 - 4) Should a vacancy occur in the office of dean, the conference chairperson, in consultation with the bishop, may appoint an interim dean until the next conference assembly. In the case of a vacancy in any other office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a successor who shall serve until the next electing conference assembly.
 - 5) All officers shall be elected by written ballot unless by unanimous consent. A majority of all votes shall be required to elect. All officers of the conference shall be members in good standing of a congregation within this conference.
- b. Duties of the officers
 - 1) The dean shall be responsible for attending the meetings of the Conference of Deans, and assisting the bishop with providing pastoral care and leadership to the congregations and rostered personnel of the Synod. The dean shall assist the conference chairperson in planning for conference assemblies, serve as liaison between synodical leadership and congregations within the conference and offer pastoral care to rostered personnel and their families during time of need.
 - 2) The chairperson shall preside at conference assemblies, assist in the leadership of the conference and synod, plan, in consultation with the conference dean and other conference leaders, programs and agendas for all conference assemblies, oversee the conference nominating and, with the treasurer, the budgeting processes and finances, attend meetings of the conference chairpersons of the synod, maintain a directory of conference

officers and representatives on synod council, synod boards and synod committees and carry out other responsibilities assigned by the conference.

- 3) The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings, preserve the archives, conduct the correspondence of the conference (except as otherwise directed), notify congregations of meetings, twenty-one (21) days in advance, take care of registration at conference meetings, send a report of all conference meetings to the pastors, all member congregations, and the office of the synod.
- 4) The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds and shall disburse the funds in accordance with the directives of the conference assembly and shall make an annual report at the spring conference assembly.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the dean, chairperson, secretary, and treasurer of the conference.
- b. The Executive Committee shall serve as a member of the Glacial Ridge Conference Scholarship Committee.
- c. The Executive Committee shall provide for the planning and implementation of the conference assembly.
- d. The Executive Committee shall recommend a budget to the conference assembly for the next fiscal year.
- e. The Executive Committee shall appoint a chairperson of the conference nominating committee.

ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLY

- a. There shall be a conference assembly convened at least annually at a time and place determined by the officers in consultation with the bishop of the synod.
- b. Delegates at the conference assembly shall be:
 - 1) Ordained pastors and rostered lay leaders of member congregations.
 - 2) Six delegates from all member congregations, with a goal of three male and three female delegates.
 - 3) The officers of the conference shall be voting delegates.
- c. Representation from one-half of the member congregations shall constitute a quorum at conference assemblies.

- d. A conference nominating committee of three members shall be elected from across the geographic area of the conference at the spring conference assembly to make nominations for the following year.

ARTICLE VII. SYNOD REPRESENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE

The synod council representative(s) and synod board/committee representatives of the conference shall be elected at the conference assembly at the directions of the synod.

ARTICLE VIII. CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

The conference assembly shall elect churchwide (ELCA) assembly voting members as directed by the synod.

ARTICLE IX. CONFERENCE PROGRAM PLANNING GROUP

- a. The conference shall establish a program planning group which has responsibility for planning the meeting and work of the conference. Membership of the program planning group may include:
 - 1) Conference officers
 - 2) The synod council representative(s) of the conference.
 - 3) Synod board/committee representatives of the conference.
 - 4) A conference representative of the synod's Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and Lutheran Youth Organization.
 - 5) Consultants called to meet for a specific purpose.
- b. This planning group shall:
 - 1) Establish appropriate objectives and duties for itself to implement programs of the conference or synod.
 - 2) Serve as a channel for any programmatic action of synod committees within the conference in cooperation with members of the synod committees.
 - 3) Equip members of the congregations within the conference for mission.

ARTICLE X. METHOD OF BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS

- a. Articles and bylaws of the conference constitution may be amended, adopted, or repealed by the conference assembly without referral to the synod. No change shall

conflict with the synodical constitution or with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- b. A proposed change to the articles or bylaws must be presented at a conference program planning group meeting prior to the conference assembly or it must be made available to delegates thirty (30) days prior to the assembly.
- c. A proposed change in the articles requires the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of delegates present and voting by written ballot at the conference assembly.
- d. A proposed change in the bylaws requires the approval of a simple majority of delegates present and voting by written ballot at the conference assembly.

Approved on February 6, 2005

Adopted on February 6, 2005

RESOLUTION REGARDING AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION

Whereas our current proposed constitution reads,

“Delegates at the conference assembly shall be:

- 1) Ordained pastors and rostered leaders of member congregations,” and

Whereas the conference constitution is not allowed to be in conflict with the synodical constitution, and

Whereas the synodical constitution regarding voting privileges at conference assemblies reads,

S12.01.05.A00 Except as otherwise provided in the constitution and bylaws of a conference, each conference shall be entitled to no more than six lay voting members [normally half of whom shall be female and half of whom shall be male] at conference assemblies. In addition, ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall be entitled to have both voice and vote in the assemblies of the conferences where they serve.

Therefore, be it resolved that the proposed conference constitution be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLY

- a. There shall be a conference assembly convened at least annually at a time and place determined by the officers in consultation with the bishop of the synod.
- b. Delegates at the conference assembly shall be:
 - 1) Ordained pastors and rostered lay leaders under call to member congregations or approved ministry settings of the conference.
 - 2) Six delegates from all member congregations, with a goal of three male and three female delegates.
 - 3) The officers of the conference shall be voting delegates.
- c. Representation from one-half of the member congregations shall constitute a quorum at conference assemblies.
- d. A conference nominating committee of three members shall be elected from across the geographical area of the conference at the spring conference assembly to make nominations for the following year.
- e. All retired ordained pastors, all ordained pastors on leave from call, and all rostered lay leaders on leave from call or retired within the conference, will be extended the privilege of voice but not vote at the conference assembly.

