

Summary of Revisions: Kimball Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws

This document provides a comprehensive summary and analysis of the updates made in the 2026 Proposed Revision to the Constitution and Bylaws of Kimball Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church (incorporated in North Carolina), compared against the 2016 Final Version. The amendments align the congregation's governing documents with the current Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and address contemporary administrative and operational practices.

Executive Overview of Amendments

Area of Revision	2016 Provision	2026 Revised Provision	Key Impact / Purpose
Ministry Roster Terminology	"Ordained minister", "clergy roster", "associates in ministry / deaconesses"	"Minister of Word and Sacrament" (Pastor) and "Minister of Word and Service" (Deacon)	Brings congregation terminology into standard compliance with unified ELCA roster structures.
Deacon Regulations	General references under associate staff positions	Added dedicated sections (*C9.21 through *C9.31)	Establishes explicit, formal procedures for calling, letter of call issuance, supervision, and termination of Ministers of Word and Service.
Global Affiliation	Not explicitly codified in Chapter 3	Added Provision *C3.04	Formally confesses participation in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of

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			churches.
Mission Endowment	Omitted from constitutional chapter	Added Provision C5.05	Formally authorizes and establishes a Mission Endowment Fund dedicated to mission work beyond the operational budget.
Remote Governance	Only in-person congregation and council meetings envisioned	Added Provisions C10.08 & C12.13	Authorizes congregation and council meetings to be held via remote/electronic communication platforms with simultaneous voting.
Financial Review	"Audit Committee" (C13.03)	"Financial Review Committee" (C13.03)	Modernizes accounting and oversight terminology to reflect annual financial reviews rather than formal certified audits.
Nominating Committee	Composed of 6 members	Composed of 4 members	Streamlines committee recruitment and operational efficiency.
Constitutional Structure	Chapter 16: Bylaws; Chapter 17:	Chapter 16: Amendments;	Directly mirrors the sequential order of the ELCA Churchwide

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	Amendments	Chapter 17: Bylaws	Model Constitution.

Detailed Section-by-Section Analysis

1. Ministry, Roster, and Calling Standards

- **Rostered Ministry Distinctions:** All references to clergy and pastors across Chapters 5, 6, and 9 now consistently utilize the formal title *Minister of Word and Sacrament*.
- **Deacon Integration (*C9.21–*C9.31):** Added robust constitutional scaffolding recognizing Ministers of Word and Service. This includes procedures for call votes, council accountability, letters of call, synodical consultations, and grounds for ending call relationships.
- **Ecumenical & Synod Agreements:** Refined language regarding pastor calls to accommodate ELCA full-communion ecumenical partners and specific approval criteria through the synod bishop.

2. Affiliation, Property, and Synods

- **Lutheran World Federation (*C3.04):** Adds explicit identification with the global communion of churches through the LWF.
- **Synodical Property Control (*C6.04.d):** Explicitly reflects Synod Constitution provision †S13.24, whereby the North Carolina Synod may take charge and control of property under specific circumstances, preserving the congregation's right to appeal to the Synod Assembly.
- **Termination of Affiliation (*C6.05):** Standardizes the mandatory 30-day notice, 90-day synod consultation period, and two separate two-thirds voting requirements for any formal disaffiliation actions.

3. Congregation Council & Committee Restructuring

- **Youth Representation (C12.01):** Adds intentional provisions for youth and young adult representation on the Congregation Council.
- **Legal Definition of Ex Officio (C10.09):** Clarifies voting vs. non-voting rights and voice for ex officio members participating in committees and councils.
- **Financial Review Committee (C13.03):** Replaces the rigid audit committee structure with a financial review committee to conduct annual reviews of parish accounts.
- **Parish Register Administration (C13.01.01–C13.01.02):** Clearly delineates the

custodial responsibility and council review process for maintaining accurate records of baptisms, confirmations, communions, marriages, and deaths.

4. Meeting Modalities and Structural Realignment

- **Electronic / Remote Meetings (C10.08 & C12.13):** Formally permits regular and special meetings of the congregation and Congregation Council to take place virtually or in hybrid formats, provided all members can hear and participate simultaneously.
- **Chapter Inversion:** Chapter 16 is designated as *Amendments*, Chapter 17 as *Bylaws*, and Chapter 18 as *Continuing Resolutions*, ensuring seamless section numbering when referencing churchwide ELCA guidelines.