



# Preparation – Synod 24 to 27 October 2013

- **Unity between ELCSA (N-T) and ELCSA (Cape)**
- **Proposed change to process of placing and electing pastors**
- **Church Law 2 – 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution**
  - Only Section 3 of Church Law 2 2011 was voted on and adopted
  - Two remaining sections as modified in 2011 resubmitted for adoption
- **Church Law 3 – 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution**
  - Term of Bishop limited to 2 terms
- **Church Law 1**
  - Financial Review
  - Budgets



## Unity between ELCOSA (N-T) and ELCOSA (Cape)

- **Combined Pastors Convention October 2012**
  - Recommended far reaching steps towards closer cooperation
- **ELCOSA (Cape) Synod June 2013**
  - Unanimously adopted motion to
  - “engagement in view of marriage”
  - Church Council instructed to engage ELCOSA (N-T) Church Council to jointly work on
    - Constitutional, legal, financial and practical matters
  - Communicate at four formal levels
    - Congregation, circuit, church and synod



## Unity between ELCOSA (N-T) and ELCOSA (Cape)

- **Proposal is that ELCOSA (N-T) adopts reciprocal motion**
  - “engagement in view of marriage”
  - Church Council instructed to engage ELCOSA (Cape) Church Council to jointly work on
    - Constitutional, legal, financial and practical matters
  - Communicate at four formal levels
    - Congregation, circuit, church and synod
- Consider a process and timeframe for preparation and implementation of unity



# Placing of Pastors

- **Current Situation**
  - **Church Council can place**
    - Pastor-coll in consultation with congregational council
    - Pastor after 12 years in one congregation
  - **Congregation can**
    - Advertise, call or request Church Council to present a candidate
    - General meeting elects the Pastor except for Pastor-coll
  - **Observations**
    - Church Council cannot implement placing of Pastors
    - Congregations tend to elect “known” Pastors
    - The proposal is practiced in number of regional churches in Germany
- **Principles**
  - Preferably placing is achieved in consultation and agreement between Pastor, congregation (both council and general meeting) and Church Council
  - Balance interests and rights of parties to create practical framework in the long-term interest of church
  - Enable Church Council to place Pastors
  - Congregation through general meeting has the right to elect if the previous vacancy was placed by Church Council
- **Proposal**
  - Church council can place a Pastor in a congregation if the previous Pastor was elected by the congregation
  - Synod mandates Church Council to prepare the necessary changes for the next Synod



# Church Law 2 – 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment of Constitution

- **Motivation as submitted to 2011 Synod**
- **Lay Member of Circuit Council**
  - **Currently elected as alternate to Lay Member of Church Council**
    - Lay Member of Circuit Council not treated as an office
    - No induction to Circuit Council
    - No alternate to Lay Member of Circuit Council
    - Synod, Circuit Council and Church Council terms not aligned – 2 year gap
  - **Principles**
    - Ensures election of all members for circuit council as well as alternates
    - Improves continuity and functioning of circuit council and aligns terms
    - Improves succession from Synod to circuit to church council
  - **Proposal**
    - Lay Member of Circuit Councils are members of Synod ex officio
    - Elected for six years at the same session as Lay Member of Church Council
- **Synod Council Members elected for 6 years**
  - clarifies that Synod Council leads till the end of the election of its successors



## Church Law 3 – 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of Constitution

- **Term of Bishop limited to 2 terms**
  - **Apply the two term limit now to all elected offices in the Church**
  - **Amendment to Constitution and Rules on the election of the Bishop**
  - **Considered at 2007 Synod one term before the next election of Bishop**
    - **Although the majority voted in favour it failed to achieve the required 2/3 majority**