

# Constitution of the Lutheran Youth Organization of the ELCA

*Last amended by the Eighth Triennial Convention of the LYO, July 2009  
[As of Sept. 2009, Still requires approval from Vocation and Education and ELCA Church Council.]*

## **PREAMBLE**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. We, the youth of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, give thanks to God as we come together to join as one unified body of youth. By doing so, we do hereby commend this constitution to the glory of God. May the blessings of God rest upon us as we work together to proclaim God's word.

## **Chapter I. NAME AND LOCATION**

1.01 The name of this organization shall be: Lutheran Youth Organization.

*1.02.01 The churchwide office for this youth organization shall be located within the churchwide office of the Vocation and Education unit of the ELCA.*

## **Chapter II. PURPOSE/FUNCTION**

2.01 The purpose of this organization shall be to:

- a. Provide a context through which youth share in the oneness of Christ by proclaiming through word, deed, prayer, worship, Bible study, fellowship, and service the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord;
- b. Encourage and support the membership of this organization to be full participants in the programs and activities of the entire church and those of this organization;
- c. Assure that the voice of youth is heard in the various areas of decision-making in the church;
- d. Enable youth to grow as stewards in the church;
- e. Cooperate with other youth ministries, youth serving agencies, and boards and offices of the church in planning and implementing programs, publications, and events to provide for the needs of young people;
- f. Engage in research of trends, problems, and issues which affect youth and youth ministry, take appropriate actions on such findings, as well as report such information as necessary to the church for study and action;
- g. Assist in the providing of resources, training, and guidance for youth ministry;
- h. Provide opportunities for study and action on global issues from a theological perspective;

- i. Exhibit the inclusive unity that is God's will for the church;
- j. Actively seek and encourage membership from all people, regardless of culture, color, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or ability.

### **Chapter III. ORGANIZATION**

3.01 The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be the legal corporation of the youth organization, hereinafter referred to as the church.

3.02 Policies and actions of the Lutheran Youth Organization shall be subject to review by the Vocation and Education unit, hereinafter referred to as VE.

3.03 All budget requests shall be submitted through the Vocation and Education unit, hereinafter referred to as VE.

3.10 Synod Lutheran Youth Organizations.

3.11 The local congregations shall be grouped on a geographical basis into synod Lutheran Youth Organizations.

3.12 The synod youth organizations shall have the same boundaries which are established for the synods of the church by the churchwide assembly of the church.

### **Chapter IV. MEMBERSHIP**

4.01 The membership of this organization shall be open to all youth of congregations for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with a primary focus on youth age 14–18 and/or in grades 9–12.

*4.01.01 Individuals belong to this organization by virtue of their involvement in a local congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

*4.01.02 Individuals shall not be denied rights of membership in the Lutheran Youth Organization nor shall the Lutheran Youth Organization place restrictions on or deny rights to any person because of race, color, ability, gender, sexual orientation, or national or social origin.*

*4.01.03 Membership in a congregation that is recognized as a congregation of the ELCA shall provide the basis for synodical youth organizations.*

### **Chapter V. CONVENTION**

5.10 Authority

5.11 The highest constitutional authority delegated by the membership of the Lutheran Youth Organization shall be vested in the convention which shall meet in regular session, once every three years, at the call of the Executive Committee of the Lutheran Youth Organization.

5.12 Special conventions may be called by a two-thirds vote of the Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization, hereinafter referred to as the board.

*5.20.10 Arrangements*

*5.20.11 The time and place of regular conventions of the Lutheran Youth Organization shall be determined at least one year in advance. The size of the conventions shall be determined by the board, allowing for at least one voting delegate from each synod to attend.*

### 5.30 Convention membership

5.31 The convention shall be composed of delegates, advisory members, official visitors, and registered participants.

5.32 The voting membership of the convention shall consist of: Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization, except the president (unless presiding, will vote in the event of a tie); Multicultural Advisory Committee, Definitely Abled Advisory Committee, Church Council youth advisory members, and delegates who represent their synods. Each synod shall be entitled to send the number of delegates set by the board for any convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization.

#### *5.32.10 Selection of delegates*

*5.32.11 Each synod shall identify the number of allocated voting delegates set by the board and one alternate delegate to the convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization in a manner that is representative of and accountable to the youth of the synod.*

*5.32.12 Each synod organization shall elect by ballot, with exception of the synod organization president, the allocated number of voting delegates set by the board and one alternate delegate to the convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization.*

- a. The board shall determine a process for selecting delegates to the convention who are persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.*
- b. The board shall determine a process for selecting people who have disabilities as delegates to the convention*
- c. The synod organization president shall be one of the synod's delegates to the convention. If the synod organization president is unable to attend, an alternate may be substituted for this delegate position.*
- d. In instances where there is no elected synod organization president, synods may choose to send delegates as is representative and accountable to the youth of the synod.*

*5.32.15 The delegates and alternate delegates must be members of a congregation that is recognized as a congregation of the ELCA and shall be age 15 to 18 and/or entering grades 10–12 at the time of convention, with the exception of the synod organization president.*

#### *5.33.10 Duties of the delegates*

*5.33.11 The duties of the delegates shall be to:*

- a. Attend all sessions of the convention (if for a serious reason a voting delegate is unable to attend, the alternate delegate shall serve in his/ her place);*
- b. Prepare a report on the actions of the convention to be presented to the constituencies he/ she represents.*

5.34 Advisory members shall be those other than voting members who are requested to attend the meetings of the convention. They shall have voice but not vote. They are:

- a. The youth ministry program staff of the ELCA;
- b. The bishop of the ELCA, or person appointed to represent him/her;
- c. The VE executive director;
- d. The chairperson of the ELCA Church Council;
- e. Other officials or individuals appointed by the board.

5.35 Official visitors whose presence and participation is desired shall be invited to the convention by the board.

5.36 Other registered participants may attend the convention. They shall have no voice and no vote.

#### *5.40.10 Quorum*

*5.40.11 A simple majority of the registered delegates shall constitute a quorum.*

#### 5.50 Convention purpose

5.51 The Lutheran Youth Organization shall assemble a convention triennially as a delegate body in order to:

- a. Require and receive reports to review the work of the officers, board, Council of Synod LYO Presidents, hereinafter referred to as the council, Multicultural Advisory Committee, hereinafter referred to as MAC, Definitely Abled Advisory Committee, hereinafter referred to as DAC, and act on recommendations proposed by them;
- b. Elect officers and the nine members at large according to the procedures established in this constitution; and
- c. Act on resolutions submitted by synods, members, congregations, or delegates to the convention.

#### *5.52.10 Election procedures*

*5.52.11 All elections shall be by ballot.*

*5.52.12 The officers of the Lutheran Youth Organization and the nine members at large shall be elected at the triennial convention by a simple majority of votes cast to serve a term of three years or until their successors are elected. In case of no election after the first ballot, the fewest number of candidates who together received the majority of the vote, shall be entered on a second ballot. This process shall be repeated as necessary until an election is made.*

*5.52.13 Members at large will be elected in such a manner that there shall be one member from each of the nine regions of the ELCA.*

*5.52.14 The president shall appoint a committee on elections which shall consist of 10 (ten) delegates who shall supervise the voting, the counting of ballots, and report the results to the convention.*

#### *5.53.10 Nominating committee*

*5.53.11 The board shall appoint a nominating committee which consists of four members of the board, including one MAC representative, one DAC representative and one CSLYOPs representative, along with four at large LYO members. This committee shall select and present nominees to the board and report these nominations to the triennial convention.*

*5.53.12 At least seven months prior to the convention, the board shall call for nominations through notices in ELCA churchwide publications as appropriate. A nomination form may then be obtained from the churchwide office of the Lutheran Youth Organization. Nomination forms shall also be sent to board and council members to be distributed to interested persons. The nomination forms shall request that individuals give biographical data and other information which will aid the nominating committee in its selection of candidates. Persons seeking nomination shall sign and send the completed nomination form to the proper address with its postmark no later than the date set by the board which will allow for a nomination slate to be included in the delegates handbook. The nominating committee shall then meet and select final candidates whose names will be placed on the ballot according to procedures established in this constitution. These nominations shall be included in the preconvention report of the board.*

*5.53.13 In making the final nominations, the nominating committee shall give consideration to obtaining a proper balance between ages, genders, persons who have a disability and ethnic communities of the church.*

*5.53.14 The nominating committee shall present the convention three nominations for each position to be filled. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor of the convention.*

*5.54.10 Convention committees*

*5.54.11 There shall be a Committee on Resolutions, appointed by the board president to review resolutions referred to it by the convention or board president. This committee shall recommend approval or disapproval of the original or offer a substitute resolution.*

*5.54.12 The board president may appoint additional committees to the convention to assist the convention in its work.*

## **Chapter VI. ADMINISTRATION**

6.10 Board officers

6.11 There shall be three officers: the president, vice-president, and secretary.

6.12 The officers of the Lutheran Youth Organization shall be elected at the triennial convention according to procedures established in this constitution.

6.13 The officers of the Lutheran Youth Organization shall be members of the board.

6.20 Duties of the officers

6.21 The officers of the Lutheran Youth Organization shall perform the duties prescribed by this constitution, the parliamentary authority; and carry out the resolutions adopted by the Lutheran Youth Organization's triennial convention.

*6.21.11 The president shall:*

- a. Preside over the conventions of the Lutheran Youth Organization, and call and preside over the meetings of the board and its Executive Committee;*
- b. Prepare the agenda for all meetings of the Executive Committee;*
- c. Prepare the agenda for all meetings of the board with the assistance of the Executive Committee;*
- d. Submit reports to the triennial convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization, the VE executive*

- director, and through the VE executive director the Church Council of the ELCA and the ELCA churchwide assembly;*
- e. Exercise general supervision of this organization's activities and affairs in collaboration with the board and staff of this organization;*
  - f. Be able to assist synodical organizations;*
  - g. Represent the Lutheran Youth Organization at functions of the ELCA;*
  - h. Be a member of the board;*
  - i. Be age 15 to 18 and/or entering grades 10–12 at the time of election;*
  - j. Appoint committees for necessary duties to carry on the work of the Lutheran Youth Organization, which are not otherwise assigned in this constitution;*

*6.21.12 The vice-president shall:*

- a. Act in the absence of the president, assuming the responsibilities of the same;*
- b. Support the president and the board by accepting, when possible, duties and responsibilities assigned by the same;*
- c. Carry the major responsibility for the planning of the business portion of the Lutheran Youth Organization's triennial convention;*
- d. Be age 15 to 18 and/or entering grades 10–12 at the time of election.*

*6.21.13 The secretary shall:*

- a. Record and keep accurate minutes of all board and Executive Committee meetings and all conventions of the Lutheran Youth Organization;*
- b. Send advance notices reminding all board members of upcoming meetings;*
- c. Be responsible for all official correspondence of the board, the Executive Committee, and the convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization;*
- d. Be age 15 to 18 and/or entering grades 10–12 at the time of election.*

**6.30 The Board**

**6.31 The board, consisting of twenty-three (23) voting members, shall be composed of:**

- a. The president, vice-president, secretary, the nine (9) members at large; and**
- b. Two youth representatives from the Multicultural Advisory Committee, one of which is the chairperson; and**
- c. Four chairpersons from the Council of Presidents, elected by the council pursuant to Chapter 7.15.a.**
- d. Three youth representatives from DAC, one of which is the chairperson.**
- e. Two youth advisory members to the ELCA Church Council, elected by the rest of the Board of the**

Lutheran Youth Organization.

6.32 Advisory members to board, having voice but no vote, shall consist of:

- a. Other individuals appointed or invited by the president of the Board of Lutheran Youth Organization who are not elected to serve on the board;
- b. The youth ministry program staff of the ELCA.

6.33 Members of this board shall serve from convention to convention. Outgoing officers, members at large, MAC and DAC shall serve through the end of the triennial convention.

*6.33.11 This board shall meet at least twice a year. Additional meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or by a three-fourths majority of the board.*

6.40 Duties of the board

6.41 The duties of the board shall be to:

- a. Serve as the governing body of the Lutheran Youth Organization between conventions by carrying on the business of the Lutheran Youth Organization, making decisions and acting upon them, within the policies of the convention;
- b. Perform the duties prescribed by the constitution and bylaws of the church, as well as those stated in this constitution, the parliamentary authority, and resolutions adopted by the triennial convention;
- c. Periodically review the work of the organization, and, through the DCM Board, make such recommendations to any council, board, committee, synod, institution, or agency of this church as it deems wise;
- d. Review such reports and resolutions prepared by various staff, officers, boards, councils, committees, MAC, DAC, and synods of the church that relate to youth ministry and the work of the Lutheran Youth Organization and, after consideration, transmit them to the Lutheran Youth Organization convention with its recommendation;
- e. In consultation with VE, establish any administrative structure necessary to carry on the work of the Lutheran Youth Organization;
- f. Be responsible for the agenda and arrangements for the triennial conventions of the Lutheran Youth Organization;
- g. Fill vacancies occurring on the board: Should a board member become unable or unwilling to fulfill his/her respective duties, the board shall be empowered to declare said office vacant and to appoint a successor to complete the unexpired term. Such a successor may be eligible for election to the same office at the next convention if he/she is within the proper guidelines established by this constitution. To choose a successor, the board shall use the following guidelines:
  1. The nominee(s) must have been within the required age limits at the time of the previous convention; or, nominees must presently meet the age limits of the BLYO.
  2. The 1st runner-up from the convention for vacated position will be invited to run for said office.
  3. An effort must be made to publicize all names for the vacancy by the board members through the appropriate network:

- a) regional representatives;
  - b) synod LYO's and youth committees;
  - c) council representatives of the most recent meeting;
  - d) MAC
  - e) DAC
4. The board will elect the replacement with a simple majority vote.
5. The board shall fill the vacant position within six (6) months from the date when the position is declared vacant.
- h. Determine whether the board president is unable to serve, in which event the vice-president shall assume the duties of the presidency until the next Lutheran Youth Organization convention;
- i. Be represented at all meetings of the council and provide representatives of the board to meetings at the request of the church;
- j. Elect the two youth advisory members to the Church Council of the ELCA and other board and committees of the church, as specified in the constitution and bylaws of the church and by the Church Council.
- k. Prepare a budget request for transmittal to the Church Council through VE.

*6.50.10 Executive Committee of the board*

*6.50.11 The Executive Committee shall be composed of:*

- a. The president, vice-president, and the secretary of the organization;*
- b. The second year chairperson (s) of the Council of Synod Youth Organization presidents;*
- c. The chairperson of the Multicultural Advisory Committee;*
- d. The chairperson of the Definitely Abled Advisory Committee;*
- e. The program staff of Lutheran Youth Organization who shall serve as advisory members.*

*6.50.12 The Executive Committee shall meet as often as it deems necessary in order to carry out its work.*

*6.50.13 The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to:*

- a. Perform the duties prescribed by this constitution and the resolutions adopted by the Lutheran Youth Organization convention;*
- b. Prepare the agenda for the meetings of the board;*
- c. Act on matters referred to it by the board. The Executive Committee's decisions must be reported to and approved by the board.*

*6.50.14 Powers not granted, defined, or limited herein are hereby granted to the board.*

*6.60.10 The Members at Large of the Lutheran Youth Organization shall perform the duties prescribed by this constitution and carry out the resolutions adopted by the Lutheran Youth Organization's Triennial Convention.*

*6.60.11 Duties of the Members at Large shall be to:*

- a. Serve as a communication link and engage in conversation semiannually between the churchwide and synodical expressions of the Lutheran Youth Organization;*
- b. Act as a resource for the congregation, synods and churchwide expressions of the Lutheran Youth Organization;*
- c. Carry out any other functions deemed appropriate by the board of the Lutheran Youth Organization.*

## **Chapter VII. ADVISORY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES**

7.10 The Council of Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents

7.11 The council shall be composed of the board president and two synod presidents or elected youth representatives from each region of the ELCA. When financially feasible, the council shall be composed of each synod president or elected youth representative, as well as persons with disabilities and/or of color and/or whose primary language is other than English. There shall also be one adult advisory member from each synod of the ELCA. Staff services for the council shall be provided through the staff of the Lutheran Youth Organization.

*7.12.11 The council shall meet at least once a year. Additional meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or a majority of the board.*

*7.12.12 Meetings of the council shall be budgeted through the process established in this constitution.*

7.13 Purpose

7.14 The purpose of this council shall be to discuss matters of interest and concerns from the synods, as well as to share resources, information, and to provide learning/ training experiences for council members.

7.15 The duties of the council shall be to:

- a. Elect two (2) of the synod presidents or synod youth representatives, one (1) male and one (1) female, to serve as co-chair elects for a two-year term, renewable once, and elected on alternate years. (The co-chair elect becomes chairperson at the expiration of the previous chairperson);
- b. One member of the elected chairpersons will be appointed by the chairpersons, to serve as secretary of the council;
- c. Bring concerns in the form of recommendations to the board.

*7.20.10 The council chairpersons*

*7.20.11 There shall be two council chairpersons.*

*7.20.12 The council chairpersons shall be elected by ballot according to requirements established in this constitution.*

*7.30.10 Duties of the council chairpersons and appointed secretary*

7.30.11 *The council chairpersons shall:*

- a. Prepare an agenda for all meetings of the council with the assistance of the council secretary;*
- b. Preside over all meetings of the council;*
- c. Submit reports on the meetings of the council to the board, council, and triennial convention;*
- d. Be a member of the board with the second year chairpersons being members of the Executive Committee.*

7.30.12 *The appointed council secretary shall:*

- a. Record and keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the council;*
- b. Assist the council chairpersons in preparing an agenda for council meetings.*

7.40.10 *Synod presidents or elected youth representatives*

*7.40.11 If it is not feasible for all the presidents to meet, the synod presidents or elected youth representatives shall convene/communicate at least annually within their region of the ELCA in order to elect/select two presidents or representatives to serve on the National Council of Synod Presidents as representatives for their region.*

7.40.20 *Budgeting for regional meetings/matters*

*7.40.21 Budgeting for regional meetings/matters shall be collectively managed by the synod youth committees in conjunction with the synod council. (Each synod shall take the responsibility for funding its own president in regional matters.)*

7.50 **Multicultural Advisory Committee**

7.51 MAC shall be composed of one (1) male and one (1) female from each of the following five ethnic communities: African American and Black; Latino; Asian; American Indian / Alaskan Native; Arab / Middle Eastern, and one (1) male and one (1) female who identify themselves as multiethnic, whose racial makeup consists of at least one of the ethnic communities named above, as well as Caucasian.

7.52 The members of this committee shall be elected to a three (3)-year term by its own constituency at the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE). Their term shall begin immediately following the adjournments of the triennial youth convention.

*7.53.11 This committee shall meet at least twice a year. Additional meetings may be called by the Executive Committee of the Lutheran Youth Organization or a three-fourths majority of the board.*

*7.54.11 The members of this committee shall be age 15-18 and/ or entering grades 10-12 at the time of election.*

7.55 The purpose of MAC is to help the Lutheran Youth Organization to strive to be more inclusive, and to voice the concerns and needs of youth of color and whose primary language is other than English.

7.56 The duties of MAC shall be to:

- a. Elect from among the MAC members one person in addition to the chairperson to serve on the board;
- b. Elect from among the MAC members a chairperson and a secretary;

- c. Bring concerns in the form of recommendations to the board.

#### 7.57 Advisory members

*7.57.11 The advisory members of MAC shall have voice but no vote. They shall consist of:*

- a. One liaison from the board to MAC; and*
- b. One liaison from the Multicultural Ministries of the ELCA.*

#### 7.58.10 Officers

*7.58.11 The chairperson shall:*

- a. Preside over all meetings of the Multicultural Advisory Committee;*
- b. Prepare an agenda for the MAC meetings with the assistance of the MAC secretary;*
- c. Submit reports to the board, and to the triennial convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization;*
- d. Be a member with voice and vote of the board and the Executive Committee*

*7.58.12 The MAC secretary shall:*

- a. Record and keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the MAC;*
- b. Be responsible for all official correspondence of MAC;*
- c. Assist the chair in preparing an agenda for MAC meetings.*

7.59 This committee shall be budgeted through the process established in this constitution.

#### 7.60 Definitely Abled Advisory Committee (DAC)

7.61 DAC shall be composed of three members who represent varying abilities.

7.62 The members of this committee shall be elected to a three (3) year term by its own constituency at the Definitely Abled Youth Leadership Event. Their term shall begin immediately following the adjournment of the triennial convention.

*7.63.11 This committee shall meet twice a year.*

*7.64.11 It is strongly urged that the members of this committee be age 15–18 and/or entering grades 10–12 at the time of the election.*

7.65 The purpose of DAC is to help the LYO strive to be more inclusive, and to voice the concerns and needs of youth who have disabilities.

7.66 DAC will be elected at DAYLE, according to the following positions:

- a. chairperson
- b. secretary

c. liaison to the LYO board

7.67 The duties of DAC shall be to: bring concerns in form of recommendations to the board.

*7.67.11 Duties of the officers:*

- a. The chairperson shall preside over all the meetings of DAC and propose an agenda for the DAC meeting, with the assistance of the secretary, and be present at all board meetings with voice and vote, and be a member of the Executive Committee.*
- b. The secretary shall record and keep accurate minutes of all meetings of DAC; be responsible for all official correspondence of DAC, assist the chair in proposing the agenda for the DAC meeting, and be present at all LYO board meetings..*
- c. The liaison to the LYO Board shall be present at all LYO board meetings; submit reports to the board, and to the triennial convention and be a member with voice and vote on the board.*

7.68 The committee shall be budgeted through the process established in the constitution.

## **Chapter VIII. MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT**

8.01 The Multicultural Youth Leadership Event, hereinafter referred to as MYLE, shall be held immediately preceding the ELCA Youth Gathering.

8.02 The purpose of MYLE shall be to:

*8.02.11 Provide the participants with opportunities to:*

- a. develop/enhance leadership skills;*
- b. communicate with each other in order to create and maintain familiar atmosphere;*
- c. recognize that their participation in the church does make a difference;*
- d. convene to elect MAC members.*

*8.02.12 Help the Lutheran Youth Organization to become more inclusive.*

*8.02.13 Bring together people of different heritages to celebrate their cultures.*

*8.02.14 Help prepare participants in this event for transition from the smaller MYLE community to the larger community of the gathering.*

## **Chapter IX. DEFINITELY-ABLED YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT**

9.01 The Definitely-Abled Youth Leadership Event, hereinafter referred to as DAYLE shall be held immediately preceding the ELCA Youth Gathering.

9.02 The purpose of DAYLE shall be to:

*9.02.11 Provide the participants with opportunities to:*

- a. develop/enhance leadership skills;*

*b. communicate with each other in order to create a bond within the group;*

*c. recognize that their participation in the church can, does, and will make a difference.*

*9.02.12 Help the Lutheran Youth Organization to become more inclusive.*

*9.02.13 Help prepare participants in this event for transition from the smaller DAYLE community to the larger community of the gathering.*

## **Chapter X. STAFF**

10.01 There shall be a director of this youth organization who is chosen by the procedure established in the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.

10.02 The board may obtain additional staff from VE in order to carry on the work of the Lutheran Youth Organization.

10.03 The duties of the director and staff of the Lutheran Youth Organization shall be designated by the board in consultation with the executive director of VE and the director for youth ministries. The director and the staff of the Lutheran Youth Organization also provide staff service for the council, MAC and DAC.

10.04 The board, in consultation with VE, shall review the work of its director and staff and, for this purpose, require and receive reports from them and act on business proposed by them.

## **Chapter XI. FINANCE**

11.01 This Lutheran Youth Organization shall be financed through VE. All budget requests shall be submitted to the DCM board. This organization's fiscal year is in accordance with VE and the ELCA.

## **Chapter XII. TERMS OF OFFICE**

12.01 The officers and members at large of the board shall be elected by ballot to serve for three (3) years or until their successors are elected. Their terms of office shall begin immediately following the adjournment of the triennial youth convention at which they are elected.

*12.01.11 The council chairpersons and persons elected to fill vacancies occurring on the board shall begin serving immediately following their election.*

*12.01.12 Where not otherwise provided, a person elected to the board or office of the council shall be ineligible to succeed himself/herself more than once or hold more than one office at a time.*

12.02 A person elected or appointed to fill an unexpired term on the board may be eligible for re-election to one full term if the length of the unexpired term does not exceed two (2) years.

## **Chapter XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

13.01 Any items not provided for by this constitution shall be governed by **Robert's Rules of Order**, latest edition.

## **Chapter XIV. ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICE**

14.01 To be eligible for election to or continuance in any office, board, or committee of this organization, one shall be a member of a congregation that is recognized as a congregation of the ELCA.

14.02 Board members shall be age 15–18 and/or entering grades 10–12 at the time of their election to the board, with the possible exception of DAC chair, liaison and/or secretary.

*14.01.11 Synod presidents (or synod youth representatives) whose synod term does not terminate within one year of the date of the elections by the council are eligible for election to the board or the offices of the council.*

*14.02.12 If elected to the board as an officer, he/she must resign his/her position as president, vice-president or secretary on the synodical level.*

*14.02.13 A member currently serving as a voting or advisory member on the board is ineligible for nomination or election to any other position on the board if an election would cause a vacancy in a position.*

## **Chapter XV. ORGANIZATION MODIFICATION**

15.01. If in the event the depletion of economic resources prevents the board, council, MAC, DAC, triennial convention from meeting for an indefinite period of time, the board president shall appoint a committee of the board and the youth ministry program staff of the ELCA. The committee shall:

- a. Develop an alternative plan by which this Lutheran Youth Organization can be organized and/or governed and funded;
- b. Submit this proposed recommendation to VE and the Synod Councils for study and reaction;
- c. Allow at least three (3), but no more than six (6) months to receive reactions and, after consideration, submit a final proposed recommendation to the DCM board and Synod Councils who shall be entitled to cast one vote on the recommendation by secret ballot.
- d. Allow at least three (3), but no more than six (6) months to receive ballots. The ballots shall then be counted and the results reported by the board secretary. If two thirds of the ballots cast favor adoption of the recommendation, the board president shall declare it adopted, subject to approval of the ELCA Church Council. If the recommendation is not adopted, the committee shall continue its work until an acceptable plan is adopted.

*15.01.11 If circumstances do not prevent the board, council, or the youth convention from meeting indefinitely, but do suggest organizational change of this youth organization, this constitution may be amended according to procedures established in this constitution.*

## **Chapter XVI. AMENDMENTS**

16.01 No amendment to this constitution shall conflict with the doctrinal basis and confessional subscription and bylaws of the church.

16.02 This constitution may be amended at any convention of this organization by a two-thirds favorable vote of the registered delegates.

16.03 The proposed amendment shall be presented in writing to the board president at least 90 days prior to

the youth convention at which it is to be considered. At least two (2) months before the convention at which it is to be considered, it shall be announced on the LYO web site and additional ELCA publications as appropriate, in the delegate handbook and the mailing to synod offices, synod presidents, delegates and advisors.

16.04 The proposed amendment must have the support of at least one synod convention or the board.

16.05 If the proposed amendment is adopted, the board president shall declare it so adopted, subject to approval by the ELCA Church Council.

16.06 If the proposed amendment is not adopted, the board president shall declare it not adopted to the youth convention at which it is considered.

16.11 This Lutheran Youth Organization shall adopt such bylaws as may be found necessary. No bylaw shall conflict with this constitution.

16.12 The bylaws to this constitution may be amended at any convention of this organization by a two-thirds favorable vote of registered delegates.

16.13 A resolution to amend the bylaws may be presented on the convention floor by any delegate. The proposed amendment shall be presented for consideration at a time designated by the board president. At least one day shall elapse between the first presentation of the resolution and convention action.