

II. MEMBERSHIP

A. ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION OF CONGREGATIONS

2.01 Application by Congregations

- a. Each application for membership in the Synod by a congregation shall be submitted to the appropriate District President and acted upon by the Board of Directors of the District at any regular meeting.
- b. Upon request by a congregation whose application for membership has been denied, the District President shall submit the application and a report concerning its denial by the District Board of Directors to the next succeeding convention of the District, which shall determine whether to grant the application or to affirm the denial by the Board of Directors.

2.03 Constitutions of Congregations

- a. A congregation which applies for membership in the Synod shall, before its application is submitted to the District Board of Directors, submit its constitution and bylaws to the appropriate District President, who shall refer such to the standing constitution committee of the District. This committee shall examine the constitution and bylaws to ascertain that they are in harmony with Holy Scripture, the Confessions, and the teachings and practices of the Synod in order that any necessary changes may be made by the congregation before the application is acted upon. An application for membership by a congregation shall not be acted on by the District Board of Directors until the congregation has made such changes as may be deemed necessary.
- b. A member congregation which revises its constitution or bylaws or adopts a new constitution or bylaws shall, as a condition to continued eligibility as a member of the Synod, submit such revised or new constitution and/or bylaws to the District President, who shall refer such to the District's constitution committee for review to ascertain that the provisions are in harmony with Holy Scripture, the Confessions, and the teachings and practices of the Synod. Upon advice of the constitution committee and recommendation by the District President, the District Board of Directors shall determine if the changes are acceptable to the Synod. Upon favorable action by the District Board of Directors, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are acceptable to the Synod and that the congregation is entitled to continue to function as a member of the Synod in good standing under the new or changed constitution or bylaws. Actions by the District Board of Directors under this paragraph shall be reported to the next convention of the District.
- c. It shall be the policy of the Synod to decline membership to congregations whose constitutions deny membership or other congregational privileges to any Christian because of race or ethnic origin.

2.05 Signing Synodical Constitution

- a. The president and secretary of each newly admitted congregation shall, as representatives of the congregation, sign the Constitution of the Synod in a special worship service held by the congregation. In recognition of the importance of the event, the appropriate District President shall normally attend the service. Such shall occur as promptly as possible following approval of the congregation's application for membership.

- b. The signatures to the Constitution on behalf of the congregation shall be preserved by the District Secretary and the year in which the congregation is received into membership shall be noted.