

**PREAMBLE**

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Article 1 NAME AND INCORPORATION**

- 1.01 The name of this congregation shall be St. Philip's Lutheran Church of Fridley, Anoka County, Minnesota.
- 1.02 For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the St. Philip's Lutheran Church of Fridley congregation is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."
- 1.03 This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

**Article 2 CONFESSION OF FAITH**

- 2.01 This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2.02 This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
  - a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
  - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

- 2.03 This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- 2.04 This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.
- 2.05 This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- 2.06 This congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- 2.07 This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

### **Article 3 NATURE OF THE CHURCH**

- 3.01 All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- 3.02 The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal

Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

#### **Article 4 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- 4.01** The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- 4.02** To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
- a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
  - b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
  - c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and sanctifier of all.
  - d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, care for the sick and the aged, advocate dignity and justice for all people, work for peace and reconciliation among all nations, stand with the poor and powerless, and commit itself to their needs.
  - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
  - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other

Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

- 4.03** To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:
- a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.
  - b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry.
  - c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their Christian calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.
  - d. Teach the Word of God.
  - e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.
  - f. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
  - g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy.
- 4.04** This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws.
- 4.05** This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement, which will provide specific direction for its programs.

**Article 5 POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

- 5.01** The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.
- 5.02** The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.

- 5.03** Only such authority as is delegated to the Board of Administration of this congregation or other organizational units in the congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:
- a. call a pastor;
  - b. terminate the call of a pastor;
  - c. approve the annual budget;
  - d. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
  - e. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
  - f. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
  - g. elect its officers, Board of Administration, standing committee chairs, and committees enumerated under Part VI of the Bylaws, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and (Section 5.03.g. adopted and ratified at the February 6, 2006 Annual Meeting.)
  - h. terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Article 6.

## **Article 6 CHURCH AFFILIATION**

- 6.01** This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the synod of which it is a member. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- 6.02** This congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the Purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.
- 6.03** This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in which:
- a. This congregation agrees to be responsible for its life as a Christian community.

- b. This congregation pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- c. This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod.
- d. This congregation agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or with the constitution of the synod.

**6.04** Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be terminated as follows:

- a. This congregation takes action to dissolve.
- b. This congregation ceases to exist.
- c. This congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures for discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- d. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in

**6.05** This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:

- a. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.
- b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.
- c. The bishop of the synod shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least 90 days.
- d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken

at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.

- e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between this congregation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be terminated.
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and published in the periodical of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**6.06** If this congregation is considering relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

## **Article 7 PROPERTY OWNERSHIP**

**7.01** If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to the synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of which it is a member.

**7.02** If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.

**7.03** If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a regularly called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of its synod.

**7.04** If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a regularly called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become

independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body, title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with the congregation by the established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of the congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## **Article 8 MEMBERSHIP**

- 8.01** Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of the congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter. All members shall maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
- 8.02** Members shall be classified as follows:
- a. Baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
  - b. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
  - c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.
- 8.03** All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Board of Administration.
- 8.04** It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:



- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. support the work of this congregation and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

**8.05** Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action by the Board of Administration; or
- e. inactivity as defined in the bylaws.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the church has a continuing pastoral concern.

## **Article 9 THE PASTOR**

**9.01** Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a meeting regularly called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, a committee elected by this congregation to recommend the call shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of its synod.

**9.02** Only a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or who has been recommended for it by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

**9.03** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship, provide pastoral care, call for justice, and proclaim God's love for the world. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation, offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead; shall install regularly

elected members of the Board of Administration and the elected committees, and with the Board of Administration administer discipline. Every pastor shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and shall endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and of its synod.

**9.04** The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call.

a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:

- 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term of years;
- 2) resignation of the pastor;
- 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;
- 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
- 5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty; or
- 6) the dissolution of the congregation.

b. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office, it shall be the responsibility of the bishop of the synod, when such difficulties are personally known or have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Board of Administration, or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, to investigate such conditions personally in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.

c. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity,

competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of the synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of the synod shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.

- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties which imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the synod together with the committee described in 9.04.b shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a meeting regularly called for that purpose after consultation with the bishop.
- e. The foregoing procedure shall never be invoked when questions of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty are involved, all such cases being treated as disciplinary matters.
- f. If in the course of the proceedings, it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint churchwide/synod fund and with housing provided by the congregation.

**9.05** At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor may be appointed by the Board of Administration after consultation with the bishop of its synod.

**9.06** During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the Board of Administration. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor.

**9.07** This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of

all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation.

- 9.08** When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, the Board of Administration, and the bishop of its synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.
- 9.09** With the approval of the bishop of its synod the congregation may depart from 9.04.a and call a pastor for a specific term of years. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of 9.04.a.
- 9.10** The pastor shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, and shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the synod.
- 9.11** The pastor(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

## **Article 10 CONGREGATION MEETING**

- 10.01** The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.
- 10.02** A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the senior pastor, the Board of Administration, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called at the written request of 30 voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.

- 10.03** Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, to all voting members at least ten (10) days in advance of the date of the meeting.
- 10.04** Thirty (30) voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- 10.05** Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- 10.06** All actions by the congregation shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided in this constitution.
- 10.07** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

#### **Article 11 OFFICERS**

- 11.01** The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. (This sentence of Section 11.01 adopted and ratified at the February 6, 2006 Annual Meeting.)
- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
  - b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
  - c. Officers of this congregation shall serve similar functions on the Board of Administration.
- 11.02** The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
- 11.03** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. (Sentence two of Section 11.03 was adopted and ratified at the Feb. 6, 2006 Annual Meeting.)

#### **Article 12 BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION**

**12.01** The voting membership of the Board of Administration shall consist of the officers of the congregation and six other members. (Sentence one of Section 12.01 was adopted and ratified at the Feb. 6, 2006 Annual Meeting.) Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office.

The senior pastor or, in his/her absence, an associate pastor shall attend all meetings of the Board of Administration. All pastors are encouraged to attend all Board of Administration meetings. Pastors shall not be voting members of the Board of Administration, but shall serve an important advisory function. (Second paragraph of 12.01 adopted at the Feb. 3, 1991 Annual Congregational Meeting; ratified at the Feb. 3, 1992 Annual Congregational Meeting.)

**12.02** Other than officers, members of the Board of Administration shall each serve for a term of two years, once renewable. The terms shall be staggered with one-half elected at each annual meeting. If a vacancy occurs during a year, the Board of Administration shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next annual meeting, at which time an election shall be held to fill the balance of the two-year term. Time served in a vacant position, as noted above, shall not count against a subsequent full term. (Section 12.02 adopted and ratified at the Feb. 6, 2006 Annual Meeting.)

**12.03** The Board of Administration shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Board of Administration shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and encourage the standing committees and ministry teams of this congregation. (Section 12.03.c. added, adopted and ratified at the Feb. 6, 2006 Annual

Meeting.)

- d. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- e. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.
- f. To be an example individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- g. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- h. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- i. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide units of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. (Section 12.03.d. - j. relettered after adding new 12.03.c. as adopted and ratified at the Feb. 6, 2006 Annual Meeting.)

**12.04** The Board of Administration shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

- a. The Board of Administration shall be the board of directors of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of Minnesota, except as otherwise provided herein.
- b. The Board of Administration shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.
- c. The Board of Administration shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation and shall

supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption. The budget shall include this congregation's support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and the churchwide organization.

- d. The Board of Administration may authorize expenditures totaling no more than 5% in excess of the adopted budget without a resolution by the congregation.
- e. The Board of Administration shall assure that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations.
- f. The Board of Administration shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

**12.05** The Board of Administration shall assure that the provisions of this constitution, its bylaws and resolutions as adopted by the congregation are carried out.

**12.06** The Board of Administration shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.

**12.07** The Board of Administration shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.

**12.08** The Board of Administration shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

**12.09** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board of Administration.

### **Article 13 DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

**13.01** A member who advocates doctrines contrary to Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Church or who is guilty of conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Body of Christ, shall be subject to discipline.

**13.02** Discipline shall be administered by the Board of Administration on behalf of this congregation, with the



right of appeal to this congregation.

**13.03** The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Board of Administration and the congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final. (Section 13.01 adopted at the Feb. 3, 1991 Annual Congregational Meeting; ratified at the Feb. 2, 1992 Annual Congregational Meeting.)

**13.04** Discipline in this congregation shall be exercised in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18.

#### **Article 14 BYLAWS**

**14.01** This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

#### **Article 15 AMENDMENTS**

**15.01** Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least 30 voting members or by the Board of Administration. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Board of Administration 45 days before formal consideration by this congregation at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Board of Administration shall notify the congregation of the proposal with any recommendations at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.

**15.02** A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. be approved, with or without amendment, at a properly called meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting;
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.

**15.03** Any amendments to this constitution shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to its synod following the

meeting at which the amendment is initially approved.