

## South Carolina Women of the ELCA Annual Convention

### RESOLUTION (New Business)

Resolutions must be **received** by the Committee on Reference and Counsel no later than **Friday, August 15, 2025 end of Business Session two (2).** Please submit the form to

Resolutions shall have the name of the person/congregational unit submitting the form and four voting members representing different units of the SWO. Presentation, discussion and voting on resolutions will be done near the end of the convention during the business session on **Saturday, August 16, 2025**. Resolutions may only be submitted by registered voting members.

Please submit the form to: Sallie Folk at 422 W. Pine St Florence SC 29051(843)307-1417 Salstitcher823@yahoo.com

Voting Member Name	Name of Congregational Unit	City
Russel Snelgrove	St John's Lutheran	Walhalla SC
Sallie Folk	St. Luke Lutheran	Florence, SC
Betty Jo Amidt	Mt. Olivet Lutheran	Chapin, SC
Linda Roland	Reformation Lutheran	Lancaster, SC
Donna Boozer	Faith Lutheran	Batesburg, SC

I (we) submit the following resolution related to: The Churchwide Women of the ELCA make changes to the model constitution for Congregational Units and Inter-congregational units to have a more relaxed and welcoming structure of leaders. Considering this will allow congregational units that are decreasing in size and having difficulty finding leaders to continue their units and serving in a traditional leadership format. (Indicate topic)

Continue on additional sheet if necessary / Continue on next page for completion

For Committee Use Only		
Criteria Met	Action Taken	Action #

Signed by Chairman, Committee on Reference and Counsel

Extra Page:

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**South Carolina Synodical Women's Organization  
Women of the ELCA  
Resolution to Action**

**Title:** *Flexibility in Unit Structure and Requirements for Membership in the Women of the ELCA*

**WHEREAS**, Congregational Units and Inter-congregational Units must fulfill the criteria noted in the Women of the ELCA *Approved Model Constitution and Bylaws* (marked with an asterisk \*), which includes highly prescriptive language and provides little room for flexibility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Churchwide Women of the ELCA has encouraged Congregational and Inter-congregational Units to adopt more flexible structures in order to increase membership and encourage participation in a more welcoming and relaxed atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, many South Carolina Congregational Units are decreasing in size and can no longer fulfill all of the requirements placed upon them due to declining membership and rigid structural expectations;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the South Carolina Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA petition the Churchwide Women of the ELCA to consider revising the *Approved Model Constitution and Bylaws* to allow more flexible requirements for Congregational and Inter-congregational Units; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we recommend revisions to portions of Articles VIII and VI of the Model Constitution to reflect more adaptable structures for Units, including the following proposed language:

**Article VIII – Units**

**Section 1. Definition**

1. There shall be one unit in each congregation. This unit may consist of one or more groups of women within the congregation. All women of the congregation shall be considered participants of the unit.

**Section 2. Criteria for Recognition**

A unit may be recognized if it:

1. Agrees to the statement of purpose of Women of the ELCA (see Section 1);

2. Agrees to come together to demonstrate commitment to the mission and purpose of Women of the ELCA;
3. May participate in the activities of Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation such as Conference/Cluster gatherings, retreats, and conventions;
4. Agrees to support financially the programs of Women of the ELCA such as Conference offerings, Synodical Women's Organization offerings, convention offerings, and churchwide Thankofferings;
5. Agrees to designate leadership that will be in communication with the Synodical Women's Organization and the Churchwide Women's Organization.

### **Section 3. Structure**

The purpose of the Women of the ELCA may be carried out through differing structural models that best fit the needs of the unit.

### **Section 4. Reporting of Units**

1. The unit shall report to its congregation on an annual basis regarding finances and activities, unless it is a special unit as authorized by the Executive Board.
2. Special Units shall report annually to the Synodical Women's Organization Board in the territory in which they are located.

### **Section 5. Termination of Relationships**

The relationship of any unit shall be terminated:

1. By notification to the Synodical Women's Organization that the unit plans to dissolve. The Synodical Women's Organization shall notify the Churchwide Women of the ELCA of the termination.
2. If the congregation ceases to exist as a congregation of the ELCA. The unit may decide to become a special unit with the approval of the Synodical Women's Organization Board.

## **Article VI – Leadership**

### **Section 1. Leaders (Officers and Board Members)**

This unit shall have [names of leadership positions], elected for a term of one year with one reelection. Units may elect to use a more relaxed leadership environment such as those outlined in the WELCA resource *Six Models for Mission*, available on the Women of the ELCA website.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the South Carolina Synodical Women's Organization submit this proposed revision to the Churchwide Women of the ELCA for consideration, so that Units may thrive through flexible structures that foster growth, participation, and mission engagement.

**Signatures:**

Signature: <u>Linda Roland</u>	Title: <u>Chair</u>
Signature: <u>Donna Poy</u>	Title: <u>member</u>
Signature: <u>Lee V Morgan</u>	Title: <u>Member</u>
Signature: <u>Della Delle</u>	Title: <u>Board Resource</u>

*Additional 25 signatures attached.*