



TELC Constitution, Why Revise and How

Moving from 1992 to 2018

Outline

- Why are we revising our Constitution?
- What is our Constitution?
- Timeline & Next Steps
- Where does the Congregation need to focus?

Note that we don't have time today to go through the entire constitution, only to introduce you to it and our revision process and address any questions you might already have

Why we're revising the Constitution

- Our current constitution is from 1992 (with only 1 amendment made in 1998)
 - Do you think we operate any differently from how we did 26 years ago?
- We **must** update to include the provisions of the 2016 Model Constitution, as required by new ELCA and Upstate NY Synod constitutions – It's evolution
- 2016 model:
 - Major change from 1992 - many changes added in 2013 and 2016 – e.g. many provisions *required
 - New structure - **Constitution Provisions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions** combined together and codified (coded)
 - Bylaws are no longer in a separate appendix
 - Explained in pg. 2 of draft

* Required provisions relate to:

- (1) Requirements in the synod and ELCA constitutions for responsibilities of congregations
- (2) Matters of unity/uniformity within the ELCA
- (3) Matters of relationship of congregations to synod and ELCA

What is the Constitution

- **The Constitution** is the main document of a congregation
 - Fundamental, vital, aspects of the congregation, in **Provisions** (in paragraphs)
 - Relatively static – slow to change
 - Organization name and Purpose
 - Membership, Officers
 - Meetings, rules of procedure
 - Rules for making amendments
 - Many of the provisions are required and must be identical to the model

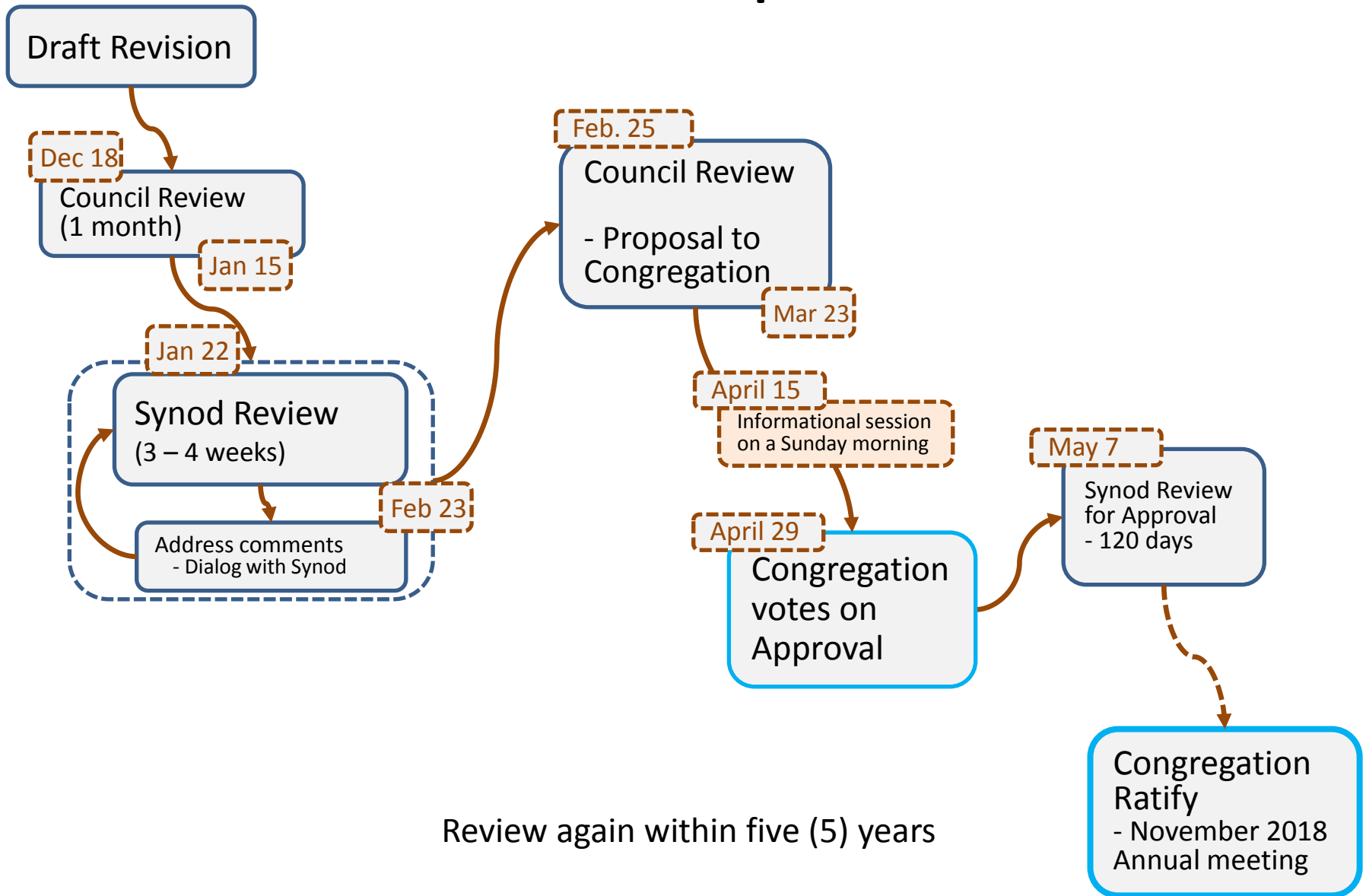
What is the Constitution

- **Bylaws** are based on the constitution of an organization
 - Determine the specific detailed guidelines of the fundamental aspects above
 - State the daily work of the congregation
 - A contract among members, and must be formally adopted and/or amended
 - Model constitution hasn't any, unique to Congregation
 - Current (1998) version has in appendix at end

What is the Constitution

- **Continuing Resolutions** are rules to help organize the life and ministry of a congregation
 - Descriptions of operational patterns and practices
 - Adopted by the congregation council in our case
 - Model constitution hasn't any, unique to Congregation
 - Current (1998) version hasn't any
 - Have created from 1998 content that would have been lost
 - Not in model's required provisions
 - Have created from bylaws being split - more flexibility to adapt

What is the process?



Review again within five (5) years

What does the Congregation need to do next?

- Review the draft document, using aids provided, between now and the April 15 informational meeting.
- As you have questions, concerns, suggestions, please forward them to Chuck Brugger, Bruce Holroyd, Fred Stoss between March 25 and April 22
- Better yet - bring these to the April 15 informational meeting
 - Won't have time to read through entire document at that meeting, can only focus on areas with questions & issues

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Where should the Congregation focus?

*Note that the required provisions (indicated by *) must be included as-is*

- *Combining and codification (coding) explained on pg. 2*
- **C3.02 – several provisions important to TELC identity and mission were deleted from the required provisions but are captured in bylaws added to Ch. 4 (4.02.01, 4.03j, 4.03.01, 4.03.02, 4.03.03)*
- **C6.03 c and C9.15 and *C9.02 regarding where we would be calling a Pastor from (including other denominations – although highly unlikely)*
- *C8 Added seasonal membership (C8.02e) and added retention of membership for active-duty/job relocation - (C8.05.02)*

Where should the Congregation focus?

- **C9.21. thru *C9.31. – Added - calling and terminating the call of Ministers of Word and Service (previously referred to as Associates in Ministry or Deacons)*
- *C12.01 – the intentional inclusion of youth and young adults on the Church Council*
- *C12.13 – Added controls regarding the Council’s use of electronic means for voting between regular meetings*
- *Bylaws changes:*
 - *Fund guidelines for GTED, Designated Gifts, Unrestricted, Endowments, Charitable Trust Funds (C5.05.02 thru C5.05.06 incl. C5.05.A18)*
 - *Bylaws (and now Continuing Resolutions) update descriptions of standing Team functions and operations (C13.06.xx And C13.07.xx paragraphs) making future changes easier*
 - *C13.02 - Required size of Nominating Team redefined downward but still larger than current practice*

Areas also, of interest

- *Chapter *15 – Significant expansion in detail regarding discipline of members*
- *Chapter *19 Indemnification⁺ – added*
 - *C19.01.01 Corporate Surety - was an existing bylaw*

⁺Indemnification - securing (someone) against legal responsibility for their actions.