

Legal Issues for Congregations

Information provided for congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The general counsel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is an attorney, recommended by the presiding bishop, and employed full-time in the Office of the Secretary. As the in-house lawyer for the churchwide organization, the general counsel provides legal advice and services to the officers, the Church Council, the Churchwide Assembly, and the programmatic units in the churchwide office. The general counsel is not the attorney for the whole church, its congregations, members or clergy.


This Web site is part of the general counsel's effort to make general legal information concerning the church more widely available to members, pastors, congregations, synods and affiliated ministries. Through the ELCA Attorneys Association, the general counsel helps synods, congregations, and other affiliates to find qualified attorneys who can represent their legal interests.

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- [Questions About Buildings and Property](#)
- [Questions About Caring for Financial Assets](#)
- [Questions About Employees and Volunteers](#)
- [Questions About](#)
- [Questions About the Use of the Congregation's Computers and the Internet](#)
- [Questions About the Use of Congregation's Vehicles and Equipment](#)
- [Questions About the Work of the](#)

- [Protecting Children and Adults from Abuse](#)
- [Questions About the Congregation's Tax Status](#)
- [Questions About Congregation Ethics and Conflict of Interest](#)
- [Questions About Protecting Members from Fraud](#)
- [Questions About Parliamentary Procedure](#)
- [Clergy](#)
- [Questions About Copyright and Intellectual Property](#)
- [Questions About Insurance and Risk Management](#)
- [Questions About Writing and Amending the Congregation Constitution](#)
- [Legal Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Model Constitution for Congregations](#)
[Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) 

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