



ELCIC

*In Mission  
for Others*

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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Dear Congregational Leaders,

The National Church Council (NCC) appointed a task force to review the current *Model Constitution for Congregations*. At their September 2017 meeting, NCC adopted a revised *Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations*. The new *Constitution and Bylaws* follow current governance practices of keeping only core matters such as name, purpose and objectives in the constitution and moving the ways and means of achieving these purposes to the bylaws. Similar work has already taken place in the National Church and Synodical Constitutions and Bylaws.

We encourage your congregation to review the revised *Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations* and consider a process for amending your existing Constitution and Bylaws. The task force has prepared a document "*Before You Begin: An Information Guide to Transitioning to the Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations*." This information guide will help you in your review process. The guide, as well as the revised *Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations* may be found at: <http://www.elcic.ca/Resources/Model-Constitution.cfm>.

BC Synod congregations, please take note! You are strongly urged to contact the BC Synod Office regarding a BC Synod version of a model constitution that is consistent with requirements of the BC Societies Act.

Thank you all for your care and diligence in attending to these important governance matters.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson  
National Bishop,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada – *In Mission for Others*