

Submitting Proposed Constitutional Amendments, Bylaw Changes, and Resolutions

at the

29th General Convention of The AALC

Tuesday, June 25 - Friday, June 28, 2024

As a part of our preparation for the General Convention, we want to provide you with the specific procedures required for submitting Proposed Constitutional Amendments, Bylaw Changes, or Resolutions at the Convention. (All these requirements are taken from our Association documents.)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OR BYLAWS - ARTICLE XVII

The American Association of Lutheran Churches may adopt such bylaws as may be found necessary. No bylaw shall conflict with this Constitution. [see **17.01**]

The proposed bylaw - amendment shall be presented for consideration by the convention at a time designated by the Presiding Pastor and in accordance with procedures prescribed in the bylaws. [see **17.03**]

A simple majority of the Registered Delegates shall be required to approve amendments for the Congregational Referendum. [see **17.03.03**]

Amendments to bylaws shall be ratified by a simple majority of congregations voting in a congregational referendum. [see 17.04]

A proposed amendment to our TAALC Constitution shall be presented in writing to the Presiding Pastor of this Association *at least ninety days* before the General Convention *and must have the authorization and signatures of at least one Member Congregation*. [see **18.02.01**]

The Presiding Pastor shall have the proposed amendment prepared in proper form with the approval of those proposing the amendment (concerning the wording and intent of the amendment). The Presiding Pastor shall arrange to publish the proposed amendment in the official publication(s) of this Association *at least thirty days prior* to the General Convention. [see **18.02.02**]

A bylaw amendment may be presented on any day of the General Convention but may not be brought to vote until the next day. If the proposed amendment passes by majority of Registered Delegates, it must then be sent to each of the Member Congregations of the Association with full and open disclosure of all relevant information including date when sealed ballots must be returned. [see **B13.02.01**]

If the bylaw amendment passes [*through congregational referendum*], it shall immediately become part of this Constitution's Bylaws. [see **B13.02.03**]

A CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Article 09.02 of The AALC Constitution states that “Any member congregation or any group of member congregations is encouraged to prepare and present a resolution to the General Convention, which the Presiding Pastor shall place on the agenda.”

All resolutions from member congregations, Regions, Boards or Commissions may be sent to the National Office of The AALC:

**The American Association of Lutheran Churches
921 East Dupont Road #920
Fort Wayne, IN 46825**

All proposed resolutions will be referred to the Resolution Committee prior to convention for review and referral. The Resolutions Committee will observe the following guidelines:

- Resolutions that would amend, modify, or be in conflict with the doctrinal basis and confessional subscription of The AALC Constitution’s Article III (Confession of Faith) or Article V (Purpose) will not be considered.
- The Resolutions Committee has the right to go into executive session, that is to meet by itself without non-committee members, to make their decision.
- The Resolutions Committee may hold open hearings and the author(s) of the resolution be given the right to defend or clarify the resolution.
- Resolutions that, in the opinion of the Resolution Committee, duplicate items already stated within the Constitution and Bylaws of The AALC will not be considered.
- Resolutions that are identical or that, in the opinion of the Resolution Committee, have identical intent will be combined.
- Resolutions that address the same subject but have a different intent, request different actions, or propose a greater or lesser degree, will be made into separate resolutions.
- Resolutions may be rewritten to form complete sentences, or be edited for clarity, and have grammatical and spelling errors removed.
- Resolutions shall be simply and clearly stated.
- The original resolutions shall be in the Resolution Committee’s possession and so shall be available to anyone who wishes to review them.

If a proposed resolution is approved, it shall be referred with a full and open disclosure of relevant information to each voting congregation of The American Association of Lutheran Churches.

Individual Members may also submit resolutions at the General Convention. A resolution offered by an individual member shall be in writing, signed by the maker and the seconder and shall be given directly to the Secretary of The AALC, Rev. Joe Marsh, or given to the Resolutions Committee Chair. Each member who offers a resolution shall be given an opportunity to explain it to the Resolutions Committee if the member so requests.