



ELCSA PRAYER MEN'S LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

PART I: THE NATURE OF THE LEAGUE

CHAPTER 1: NAME

1.1 The name of the League shall be known as the Prayer Men's League of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, hereinafter referred to as ELCSA PML.

CHAPTER 2: STATUS

2.1 ELCSA PML is constituted in accordance with the provisions made for it in the Constitution of ELCSA.

CHAPTER 3: MOTTO AND ANTHEM

- 3.1 "Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong". 1 Corinthians 16:13
- 3.2 The Anthem of the League shall be determined by the Churchwide conference

PART II: MISSION

CHAPTER 4: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 To encourage men to study the Word of God.
- 4.2 To encourage men to organise themselves into the League that shall be a nucleus of men's activities in their Congregations.
- 4.3 To bring to Christ non-Christians and reawaken the backsliders through the Word of God and encourage them to serve the Lord more actively.
- 4.4 To encourage, strengthen and comfort the sick, the suffering and the bereaved.
- 4.5 To be an example to the congregants and society in good conduct and upholding of Christian values.
- 4.6 To encourage men to use their God-given gifts, talents and expertise in Church and Society.
- 4.7 To encourage the spirit of ecumenism as long as this does not violate the teaching of ELCSA.
- 4.8 To conscientise men to the challenges, and opportunities in Christian life.
- 4.9 To be supportive of the mission of the Church.
- 4.10. The League members at Congregational Level shall hold weekly prayer meetings.

PART III: MEMBERSHIP

CHAPTER 5: MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE

- 5.1 Membership is open to all confirmed men in good standing in the Congregation and it is denoted by registration for new members and by subscription for annual membership renewal at the Congregational Level. All membership renewal at this level shall be completed by end of January each year.
- 5.2 Membership of the Congregation is denoted by affiliation to the Parish; membership of the Parish is denoted by affiliation to the Circuit; membership of the Circuit is denoted by affiliation to the Diocese; membership of the Diocese is denoted by affiliation to Churchwide.
- 5.3 Men who were not confirmed at the usual age who feel that they are ready to join the League can apply for membership and shall be placed on probation while they are still preparing themselves for confirmation. Once confirmed, they will be installed and the prescribed fees and dues shall be applicable to them.
- 5.4 Registration fee for a new member becomes due on the day of his installation.
- 5.5 Parishes, Circuits and Dioceses may exonerate their veterans from the payment of affiliation.
- 5.6 Any member may be recommended on account of his good standing in Christian faith and society to be a patron of the League.
- 5.7 Patron-ship may be bestowed on a man appropriate for such an honour as contemplated in subsection 5.6 above only at Circuit and Diocese levels. A motion to that effect shall be moved and motivated by any member attending the conference and adopted or rejected at the same conference.
- 5.8 Pastors-in-charge, Assistant Pastors, Deans, Bishops and Presiding Bishop shall be ex-officio members of the League at their respective levels of authority.

CHAPTER 6: AFFILIATION

- 6.1 Congregations shall complete their affiliation to the Parish before the end of February, each year.
- 6.2 Parishes shall complete their affiliation to the Circuit before the end of March, each year.
- 6.3 Circuits shall complete their affiliation to the Diocese before the end of April each year.
- 6.4 Dioceses shall complete their affiliation to the Church-wide before the end of May each year.
- 6.5 Veterans may be honoured at various levels of the League without exonerating them from the uniform and fees prescribed at Church-wide level.

CHAPTER 7: PROBATION

- 7.1 Prospective members shall serve a period of probation not exceeding six months. During this period, they should acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Constitution of the League, Constitution of ELCSA, Probationers' syllabus and the code of conduct.

CHAPTER 8: INSTALLATION

- 8.1 A member who has resolved to declare his acceptance of and willingness to abide by this constitution shall be installed to full membership of the League.
- 8.2 The day of installation shall be decided upon by the Congregational Executive Committee in consultation with the Pastor-in-charge and inform the Parish Executive Committee.

- 8.3 A candidate for installation shall provide himself with the prescribed uniform with the exception of the brooch, emblem and tie which shall be supplied by the Congregational Executive Committee.
- 8.4 The brooch, emblem and tie shall remain the property of the League and on termination of membership, other than by death, shall be returned to the League.
- 8.5 Installation shall confer upon new members the rights, duties and privileges of the League.
- 8.6 The installation service shall be performed in a Congregational Divine service by a Pastor, who shall be assisted by members of the Prayer Men's League Executive Committee.
- 8.7 There shall be a service of re-registration and re-commitment at the beginning of each year conducted by a Pastor.
- 8.8 Registration fee for a new member becomes due on the day of his installation.
- 8.9 The induction of the Executive Committee shall be conducted by the Pastor-in-charge at the relevant level.

CHAPTER 9: LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 9.1 Membership shall terminate at death of a member or written voluntary resignation or verbal declaration.
- 9.2 Any member who is guilty of misconduct by failure to comply with this Constitution or who is under church discipline or who undermines and defeats the aims and objectives of the League, or who neglects his responsibilities towards the League, and/or the church, shall forfeit his rights and privileges.
- 9.3 He who has forfeited his rights and privileges due to Church discipline can be reinstated as a full member after being absolved.
- 9.4 Any member who fails to attend three consecutive committee meetings of the League without any apology shall forfeits his right of membership.

CHAPTER 10: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 10.1 Disciplinary/appeal/dispute/mediation matters shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee under which the League operates.

CHAPTER 11: ELECTIONS

- 11.1 The Electorate at each level of the League shall elect the Office bearers during the election year declared by the church.
- 11.2 All nominations and elections shall be by secret ballot on a one member one vote basis
- 11.3 The Officer in charge at a particular level shall oversee the elections.
- 11.4 Nomination of members for election to the prescribed portfolios shall precede the election for each portfolio.
- 11.5 In the event of a tie in the election for a particular position, voting for those involved in the tie shall be immediately repeated to settle the impasse.
- 11.6 In the event of a member resigning from a position into which he was duly elected the Executive Committee shall nominate persons from among its membership and vote for one of them as a replacement.
- 11.7 The Executive Committee members shall hold office for a period of six years.

11.8 Any member elected within a term to fill a vacancy in the Executive Committee shall hold office only for the remaining part of the six year term.

11.9 No member shall hold the same position for more than two terms

PART IV: STRUCTURES OF THE LEAGUE

CHAPTER 12: CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL

12.1 CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE

12.1.1 Where two or more are gathered to form a League within the congregation, this shall be accepted as a congregational League.

12.1.2 The Congregational **Conference** shall be held at least once per year.

12.1.3 All registered members of the League shall have the right to attend the conference at Congregational level.

12.1.4 The Prayer Men's League Congregational conference shall elect the Executive Committee.

12.1.5 Voting delegates shall be all League members constituting the Congregation.

12.2 MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

12.2.1 The Executive committee shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the Congregational League attending the conference.

12.2.2 The Executive Committee shall be the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and two additional members.

12.2.3 Where membership of the Congregational League is less than ten, assistant officials and additional committee members shall not be elected.

12.2.4 To form a quorum at least half the number plus one including the Chairperson, or in his absence the Vice Chairperson, or in his absence the Secretary shall be present. In the event of none of the aforementioned office bearers being present, no meeting shall be held.

12.2.5 The Pastor-in-charge shall be ex-officio member of the League.

12.3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12.3.1 The Executive Committee meetings shall be held once per quarter.

12.3.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Chairperson in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Pastor-in-charge.

12.4 DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall:

12.4.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination, organization and functioning of the League in the Congregation;

12.4.2 Discuss and plan the activities of Congregational League.

12.4.3 Inform the Congregational Council about those who wish to join the League

12.4.4 Explain the Constitution to the probationers. In case of small groups, this should be done by members of the Parish committee;

- 12.4.5 Advise fellow-members who lead a life unbecoming of a Christian and thus violate the Constitution of the League and the Church;
- 12.4.6 See to it that attendance and subscription register are kept and that a roll call is taken at the end of the weekly meeting;
- 12.4.7 Give annual written reports which shall include audited financial statements;
- 12.4.8 Control funds and property of the League in conjunction with the finance and planning committee;
- 12.4.9 Scrutinize motions to be presented to the Parish conference.
- 12.4.10 Refer unresolved matters to the Parish Executive Committee.

12.5 THE PASTOR-IN-CHARGE

The Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the League at Congregational Level

He/she shall:

- 12.5.1 Officially open and close all meetings held in the Congregation
- 12.5.2 Officiate at elections and inductions of Committees, and
- 12.5.3 Have the right to attend all meetings of the League as an ex-officio member.

12.6 THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 12.6.1 The Congregational **Executive** Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.
- 12.6.2 The committee shall be composed of the Vice Chairperson; Treasurer and two other members of the Prayer Men's League at Congregational level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Pastor- in charge shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 12.6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.
- 12.6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Executive Committee.

CHAPTER 13: PARISH LEVEL

13.1 PARISH CONFERENCE

- 13.1.1 The ELCSA PML shall have a Parish Conference once per year.
- 13.1.2 All registered members of the League shall have the right to attend the Parish conference.
- 13.1.3 The ELCSA PML Parish **conference** shall elect the Parish Executive Committee.
- 13.1.4 Voting delegates shall be all League members constituting the Parish.

13.2 PARISH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 13.2.1 The Executive committee shall be nominated and elected from amongst all the members of the Congregational Executive Committees.
- 13.2.2 The Executive Committee shall be the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and two additional members

12.2.3 To form a quorum at least half the number plus one including the Chairperson, or in his absence the Vice Chairperson, or in his absence the Secretary shall be present. In the event of none of the aforementioned office bearers being present, no meeting shall be held.

13.2.4 The Pastor-in-charge shall be ex-officio member of the League.

13.3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

13.3.1 The Executive committee meetings shall be held once per quarter.

13.3.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Chairperson in consultation the Executive Committee and the Pastor-in-charge.

13.4 DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall:

13.4.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination, organization and functioning of the League in the Parish.

13.4.2 Organize quarterly meetings of the Parish Committee and prepare the agenda;

13.4.3 Refer unresolved matters to the Circuit Executive Committee.

13.4.4 Give a written report which shall include an audited financial statement at the annual Parish conference and to the annual Circuit Conference;

13.4.5 Control funds and property of the league in conjunction with the finance and planning committee;

13.4.6 Scrutinize motions to be presented to a Circuit Conference

13.4.7 Fill vacancies which may occur in any of the offices;

13.4.8 See to it that the aims, objectives and Constitution of the League are observed faithfully and effectively in the Parish;

13.5 THE PASTOR-IN-CHARGE

The Pastor-in-charge shall be the spiritual leader of the League at Congregational level.

He/she shall:

13.5.1 Officially open and close all meetings held in the Parish

13.5.2 Officiate at elections and inductions of committees

13.5.2 Have the right to attend all meetings of the League as an ex-officio member

13.6 THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

13.6.1 The Parish Executive Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.

13.6.2 The committee shall be composed of the Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and two other members of the ELCSA PML at Parish level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Pastor- in charge shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.

13.6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.

13.6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Parish Executive Committee.

CHAPTER 14: CIRCUIT LEVEL

14.1 CIRCUIT CONFERENCE

- 14.1.1 The ELCSA PML shall have a Circuit Conference once a year.
- 14.1.2 All registered members of the League shall have the right to attend the Circuit Conference.
- 14.1.3 The ELCSA PML Circuit Conference shall elect the Circuit Office bearers.
- 14.1.4 Voting delegates shall be the Parish **Executive** Committee members and ten (10) delegates from each Parish.
- 14.1.5 Five (5) additional members shall be elected as alternate from each Parish

14.2 MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 14.2.1 The Office bearers shall be nominated and elected from amongst all the members of the Parish Executive Committees.
- 14.2.2 Office bearers shall be the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and the Treasurer.
- 14.2.3. The Executive Committee shall be the Office bearers and the Chairpersons and Secretaries of Parishes
- 14.2.4 To form a quorum at least half the number plus one including the Chairperson, or in his absence the Vice Chairperson, or in his absence the Secretary shall be present. In the event of none of the aforementioned office bearers being present, no meeting shall be held.
- 14.2.5 The Dean shall be the ex-officio member of the League.

14.3 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 14.3.1 The Office bearers shall meet at least once a quarter
- 14.3.2 The Circuit Executive Committee shall meet at least twice per year.
- 14.3.3 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Chairperson in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Dean.

14.4 DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive committee shall:

- 14.4.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination and functioning of the League in the Circuit;
- 14.4.2 Plan and draw the agenda for the meetings of the Executive committee;
- 14.4.3 See to it that the aims, duties, objectives and the Constitution of the League are carried out faithfully and effectively in the Circuit;
- 14.4.4 Arrange revivals, conferences, workshops, seminars and meetings with the assistance of Church Servants in the Circuit;
- 14.4.5 Control funds and properties of the League in conjunction with the finance and planning committee;
- 14.4.6 See to it that all financial books of the League in the Circuit are audited;

14.4.7 Give a written report to the annual Circuit Conference and Circuit Meeting which shall include audited financial statements.

14.4.8 Scrutinize all motions to be presented to the Diocesan Conference;

14.4.9 Fill vacancies which may occur in any of the offices;

14.5. THE DEAN

The Dean shall be the spiritual leader of the League in the circuit.

He/she shall:

14.5.1 Officially open and close all meetings and conferences held in the Circuit

14.5.2 Officiate at elections, induct Executive committee members and

14.5.3 Have the right to attend all meetings and Conferences in the Circuit.

14.6 THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

14.6.1 The Circuit **Executive** Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.

14.6.2 The committee shall be composed of the Vice Chairperson; Treasurer and two other members of the ELCSA PML at Circuit level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Dean shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.

14.6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.

14.6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Circuit Executive Committee.

CHAPTER 15: DIOCESAN LEVEL

15.1 DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

15.1.1 The ELCSA PML shall have a Diocesan Conference once per year.

15.1.2 All registered members of the League shall have a right to attend the Diocesan Conference.

15.1.3 The ELCSA PML Diocesan Conference shall elect the Diocesan Office bearers.

15.1.4 Voting delegates shall be Circuit **Executive** Committee members and ten (10) delegates elected from each Circuit.

15.1.5 Five (5) additional members shall be elected as alternates from each Circuit

15.2 MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

15.2.1 Office bearers shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the Circuit Executive Committees

15.2.2 Office bearers shall be the Director, Deputy Director, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and the Treasurer.

15.2.3 The Executive Committee shall be the Office bearers and all Circuits' Chairpersons and Circuits' Secretaries.

15.2.4 To form a quorum at least half the number of members plus one including the Director, or in his absence the Deputy Director, or in his absence the Secretary shall be present. In the event of none of the aforementioned office bearers being present, no meeting shall be held.

15.2.5 The Bishop shall be the ex-officio member of the League in the Diocese.

15.3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

15.3.1 The Office bearers shall meet at least once a quarter

15.3.1 The Diocesan Executive Committee shall meet at least twice per year.

15.3.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Director in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Bishop.

15.4 DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive committee shall:

15.4.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination, organization and functioning of the League in the Diocese

15.4.2 Be responsible for the life and work of the League in the Diocese

15.4.3 Prepare and plan meetings of the Executive committee, annual conference and its agenda

15.4.4 Co-ordinate the work in the various Circuits of the Diocese

15.4.5 Give a written report at the Diocesan Conference and Diocesan Synod which shall include audited financial statements.

15.4.6 Control funds and properties of the League in the Diocese in conjunction with the finance and planning committee.

15.4.7 Scrutinize all motions to be presented to the Church-wide Prayer Men's League Conference.

15.4.8 Fill vacancies in any one of the offices;

15.4.9 Organize workshops and seminars in order to strengthen the League to undertake projects;

15.5 THE BISHOP

The Bishop shall be the spiritual leader of the league in the Diocese.

He/she shall:

15.5.1. Officially open and close all meetings and Conferences held in the Diocese

15.5.2 Officiate at elections, induct committee members and

15.5.3 Have the right to attend all meetings and Conferences in the Diocese.

15.6 THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

15.6.1 The Diocesan **Executive** Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.

15.6.2 The committee shall be composed of the Deputy Director; Treasurer and two other members of the ELCSA PML at Diocesan Level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.

15.6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.

15.6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Diocesan Executive Committee.

CHAPTER 16: CHURCHWIDE LEVEL

16.1 CHURCHWIDE CONFERENCE

- 16.1.1 The Prayer Men's League shall have an ELCSA Churchwide Conference once in two years.
- 16.1.2 All registered members of the League shall have the right to attend the Churchwide Conference.
- 16.1.3 The ELCSA Churchwide PML Conference shall elect the Church-wide Office bearers.
- 16.1.4 Voting delegates shall be the Diocesan Executive Committee members and ten (10) delegates elected by the Diocesan Conferences.
- 16.1.5 Five (5) additional members shall be elected as alternates from each Diocese

16.2 REVIVAL RALLY

- 16.2.5 Revival Rallies shall be held biennially alternating with Conferences.

16.3. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 16.3.1 Office bearers shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the Diocesan Executive Committees.
- 16.3.2 Office bearers shall be the Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Treasurer-General.
- 16.3.3 The Executive Committee shall be the Office bearers and the Diocese Directors and Secretaries.
- 16.3.4 To form a quorum at least half the number of members plus one including the Director-General, or in his absence the Deputy Director-General, or in his absence the Secretary-General shall be present. In the event of none of the aforementioned office bearers being present, no meeting shall be held.

16.4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 16.4.1 The Office bearers shall meet at least once a quarter
- 16.4.2 The Church-wide Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year.
- 16.4.3 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Director General in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Presiding Bishop.

16.5 DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Duties of the Executive committee shall:

- 16.5.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination, organization and functioning of the League at Church-wide level.
- 16.5.2 Be responsible for the life and work of the League at Church-wide
- 16.5.3 Co-ordinate the work in all Dioceses at Church-wide
- 16.5.4 Establish and maintain Ecumenical relationships.
- 16.5.5 Give a written report at the Churchwide Conference and General Assembly which shall include audited financial statements.
- 16.5.6 Scrutinize and approve the motions sent by different Dioceses

- 16.5.7 Prepare the budget of the league in consultation with the finance and planning committee
- 16.5.8 Control funds and properties of the League at Churchwide in consultation with the finance and planning committee.
- 16.5.9 Organise workshops and seminars in order to strengthen the League to undertake projects and programmes at all levels

16.6 THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The Presiding Bishop shall be the spiritual leader of the league at Churchwide level.

He/she shall:

- 16.6.1 Officially open and close all meetings and Conferences held at Churchwide level
- 16.6.2 Officiate at elections, induct committee members and
- 16.6.3. Have the right to attend all meetings and Conferences at Churchwide level.

16.7 THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 16.7.1 The Church-wide Executive Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.
- 16.7.2 The standing committee shall be composed of the Deputy Director General; Treasurer-General and two other members of the ELCSA PML at Church-wide level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Presiding Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 16.7.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.
- 16.7.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Churchwide Executive Committee.

PART V: UNIFORM

CHAPTER 17: UNIFORM

- 17.1. The uniform of the Prayer Men's League shall be prescribed by the ELCSA Conference.

CHAPTER 18: OCCASIONS FOR DONNING UNIFORM

- 18.1 Members of the League should wear the uniform on the following occasions:
 - 18.1.1 Prayer meetings;
 - 18.1.2 Holy Communion Services;
 - 18.1.3 Church festivals excluding music festival
 - 18.1.4 Memorials and funerals of members of the League, Church Servants, Elders, members of other Leagues
 - 18.1.5 Baptism and Confirmation services
 - 18.1.6 The installations of new members
 - 18.1.7 Re-registration of members
 - 18.1.8 Induction of Church Servants

- 18.1.9 Ordination of Pastors
- 18.1.10 Consecration of Bishops
- 18.1.11 Dedication of new Church building
- 18.1.12. Unveiling of tombstones

PART VI: AMENDMENTS

CHAPTER 19: AMEMNDMENTS

- 19.1 Proposed amendment/s of this Constitution shall be submitted to the Church-wide Prayer Men's League Executive Committee in writing six months prior to the Church-wide Conference.
- 19.2 Such proposed amendment/s shall be circulated to the Dioceses within three months prior to the Churchwide Conference.
- 19.3 The two-third majority of the voting members shall approve the proposed amendment/s.
- 19.4 The General Assembly shall have the final decision on all amendments.

CHAPTER 20: DISSOLUTION


- 20.1 In the event of dissolution of the League, all assets and liabilities of the League shall become assets and liabilities of ELCSA.

CHAPTER 21: SIGNING

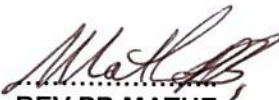
- 21.1 Signed for and on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa Prayer Men's League (ELCSA PML)



.....
MR MG RATLABALA
DIRECTOR GENERAL



.....
BISHOP NP PHASWANA
PRESIDING BISHOP



.....
REV PB MATHE
GENERAL SECRETARY

GLOSSARY TO THE CONSTITUTION

In this constitution, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- (a) **“Church”** means the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa
- (b) **“Congregation”, “Parish”, “Circuit”, “Diocese” and “Church-wide”** are as defined by the constitution of ELCSA.
- (c) **“Constitution”** means the constitution of the ELCSA Prayer Men’s League
- (d) **“ELCSA”** means the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa
- (e) **“ELCSA PML”** means Prayer Men’s League of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa
- (f) **“Electorate”** means the relevant Executive Committee members and ten additional members from the immediate lower level.
- (g) **“Executive Committee”** means the office bearers and two additional members in respect of the Congregation and the Parish; the office bearers and the Chairpersons and Secretaries of the immediate lower levels in respect of the Circuit, Diocese and Church-wide.
- (h) **“Good standing”** means dues having been paid up to date, partaking in sacraments, participating in programs of the Church and the League and upholding good morals.
- (i) **“Membership”** means the constituent affiliates at a particular level.
- (j) **“Men”** mean male persons to the exclusion of all female persons.
- (k) **“Office bearers”** means the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Treasurer.
- (l) **“Veterans”** mean members who are above the age of seventy (70) years and who have served the League for a period of at least five consecutive years.