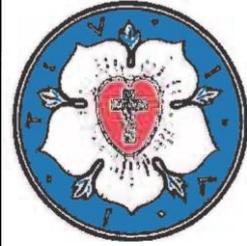




# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



## ELCSA STUDENT ORGANIZATION CONSTITUTION **ADOPTED FOR** **UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH**

### Part I: THE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

#### CHAPTER 1

##### 1.1 Name

The name of the Organization shall be known as the Student Organization of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, hereinafter referred to as ELCSASO.

#### CHAPTER 2

##### 2.1 STATUS

ELCSA Student Organization is constituted according to the provision of the Constitution of ELCSA

#### CHAPTER 3

##### 3.1 MOTTO

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Romans 8:35

### PART II: MISSION

#### CHAPTER 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To **draw** others to Christ.
- 1.2 To help, co-ordinate, inspire, lead and direct its members in the institutions.
- 1.3 To encourage students to serve God with integrity.
- 1.4 To share experiences and to reflect deeply upon the Christian faith in relation to daily life.
- 1.5 To develop each other in body, mind and spirit.
- 1.6 To strive for values of justice, peace, freedom and righteousness as embodied in the Word of God.

*AB*  
*A.M.T.P.*

- 1.7 To develop a spirit of ecumenism as long as such does not infringe upon the teachings of ELCSA.
- 1.8 To meet at least once a week to pray and to help one another with the Word of God;

## PART III: MEMBERSHIP

### CHAPTER 1: MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 Full membership shall be open to all students enrolled at a tertiary institution.
- 1.2 Members shall bring annual registration fee and contribution which had been decided upon by the Organization.

### CHAPTER 2: ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Associate membership shall be granted to any person who acknowledges and agrees with the aims and objectives of the Organization.
- 2.2 An associate member shall not be eligible for election in ELCSASO Organization.

### CHAPTER 3: PROBATION

- 3.1 An intending member shall present himself/herself to the branch Committee of the Organization who in turn shall inform the Pastor-in-charge.
- 3.2 The new recruit shall be put on a probationary program for three (3) months and be installed on the completion of the program.

### CHAPTER 4 INSTALLATION

- 4.1 The day of installation shall be decided upon by the branch Committee in consultation with the Pastor-in-charge.
- 4.2 The installation service shall be performed in a divine service by a Pastor, who shall be assisted by the members of the branch Committee.
- 4.3 There shall be a service of re-registration and re-commitment at the beginning of each year conducted by a Pastor.

### CHAPTER 5: CHURCH RELATIONS

- 5.1 Every branch shall relate to the Parish within which it operates.

### CHAPTER 6: LOSS OF PRIVILEGES

- 6.1 Any member who violates the constitution of the Organization shall be exhorted and admonished as per disciplinary procedures.
- 6.2 After appropriate corrective action, reinstatement shall take place in the branch.

### CHAPTER 7: COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Meetings

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- 3.1 The branch Committee meetings shall be held once per quarter.
- 3.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the chairperson in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Pastor-in-charge.

#### 4. Duties of the Committee

The Committee shall:

- 4.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination, organization and functioning of the Organization in the branch;
- 4.2 Discuss and plan the activities of the branch.
- 4.3 Inform the Pastor in charge about those who wish to join the Organization.
- 4.4 Explain the constitution to the probationers.
- 4.5 Advise fellow-members who lead a life unbecoming of a Christian and thus violate the constitution of the Organization and the church, **after consultation with the pastor-in-charge;**
- 4.6 See to it that attendance and subscription register are kept and that a roll call is taken at the end of the weekly meeting;
- 4.7 Give annual written reports which shall include audited financial statements;
- 4.8 Control funds and property of the league in conjunction with the finance and planning committee;
- 4.9 Scrutinize motions to be presented to the Branch meeting.
- 4.10 Refer unresolved matters to the Churchwide **Committee after consultation with the pastor-in-charge.**

#### 5. The Pastor-in-Charge

The Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the Organization at branch Level

He/she **may**:

- Officially open and close all meetings held in the branch.
- Officiate at elections and inductions of Committees; and

- Have the right to attend all meetings of the Organization as an Ex-Officio Member.

#### 6. THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 6.1 The branch Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.
- 6.2 The committee shall be composed of the vice chairperson; Treasurer and two other members of ELCSASO at branch level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary from amongst its members. The Pastor- in charge shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.

  
A.M. T.P.

6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of **one [1]** years.

6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the branch Committee.

## CHAPTER 7: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

7.1 Disciplinary/appeal/dispute/mediation matters shall be dealt with by the Councils under which the Organization operates.

## CHAPTER 8: ELECTION

The following applies to all levels:

8.1 All office bearers shall be elected from among full members at all levels as follows:

- The branch Committee shall be elected from amongst the members of the Organization at the branch meeting.
- The Churchwide Committee shall be elected from amongst the Branch Committee members at the Churchwide Conference.
- If there is a vacancy in the committee prior to the election year; the Branch Committee shall fill the vacancy by co-opting a member from amongst the Branch Affiliated Members.

## CHAPTER 9: ELECTION SHALL BE DONE BY SECRET BALLOT

8.1 Elections shall be conducted at the following gatherings:

- Branches shall have their elections at their branch meeting.
- Churchwide shall have their elections at their Churchwide Conference.

8.2 Members elected shall hold office for a period of **one year**.

## PART IV: STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

### CHAPTER 1: BRANCH LEVEL

#### 1. BRANCH MEETING

1.1 The branch meetings shall be held at least once per quarter.

1.2 All registered members of the Organization shall have the right to attend the meeting at branch level.

1.3 The branch meeting shall elect the branch Committee.

#### 2. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

2.1 The committee shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the branch attending the meeting.

2.2 Office bearers shall be the chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, vice secretary, treasurer and two additional members.

  
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- 2.4 To form a quorum at least half the number of members plus one including the chairperson, or in his/her absence the vice chairperson, or in his/her absence the secretary shall be present. In the event of none of the aforementioned office bearers being present, no meeting shall be held.
- 2.5 The Pastor-in-charge shall be ex-officio of the league.

## CHAPTER 2: CHURCHWIDE LEVEL

### 1. CHURCHWIDE CONFERENCE

- 1.1 ELCSASO shall have a Churchwide Conference annually.
- 1.2 All Branch Committee members and members shall attend the Churchwide Conference.
- 1.3 ELCSASO Churchwide Conference shall elect the Churchwide Committee.
- 1.4 Voting delegates shall be the Branch Committee's, and ten (10) delegates from each branch.

### 2. Members of the Committee:

- 2.1 Office bearers shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the Branch Committees.
- 2.2 Office bearers shall be the Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Treasurer-General who shall form the Executive Committee.
- 2.3 Additional members shall be the Branch Chairpersons and the Secretaries.
- 2.5 To form a quorum at least half the number of members plus one including the Director-General, or in his/her absence the Deputy Director-General, or in his/her absence the Secretary shall be present. In the event of none of the aforementioned office bearers being present, no meeting shall be held.
- 2.6 If there is a vacancy in the committee prior to the election year, the Churchwide Committee shall fill the vacancy by co-opting a member from amongst the Branch Executive Committee Members.

### 3. MEETINGS

- 3.1 The Churchwide Committee shall meet once a year.
- 3.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Director General in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Presiding Bishop.

### 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Duties of the committee shall:

- 4.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination, organization and functioning of the Organization at Churchwide level.
- 4.2 Be responsible for the life and work of the Organization at Churchwide level.
- 4.3 Co-ordinate the work in all regions at Churchwide level.
- 4.4 Establish and maintain Ecumenical relationships.

- 4.5 Give a written report at the Churchwide Conference and General Assembly which shall include an audited financial statement. All reports shall embody constructive ideas and suggestions arising from activities of different groups. The report shall be signed by the Director General, Secretary General, Treasurer General and the Presiding Bishop.
- 4.6 Scrutinize and approve the motions sent by different branches.
- 4.7 Prepare the budget of the Organization in consultation with the finance and planning committee
- 4.8 Control funds and properties of the League at Churchwide in consultation with the finance and planning committee. Inventory of property shall be sent to the General Secretary and other church official's concerned biennially.
- 4.9 Organize workshops and seminars in order to strengthen the Organization to undertake projects and programs at all levels.

## 5. THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The Presiding Bishop shall be the spiritual leader of the Organization at Churchwide level.

He/she shall:

- Officially open and close all meetings and conferences held at Churchwide level.
- Officiate at elections, induct committee members; and
- Have the right to attend all meetings and Conferences at Churchwide level.

## 6. THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 7.1 The Churchwide Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.
- 7.2 The committee shall be composed of the Deputy Director; Treasurer-General and two other members of ELCASO at Churchwide level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary from amongst its members. The Presiding Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 7.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of two [2] years.
- 7.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Churchwide Committee.

## PART VI: AMENDMENTS

### CHAPTER 1: AMENDMENTS

- 1.1 Proposed amendment/s of this constitution shall be submitted to the Churchwide Committee in writing six months prior to the Churchwide Conference.
- 1.2 Such proposed amendment/s shall be circulated to the Branches within three months prior to the Churchwide Conference.
- 1.3 The two-third majority of the voting members shall approve the proposed amendment/s.

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1.4 The General Assembly shall have the final decision on all amendment/s.

CHAPTER 2: DISSOLUTION

2.1 Should the organization be dissolved, its properties shall remain the properties of the church.

CHAPTER 3: SIGNING

Signed for on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa Student Organization (ELCSA SO)



EV. PB M THE  
GENERAL  
SECRETARY



MR. T MOLOTSANE

DIRECTOR GENERAL



BISHOP AM MNISI  
PRESIDING BISHOP

DATE AND PLACE:  
CHURCH STAMP:

30/08/2018 - BONAERO PARK

