

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN A NEW PARISH AGREEMENT SD SYNOD, ELCA

1. Why are we forming this parish? What mission of Christ do we hope to accomplish together?
2. What will we name this new parish? Which congregations are participating?
3. Will there be a parish council? Will congregation councils continue?
4. If a parish council, how will the parish council be structured?
 - a. representatives and leaders; allocation, election, terms
 - b. responsibilities of the parish council
 - c. decisions retained by the congregations
 - d. frequency of meetings
5. Where will the parish office be located?
6. Where will the parsonage be located?
7. How will parish expenses, including pastor's compensation, mileage, and housing/parsonage, be allocated among congregations? How will these expenses be paid? (parish account or checks from each congregation)
8. How will the pastor(s) be called and dismissed?
 - a. The constitution requires a 2/3 vote of each congregation to call a pastor. Normally if one congregation votes, by a 2/3 majority, to dismiss, the pastor's call to all congregations will be terminated.
 - b. How will responsibilities for call process be shared? Will a call committee be formed and how many people from each congregation will serve on it.
9. How may this agreement be amended?
10. What worship schedule will be followed?
 - a. times - do they change annually?
 - b. holidays and seasons
 - c. pulpit supply or interim