

SA2012.05.04 A Resolution on Congregational Viability Norms

RESOLVED, that when a significant number of the norms cited below is lacking, there is good reason to conclude that a congregation has lost the capability for effective self-governance and therefore its mission has concluded and its ministry is complete; and be it

RESOLVED, that our Synod Council see that each congregation be able to demonstrate the ability to fulfill its purpose as stated in Article C4.03 of the Model Constitution for Congregations, namely to:

1. Gather weekly for worship
2. Call a pastor
3. Hold an annual meeting of the congregation
4. Elect congregation council and officers as required by congregational constitution and New York State law: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary
5. Provide audited financial statements
6. Share in the fellowship of our Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, provide Synod mission support, attend Synod Assembly
7. Submit an annual parochial report to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8. Maintain the upkeep and safety of buildings and property
9. Secure adequate insurance for property and persons
10. Keep current with financial obligations.

AND BE IT RESOLVED, that based upon these norms our Synod Council establish a process by the 2012 Synod Assembly to regularly review the viability of congregations of our Metropolitan New York Synod and prayerfully discern appropriate action with attendant pastoral care.