

January 4, 2021

Dear Good Shepherd Members,

We are beginning to prepare for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation which will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021, at 11:00 am via Zoom. You will receive more information and the Annual Report later in January. For now, we need to inform you of two proposals that need to be shared 30 days in advance as they relate to our bylaws and our constitution.

1) Our Lutheran Cemetery Association Representative, Richard Wuest, requested in writing to change our bylaws to allow for two members to be representatives to the Lutheran Cemetery Association. Our bylaws say we will have one voting member but the Cemetery Association would like Good Shepherd to provide two representatives. Currently our bylaws state, "**C14.01.02. The Lutheran Cemetery Representative** shall be a voting member of the congregation and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a three-year term." Here is how the bylaws can be changed:

**\*C17.02.** Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum by a **two-thirds** vote of those voting members present and voting.

**\*C17.02.** Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

**On December 15, 2020, the Congregation Council voted to recommend that the congregation amend bylaw C14.01.02 to state: There shall be two Lutheran Cemetery Association Representatives. These representatives shall be voting members of the congregation and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for staggered three-year terms.**

2) Our Governing Documents Committee has worked to incorporate the changes to our constitution that are **required** by changes to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA, changes that were made by the churchwide assemblies meeting in 2016 and 2019. Here is how constitutional amendments can be made.

**\*C16.04.** "This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption ... such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

**The Congregation Council recommends that the congregation amend our constitution to bring it into compliance with required changes to the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations that were adopted by the 2016 and 2019 Churchwide Assemblies.**

Members wishing to see the changes to the constitution required by the ELCA model constitution can request a copy.

Thank you,

Linda Donoghue  
Congregation President

Pastor Amy Zalk Larson