

## **Title: Regarding Seasonal Membership**

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- Whereas,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Model Constitution for Congregations (MCC), Chapter 8, "Membership", Section \*C8.02.e, Seasonal, does not provide full privileged membership status for "Seasonal members"; and,
- Whereas,** in an era of generational change for both the ELCA and the population of the United States, the generations born in the 1940-1950s have become a highly mobile, dual-location retiree population; and
- Whereas,** many ELCA congregations are experiencing declining membership and are increasingly dependent on "shared" members to provide a necessary pool of eligible members and participants to meet governance, operational and functional requirements; and,
- Whereas,** section C8.02.e does recognize the existence of generational change, but otherwise fails to allow "Seasonal members" to share their talent, experience, and abilities in the crucial matter of congregational governance and for congregations to benefit from shared membership; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly memorializes the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to amend section \*C8.02.e(1-6) of the Model Constitution for Congregations to read:
- "e. **Seasonal** members are voting members of other congregations of this church who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising ~~limited~~ full voting rights in this congregation once acknowledgement is received from the home congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has

approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Seasonal members shall only be counted in the home congregation for ELCA membership statistics. ~~Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:~~

~~1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or for membership on the Congregation Council or on a call committee of, this congregation;~~

~~2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;~~

~~3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with this church;~~

~~4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly;~~

~~5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and~~

~~6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members.”~~