



# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



## ELCSA YOUTH LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

### Part I: THE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

#### CHAPTER 1

##### 1.1 NAME

The name of the Organization shall be known as the Youth League of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, hereinafter referred to as ELCSA YL.

#### CHAPTER 2

##### 2.1 STATUS

ELCSA Youth League is constituted in accordance with the provisions made for it in the Constitution of ELCSA.

#### CHAPTER 3

##### 3.1 MOTTO

"Here am I Lord, send me." Isaiah 6:8b

### PART II: MISSION

#### CHAPTER 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To help, co-ordinate, inspire, lead and direct the youth in Church.
- 1.2 To grow in love, patience and faith in Christ through worship and study of God's word;
- 1.3 To share experience and to reflect, deeply upon the Christian faith in relation to their daily lives;
- 1.4 To take part in all the duties of the Congregation in order to develop Leadership qualities within the Church
- 1.5 To win others for Christ
- 1.6 To develop in body; mind and spirit;
- 1.7 To grow in responsibility within the family and community
- 1.8 To strive for the values of peace, justice, freedom and righteousness as embodied in the kingdom of God
- 1.9 To perform such acts to further progress of the League.
- 1.10 The League members at Congregational Level shall hold weekly prayer meetings.

## **PART III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **CHAPTER 1: MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE**

- 1.1 Membership shall be open to young people from 12 years upwards including those who are in confirmation or baptismal classes.
- 1.2 Members shall bring annual registration fees and contributions which had been decided upon by the League
- 1.3 The names of members shall be recorded in a member book.

### **CHAPTER 2: PROBATION**

- 2.1 Members intending to join the League shall present themselves to the Congregational Committee who in turn shall inform the Congregational Council through the Pastor in charge.
- 2.2 New members shall be put on probation for a period of six months.

### **CHAPTER 3: INSTALLATION**

- 3.1 The day of installation shall be decided upon by the Congregational Committee in consultation with the Pastor-in-charge and inform the Parish Committee.
- 3.2 A candidate for installation shall provide himself/herself with the prescribed uniform with the exception of the brooch which shall be supplied by the Congregational Committee. The brooch shall remain the property of the league.
- 3.3 The installation service shall be performed in a divine service by a Pastor, who shall be assisted by the members of the Youth League Committee.
- 3.4 There shall be a service of re-registration and re-commitment at the beginning of each year conducted by a Pastor.

### **CHAPTER 4: LOSS OF PRIVILEGES**

- 4.1 Any member who persistently disobeys the rules and regulations of the League or who falls under Church discipline shall forfeit the right and privilege to use the brooch.
- 4.2 Any member who forfeited the above right and privilege shall be re-instated after a probationary period of at least three (3) months or if under Church discipline, after absolution.
- 4.3 The Pastor of the Congregation shall do such suspension and re-instatement.
- 4.4 Each member shall receive the brooch of the League, which shall remain its property. The member shall be liable for its replacement in case of loss.

### **CHAPTER 5: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

- 5.1 Disciplinary/appeal/dispute/mediation matters shall be dealt with by the Councils under which the League operates.

### **CHAPTER 6: ELECTION**

- 6.1 The Electorate at each level of the League shall elect the Executive Committee during the election year declared by the church.
- 6.2 All nominations and elections shall be by secret ballot on a one member one vote basis
- 6.3 The Officer in charge at a particular level shall oversee the elections.

- 6.4 Nomination of members for election to the prescribed portfolios shall precede the election for each portfolio.
- 6.5 In the event of a tie in the election for a particular position, voting for those involved in the tie shall be immediately repeated to settle the impasse.
- 6.6 In the event of a member resigning from an Executive position into which he/she was duly elected, the Committee shall nominate persons from among its membership and vote for one of them as a replacement.
- 6.7 If such a motion is carried by the conference the election process shall be initiated and executed in terms of the prescribed procedures of the Constitution to find a replacement during the same conference.
- 6.8 The Executive Committee members shall hold office for a period of six years.
- 6.9 Any member elected within a term to fill a vacancy in the executive committee shall hold office only for the remaining part of the six year term.

#### **PART IV: STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE**

##### **CHAPTER 1: CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL**

###### **1. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

- 1.1 The Congregational meetings shall be held at least once per quarter.
- 1.2 All registered members of the League shall have the right to attend the meeting at Congregational level.
- 1.3 The YL Congregational meeting shall elect the Congregational Committee.
- 1.4 Voting delegates shall be all League members constituting the Congregation.

###### **2. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 The committee shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the Congregational group attending the meeting.
- 2.2 Office bearers shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and two additional members.
- 2.3 To form a quorum at least half the number of members 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.
- 2.4 The Pastor-in-charge shall be an ex-officio member of the League.

###### **3. MEETINGS**

- 3.1 The Congregational 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 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 League in the

Congregation;

- 4.2 Discuss and plan the activities of Congregational group.
- 4.3 Inform the Congregational Council about those who wish to join the League
- 4.4 Explain the Constitution to the probationers. In case of small groups, this should be done by members of the Parish committee;
- 4.5 Advise fellow-members who lead a life unbecoming of a Christian and thus violate the constitution of the League and the Church;
- 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 Parish meeting.
- 4.10 Refer unresolved matters to the Parish Committee.

## **5. The Pastor-in-charge**

The Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the League at Congregational Level

He/she shall:

- Officially open and close all meetings held in the Congregation
- Officiate at elections and inductions of Committees, and
- Have the right to attend all meetings of the League as an ex-officio member.

## **6. THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 The Congregational 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 the YL at Congregational level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Pastor- in charge shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.
- 6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Congregational Committee.

## **. CHAPTER 2: PARISH LEVEL**

### **1. PARISH MEETING**

- 1.1 The YL shall have a Parish meeting once per quarter.
- 1.2 All registered members of the League shall have the right to attend the meeting at Parish level.
- 1.3 The YL Parish meeting shall elect the Parish Committee.
- 1.4 Voting delegates shall be all League members constituting the Parish.

## **2. PARISH COMMITTEE**

### **Members of the Committee**

- 2.1 The committee shall be nominated and elected from amongst all the members Congregational Committees.
- 2.2 Office bearers shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and two additional members.
- 2.3 To form a quorum at least half the number of members 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.
- 2.4 The Pastor-in-charge shall be ex-officer of the League.

### **3. Meetings**

- 3.1 The committee meetings shall be held once per quarter.
- 3.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Chairperson in consultation the Executive 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 League in the Parish.
- 4.2 Organize quarterly meetings of the Parish Committee and prepare the agenda;
- 4.3 Refer unresolved matters to the Circuit Committee.
- 4.4 Give a written report which shall include an audited financial statement at the annual Parish meeting and to the annual Circuit Conference;
- 4.5 Control funds and property of the League in conjunction with the finance and planning committee;
- 4.6 Scrutinize motions to be presented to a Circuit Conference
- 4.7 Fill vacancies which may occur in any of the offices;
- 4.8 See to it that the aims, objectives and Constitution of the League are observed faithfully and effectively in the Parish;

### **5. The Pastor-in-charge**

The Pastor-in-charge shall be the spiritual leader of the League at Congregational level.

He/she shall:

- Officially open and close all meetings held in the Parish
- Officiate at elections and inductions of committees
- Have the right to attend all meetings of the League as an ex-officio member

### **6. THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 The Parish 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 the YL at Parish level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Pastor- in charge shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.
- 6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Parish Committee.

### **CHAPTER 3: CIRCUIT LEVEL**

#### **1. CIRCUIT CONFERENCE**

- 1.1 The YL shall have a Circuit Conference once a year.
- 1.2 All registered members of the League shall have the right to attend the Circuit Conference.
- 1.3 The YL Circuit Conference shall elect the Circuit Committee.
- 1.4 Voting delegates shall be the Parish Committee members and ten (10) delegates from each Parish.

#### **2. Members of the Committee**

- 2.1 The committee shall be nominated and elected from amongst all the members Parish Committees.
- 2.2 Office bearers shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and two additional members.
- 2.3 To form a quorum at least half the number of members 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.
- 2.4 The Dean shall be the ex-officio member of the League.

#### **3. Meetings**

- 3.1 The Circuit Committee shall meet at least twice per year.
- 3.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Chairperson in consultation the Executive and the Dean.

#### **4. Duties of the Committee**

##### **The committee shall:**

- 4.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination and functioning of the League in the Circuit;
- 4.2 Plan and draw the agenda for the meetings of the committee;
- 4.3 See to it that the aims, duties, objectives and the Constitution of the League are carried out faithfully and effectively in the Circuit;
- 4.4 Arrange revivals, conferences, workshops, seminars and meetings with the assistance of Church Servants in the Circuit;
- 4.5 Control funds and properties of the League in conjunction with the finance and planning committee;
- 4.6 See to it that all financial books of the League in the Circuit are audited;

- 4.7 Give a written report to the annual Circuit Conference which shall include an audited financial statement;
- 4.8 Scrutinize all motions to be presented to the Diocesan Conference;
- 4.9 Fill vacancies which may occur in any of the offices;

## **5. The Dean**

The Dean shall be the spiritual leader of the League in the circuit.

He/she shall:

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

## **6. THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 The Circuit 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 the YL at Circuit level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Dean shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.
- 6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Circuit Committee.

## **CHAPTER 4: DIOCESAN LEVEL**

### **1. DIOCESAN CONFERENCE**

- 1.1 The Youth League shall have a Diocesan Conference once per year.
- 1.2 All Diocesan Committee members, all Circuit Committee Members and five (5) delegates from each Parish.
- 1.3 The Youth League Diocesan Conference shall elect the Diocesan Committee.
- 1.4 Voting delegates shall be Circuit Committees and all delegates attending the Conference.

### **2. Members of the Committee**

- 2.1 The committee shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the Circuit Committees.
- 2.2 Elected office bearers shall be the Director, Deputy Director, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer who shall be the Executive Committee.
- 2.3 Additional members of the Committee shall be all Circuits' Chairpersons and Circuits' Secretaries.
- 2.4 To form a quorum at least half the number of members plus one including the Director, or in his/her absence the Deputy Director, 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 Bishop shall be the ex-officio member of the League in the Diocese.

### **3. MEETINGS**

- 3.1 The Diocesan Committee shall meet at least twice per year.
- 3.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Director in consultation the Executive and the Bishop.

### **4. Duties of the Committee**

The committee shall:

- 4.1 Shall be responsible for the co-ordination, organization and functioning of the League in the Diocese
- 4.2 Be responsible for the life and work of the League in the Diocese
- 4.3 Prepare and plan meetings of the committee, biennial conference and its agenda
- 4.4 Co-ordinate the work in the various Circuits of the Diocese
- 4.5 Give a written report at the Diocesan Conference and Diocesan Synod which shall include an audited financial statement. A copy shall be sent to Churchwide committee. All reports shall embody constructive ideas and suggestions arising from activities of different groups; The report shall be signed by the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Bishop.
- 4.6 Control funds and properties of the League in the Diocese in conjunction with the finance and planning committee. The account books shall be audited by the Diocesan auditors annually. Inventory of property shall be sent to the Diocesan Executive Secretary and other Church official's concerned biennial.
- 4.7 Scrutinize all motions to be presented to the Churchwide Youth League Conference;
- 4.8 To fill vacancies in any one of the offices;
- 4.9 Organize workshops and seminars in order to strengthen the League to undertake projects at all levels.

### **5. THE BISHOP**

The Bishop shall be the spiritual leader of the League in the Diocese.

He/she shall:

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

### **6. THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 The Diocesan Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.
- 6.2 The committee shall be composed of the Deputy Director; Treasurer and two other members of the YL at Diocesan level with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.
- 6.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Diocesan Committee.



## **CHAPTER 5: CHURCHWIDE LEVEL**

### **1. CHURCHWIDE CONFERENCE**

- 1.1 The Youth League shall have a Churchwide Conference once in two years.
- 1.2 All Diocesan Committee members, and fifty (50) delegates from each Diocese.
- 1.3 The YL Churchwide Conference shall elect the Churchwide Committee.
- 1.4 Voting delegates shall be the Diocesan Committee's, and ten (10) delegates from each Diocese.

### **2. Members of the Committee:**

- 2.1 Office bearers shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the Diocesan Committees.
- 2.2 Office bearers shall be the Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Secretary-General, Assistant Secretary-General and Treasurer-General who shall be the Executive Committee.
- 2.3 Additional members shall be the Directors of Dioceses and their 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.

### **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 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 League at Churchwide level.
- 4.2 Be responsible for the life and work of the League at Churchwide
- 4.3 Co-ordinate the work in all Dioceses at Churchwide
- 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 Dioceses
- 4.7 Prepare the budget of the League 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 League to undertake projects and programmes at all levels

## **5. THE PRESIDING BISHOP**

The Presiding Bishop shall be the spiritual leader of the League 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**

6.1 The Churchwide Committee shall have a standing committee on finance.

6.2 The committee shall be composed of the Deputy Director; Treasurer-General and two other members of the YL at Churchwide with requisite skills. The finance and planning committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Secretary. The Presiding Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.

6.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.

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

## **PART V: UNIFORM**

### **CHAPTER 1: UNIFORM**

#### **1. Brothers**

- 1.1 Plain formal black trouser
- 1.2 Plain white long sleeve shirt with clear buttons
- 1.3 Black Tie
- 1.4 Plain black pullover (Optional)
- 1.5 Plain black blazer
- 1.6 Formal black formal shoes
- 1.7 Black Socks
- 1.8 The Youth Brooch placed on the left side of the Jacket

**NB Brothers on probation shall put on the uniform excluding the brooch.**

#### **2. Sisters**

- 2.1 Black Skirt – Straight cut at knee length with no belt
- 2.2 White long sleeve school shirt tucked into skirt
- 2.3 Black Collar with Youth brooch

- 2.4 Plain black panty hose stockings
- 2.5 Formal close black shoes – shoes with five inch heels (no boots)
- 2.6 White hat
- 2.7 Formal black Jacket

**NB Sisters on probation shall put on the uniform excluding the hat, collar and brooch.**

## **CHAPTER 2: OCCASIONS FOR DONNING UNIFORM**

### **2. Members should wear the uniform on the following days/events:**

- 2.1 On days of prayer meetings;
- 2.2 At Holy Communion Services;
- 2.3 At Church festivals excluding music festival
- 2.4 At memorial and funerals of the deceased church members
- 2.5 For Baptism and Confirmation services

### **2.7 On occasions of**

- The installations of new members
- Re-registration of members
- Induction of Church Servants
- Ordination of Pastors
- Consecration of Bishops
- Dedication of new Church building
- Unveiling of tombstones

## **PART VI: AMENDMENTS**

### **CHAPTER 1: AMEMNDMENTS**

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

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MS L NKGU  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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BISHOP MM DITLHALE  
PRESIDING BISHOP

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REV PB MATHE  
GENERAL SECRETARY