

Proposed Changes to the Constitution

ARTICLE VI: PASTORS, ~~AND~~ COMMISSIONED CHURCH WORKERS AND SCHOOL TEACHERS

- A. **Divine Call Candidate Requirements** – The **Divinely Called** offices of Pastor and commissioned church worker shall be conferred upon such pastors, commissioned church workers, or candidates only who:
1. Unreservedly confess all canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the revealed Word of God, and all Confessional Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church mentioned in Article III of this Constitution. To these the pastor or pastors, as well as commissioned church workers, shall be obligated by their call;
 2. Are members of, or have applied for membership in the same orthodox Synod to which the congregation belongs, i.e., “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” as long as it remains a truly Lutheran Synod;
 3. Have been properly and rightfully called by the congregation.
- B. **Right of Calling, Deposing and Dismissing** – The right of calling, deposing or dismissing pastors and commissioned church workers shall be ever vested in the congregation’s representative body (the Congregational Assembly), and shall never be delegated to an individual or any group within the congregation.
- C. **Causes for Removal** – A pastor, ~~or~~ commissioned church worker, **or school teacher** may be removed from office in a Christian manner consistent with the Bible and **adhering to the Congregational Personnel Manual**. Sufficient and urgent causes for removal are persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of official duty, or evident and protracted incapacity to perform the functions of the sacred office.
- D. Another reason for removal from office is reduction in force.
- E. **Non-rostered school teachers may also be hired, in accordance with the Bylaws.**