

**Substitute Resolution: 5A**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken: 5B Substituted for 5A**  
(yes = 358, no = 52, abstain = 30)

**Subject: ELCA Churchwide Constitution Amendment**  
**Source: Prairie Rivers**

WHEREAS, Chapter 12.11. states – The Church wide Assembly shall be the highest legislative authority of the church wide organization and shall deal with all matters which are necessary in pursuit of the purposes and functions of this church. The powers of the Church wide Assembly are limited only by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, The E.L.C.A. constitution and bylaws, and the assembly’s own resolutions; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5.01.c. of the E.L.C.A. constitution states in part- Whenever possible, the entity most directly affected by a decision shall be the principal party responsible for decision and implementation, with the other entities facilitating and assisting. Each congregation, synod, and separately incorporated unit of the church wide organization, as well as the church wide organization itself, is a separate legal entity and is responsible for exercising its powers and authorities; and

WHEREAS, Social Statements and Vision and Expectations for pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers deeply affect individuals at a personal level as well as within families and congregations. Concern may arise that these issues may need to be ratified by congregations of the E.L.C.A.; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a provision be made to allow congregational voting members of the E.L.C.A. voting privileges by referendum. This referendum shall be carried out by petition providing at least 5,000 signatures from congregational voting members; be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod memorialize the E.L.C.A. Church wide Assembly to allow this provision on actions taken by the Church wide Assembly regarding Social Statements and Visions and Expectations for pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers, where any congregational voting member may file a petition with the Secretary of the E.L.C.A. within a 90 day period following the Church wide Assembly, and then set out to gather signatures of like minded individual members of the E.L.C.A. within 9 months. The issue would then come to a vote of congregational members at legally called congregational meetings for that purpose, provided the minimum number of signatures are obtained; be it further

RESOLVED, be it enacted by the E.L.C.A. The governing body of the E.L.C.A. shall make suitable provisions for carrying into effect the provisions of this resolution.