

ELCIC NATIONAL AND SYNODICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

(Adapted from 1995 Convention Resolution NC-95-11)

- A. That the National Church structure serves and relates to synods and to structures beyond the ELCIC:
- 1) That the National Church has the responsibility to nurture the identity, unity and vision of the ELCIC; and
 - 2) That the primary responsibility for decision-making resides with the National Church in the following areas:
 - i. Policies and standards for rostered leaders
 - ii. Mission in the world
 - iii. Public policies for the church in society
 - iv. Development of stewardship resources
 - v. Policies, standards and resources for worship
 - vi. Ecumenical and cooperative relationships with other churches
 - vii. Relationships with ELW, special interest conferences and other Lutheran organizations
 - viii. Pension and benefit programs
 - ix. GHDA
 - x. Colleges and church schools
- B. That the National Church has additional responsibilities:
- 1) To facilitate communication, consultation and cooperative programming among synods (e.g. Conference of Bishops, relationships with synod councils, communication to synod conventions, Rasmus, publications).
 - 2) To provide national support, where agreed, in areas of synod responsibility (e.g. youth gatherings, stewardship, seminary curricula, Church Extension and Capital Fund (CECF)).
- C. That synodical structures relate to the congregations and to the National Church structure:
- 1) That each synod cooperates and collaborates with the National Church and other synods for the following purposes:
 - i. To nurture the identity, unity and vision of ELCIC
 - ii. To support the mission of the church
 - iii. To coordinate common standards
 - iv. To address common concerns
 - v. To develop covenants for partnership in specific areas of mission
 - 2) That primary responsibility for decision-making resides with the synods in the following areas:
 - i. Theological education and leadership (seminaries, candidates, continuing education)
 - ii. Addressing issues of church and society on the territory of the synod
 - iii. Resource development and fundraising
 - iv. Mission in Canada
 - v. Establishing and supporting specialized ministries (e.g. camps, chaplaincies, outdoor ministries)
 - vi. Supporting existing congregations and leaders in mission and ministry (e.g. worship, learning, witness, service, support, youth).