



Growing Together in Christ

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



ELCSA PRAYER MEN'S LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

Part I: THE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Chapter 1

1.1 NAME

The name of the Organization shall be known as the Prayer Men's League of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, hereinafter referred to as ELCSA PML.

Chapter 2

2.1 STATUS

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

Chapter 3

3.1 MOTTO

"Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong". 1 Corinthians 16:13

Part II: MISSION

Chapter 1

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To encourage men to study the Word of God.
 - 1.2 To encourage men to organize themselves into the League that shall be a nucleus of men's activities in their Congregations.
 - 1.3 To bring to Christ non-Christians and reawaken the backsliders through the Word of God and encourage them to serve the Lord more actively.
 - 1.4 To encourage, strengthen and comfort the sick, suffering and the bereaved.
 - 1.5 To be an example to the congregants and society in good conduct and upholding of Christian values.
 - 1.6 To encourage men to use their God-given gifts, talents and expertise in Church and Society.
 - 1.7 To encourage the spirit of ecumenism as long as this does not violate the teaching of ELCSA.
 - 1.8 To conscientize men to the challenges, and opportunities in Christian life.
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- 1.9 To be supportive of the mission of the Church.
- 1.10 The League members at Congregational Level shall hold weekly prayer meetings.

PART III: MEMBERSHIP

CHAPTER I: MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE

- 1.1 Membership is open to all confirmed men in good standing in the Congregation and it is denoted by registration for new members and by subscription for annual membership renewal at the Congregational Level. All membership renewal at this level shall be completed by end of January each year.
- 1.2 Membership of the Congregation is denoted by affiliation to the Parish; membership of the Parish is denoted by affiliation to the Circuit; membership of the Circuit is denoted by affiliation to the Diocese; membership of the Diocese is denoted by affiliation to Churchwide.
- 1.3 Men who were not confirmed at the usual age who feel that they are ready to join the League can apply for membership and shall be placed on probation while they are still preparing themselves for confirmation. Once confirmed, they will be installed and the prescribed fees and dues shall be applicable to them.
- 1.5 Registration fee for a new member becomes due on the day of his installation.
- 1.6 Parishes, Circuits and Dioceses may exonerate their veterans from the payment of subscription fees.
- 1.7 Any member may be recommended on account of his good standing in Christian faith and society to be a patron of the League.
- 1.8 Patronship may be bestowed on a man appropriate for such an honor as contemplated in section 1.7 above only at Circuit and Diocese levels. A motion to that effect shall be moved and motivated by any member attending the conference and adopted or rejected at the same conference.
- 1.9 Pastors-in-charge and Assistant Pastors, Deans, Bishops and Presiding Bishop shall be ex-officio members of the League at their respective levels of authority.

CHAPTER 2: AFFILIATION

- 2.1 Congregations shall complete their affiliation to the Parish before the end of February, each year.
- 2.2 Parishes shall complete their affiliation to the Circuit before the end of March, each year.
- 2.3 Circuits shall complete their affiliation to the Diocese before the end of April each year.
- 2.4 Dioceses shall complete their affiliation to the ELCSA Prayer Men's League before the end of May each year.
- 2.5 Veterans may be honoured at various levels of the League without exonerating them from the uniform and fees prescribed at ELCSA level.

CHAPTER 3: PROBATION

- 3.1 Prospective members shall serve a period of probation not exceeding six months. During this period, they should acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Constitution of the League, Constitution of ELCSA, Probationers' syllabus and the code of conduct

CHAPTER 4: INSTALLATION

- 4.1 A member who has resolved to declare his acceptance of and willingness to abide by this constitution shall be installed to full membership of the League.
- 4.2 The day of installation shall be decided upon by the Congregational Committee in consultation with the Pastor-in-charge and inform the Parish Committee.
- 4.3 A candidate for installation shall provide himself with the prescribed uniform with the exception of the brooch/emblem/tie which shall be supplied by the Congregational Committee. The brooch/emblem/tie shall remain the property of the League.
- 4.4 Installation shall confer upon new members the rights, duties and privileges of the League.
- 4.5 The installation service shall be performed in a divine service by a Pastor, who shall be assisted by the members of the Prayer Men's League Committee.
- 4.6 There shall be a service of re-registration and re-commitment at the beginning of each year conducted by a Pastor.
- 4.7 Registration fee for a new member becomes due on the day of his installation.
- 4.8 The induction of the Executive Committee shall be conducted by the Pastor in charge at the relevant level.

CHAPTER 5: LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Membership shall terminate at death of a member or written voluntary resignation or verbal declaration.
- 5.2 Any member who is guilty of misconduct by failure to comply with this Constitution or who is under church discipline or who undermines/defeats the aims and objects of the League, or who neglects his responsibilities towards the League, and/or the church, shall forfeit his rights and privileges of the League.
- 5.3 He who has forfeited his rights and privileges due to Church discipline can be reinstated as a full member after being absolved.

CHAPTER 6: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

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

CHAPTER 7: ELECTION

- 7.1 The Electorate at each level of the League shall elect the Executive Committee during the election year declared by the church.
- 7.2 All nominations and elections shall be by secret ballot on a one member one vote basis.
- 7.3 The Officer in charge at a particular level shall oversee the elections.
- 7.4 Nomination of members for election to the prescribed portfolios shall precede the election for each portfolio.
- 7.5 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.

- 7.6 In the event of a member resigning from an Executive position into which he was duly elected, the General Executive Committee shall nominate persons from among its membership and vote for one of them as a replacement.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 The Executive Committee members shall hold office for a period of six years.
- 7.9 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 Prayer Men's League 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 League attending the meeting.
- 2.2 Office bearers shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and two additional members.
- 2.3 Where membership of the Congregational group is less than ten, assistant officials and additional committee members shall not be elected.
- 2.4 To form a quorum at least half the number plus one including the Chairperson, or in his absence the Vice Chairperson, or in his 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 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 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 League.

- 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 Prayer Men's League 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 PML 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 PML 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 of 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 plus one including the Chairperson, or in his absence the Vice Chairperson, or in his 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-officio member 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 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 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 PML 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 Prayer Men's League 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 PML 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 of the 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 plus one including the Chairperson, or in his absence the Vice Chairperson, or in his 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 PML 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 PML shall have a Diocesan Conference once per year.
- 1.2 All registered members of the League shall have a right to attend the Diocesan Conference.
- 1.3 The PML Diocesan Conference shall elect the Diocesan Committee.
- 1.4 Voting delegates shall be Circuit Committees and ten (10) delegates elected by the Circuit Conference.

2. Members of the Committee

- 2.1 The committee shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of 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 The ten (10) additional delegates are elected to attend Churchwide conference.
- 2.5 To form a quorum at least half the number of members plus one including the Director, or in his absence the Deputy Director, or in his 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 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 Prayer Men's 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 PML 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 Prayer Men's League shall have a Churchwide Conference once in two years.
- 1.2 All registered members of the League shall have a right to attend the Churchwide Conference.
- 1.3 The PML Churchwide Conference shall elect the Churchwide Committee.
- 1.4 Voting delegates shall be the Diocesan Committee members and ten (10) delegates elected by the Diocesan Conference.

2. Revival Rally

Revival Rallies shall be held biennially alternating with the Conference.

3. Members of the Committee:

- 3.1 Office bearers shall be nominated and elected from amongst members of the Diocesan Committees.
- 3.2 Office bearers shall be the Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Secretary-General, Assistant Secretary-General and Treasurer-General who shall be the Executive Committee.
- 3.3 Additional members shall be the Directors of Dioceses and Secretaries.
- 3.5 To form a quorum at least half the number of members plus one including the Director-General, or in his absence the Deputy Director-General, or in his absence the Secretary shall be present. In the event of none of the aforementioned office bearers being present, no meeting shall be held.

4. MEETINGS

- 4.1 The Churchwide Committee shall meet at least twice a year.
- 4.2 Extraordinary meetings shall be called if necessary by the Director General in consultation with the Executive and the Presiding Bishop.

5. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Duties of the committee shall:

- 5.1 Be responsible for the co-ordination, organization and functioning of the League at Churchwide level.
- 5.2 Be responsible for the life and work of the League at Churchwide

- 5.3 Co-ordinate the work in all Dioceses at Churchwide
- 5.4 Establish and maintain Ecumenical relationships.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 Scrutinize and approve the motions sent by different Dioceses
- 5.7 Prepare the budget of the league in consultation with the finance and planning committee
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 Organize workshops and seminars in order to strengthen the League to undertake projects and programmes at all levels

6. 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.

7. 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 the PML 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.
- 7.3 The Finance and Planning Committee members shall hold office for a period of six [6] years.
- 7.4 The Finance and Planning Committee shall be responsible to the Churchwide Committee.

PART V: UNIFORM

CHAPTER 1: UNIFORM

- 1. The official uniform of the league shall be:**
 - 1.1 Grey Trouser
 - 1.2 White Shirt
 - 1.3 Black Tie with the Men's League Badge
 - 1.4 Black Blazer with the Men's League Brooch and Badge
 - 1.5 Black Shoes

- 1.6 Black Socks
- 1.7 Black Jersey with Men's League Badge
- 1.8 The Men's Broach
- 1.9 The Men's Badge

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 members of the League, Church Servants, Elders, members of other Leagues
 - 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 ChurchwidePrayer Men's League Committee in writing six months prior to the ChurchwideConference.
- 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 GeneralAssembly shall have the final decision on all amendment/s.

CHAPTER2: 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 Prayer Men's League (ELCSA PML)

MRMG RATLABALA
DIRECTOR GENERAL

BISHOP MM DITLHALE
PRESIDING BISHOP

REV PB MATHE
GENERAL SECRETARY