

August 10, 2020

### **Summary of Changes to the Faith Lutheran Constitution**

This January the Faith Lutheran Shelton church council appointed a committee to draft a new congregational constitution to more closely align with the 2019 ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations. The committee completed the draft of the new constitution in May and it is now ready for review by the congregation prior to a congregational vote to approve or disapprove the new constitution. It is difficult to do a line by line comparison of the changes as the ELCA Model Constitution uses a different codification than the current Faith Lutheran Constitution therefore the codification below is from the new proposed constitution. Also, the majority of the model constitution are provisions that are required by the ELCA for the congregation to adopt when they make changes to their constitution.

The following is a summary of the proposed major changes to the church constitution:

- C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer and will be elected by this congregation.
- C11.02.** The Congregation shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of this congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for two years or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
- C11.03.** Offices of the President and Secretary will be elected in even-numbered years. Offices of the Treasurer and Vice President will be elected in odd-numbered years. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. Vacancies created by a member being elected to another position will be filled by the Congregational Council. The new election cycle will be implemented by electing all officers and members-at-large, per the nominating committee, at the next Annual Meeting of this congregation. Subsequent elections will follow the even/odd year cycle.
- C12.01.** The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the officers of this congregation and between 3 to 5 members of this congregation to serve as members-at-large. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's

place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the State of Washington, this congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

**C12.01.01** Any voting member of the congregation may nominate another voting member to be on the ballot for the congregational council at the Annual Meeting. Nominations need to be submitted to the congregational council or the nominating committee at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

There are other minor changes proposed that are not covered in this summary. The full DRAFT Faith Lutheran Shelton Constitution can be read on the church website. Please submit any questions or comments to Constitution Committee members. Barring the unexpected, Faith will hold a congregational meeting this fall to begin the ratification process, with final ratification taking place at the beginning of our 2021 Annual meeting in January.

Constitution Committee members are Andrea Miller, Janet Ray, Bob Miller, and Beth Biser.

Respectfully,

Andrea Miller, Council President