

CONSTITUTION

INTERIM MINISTRY ASSOCIATION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Adopted June 2003

Amended May 25, 2006

Amended May 24, 2007

Amended June 26, 2014

I. NAME:

The name of this organization shall be the **Interim Ministry Association - ELCA**. The Association is related to the Churchwide Office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through ~~the Vocation and Education unit or its successor~~ a liaison appointed by the appropriate unit of the ELCA.

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the IMA is to strengthen and sustain excellence in interim ministry within the ELCA.

III. MEMBERSHIP:

A. Those eligible for membership in the IMA are those rostered leaders in good standing of the ELCA and the full-communion partners of the ELCA who are committed to fostering the practice of intentional interim ministry.

B. Voting members shall be those who have paid their membership dues for the current calendar year and are in attendance at the annual meeting.

IV. GOALS:

A. The goals of IMA are twofold: serving the Church and serving IMA members.

1. In serving the Church, IMA will:

- a. Promote clarity of language about interim ministry.
- b. Advocate high performance standards for all who practice interim ministry.
- c. Encourage effective placement of pastors and other leaders in congregations experiencing transition.
- d. Promote understanding of the difference between polity tasks (call process) and ~~basic developmental tasks~~ focus points (congregation in transition), which are:
 - (1.) ~~come to terms with history~~ heritage
 - (2.) ~~affirm the new congregational identity~~ mission
 - (3.) ~~allow for necessary leadership changes~~ leadership
 - (4.) ~~strengthen denominational ties~~ connections
 - (5.) ~~prepare for new pastoral leadership.~~ future
- e. ~~Advise the staff of the Vocation and Education unit on interim ministry.~~

2. In serving its members, IMA will:

- a. Provide support for one another as interim practitioners by providing for an annual conference and encouraging the formation of regional support groups and participation by its members in such groups.
- b. Provide a unified voice in advocating with the churchwide agencies and departments on behalf of committed practitioners of interim ministry regarding issues of concern.
- c. Promote more effective interim ministry, sharing experiences and opportunities for continuing education.
- d. Provide for communication with constituents and other church partners through print and/or electronic media.

V. GOVERNANCE:

- A. Governance of IMA is conducted by the Annual Meeting on behalf of its membership.
- B. A governing board, consisting of 5 or more members in good standing of IMA, who, at the time of election, are engaged in the practice of intentional interim ministry, and are rostered in the ELCA, shall conduct IMA business between annual meetings.
- ~~C. The Executive Director of the Vocation and Education unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor shall appoint one person who will serve as an advisory member of the board. This advisor shall participate in meetings of the board and the annual meeting of the Association, and shall receive copies of all minutes and financial reports~~
- ~~D.~~ Board members shall be elected by the Annual Meeting for three-year terms, renewable once. Terms of board members shall be staggered to promote continuity of leadership and rotation of membership. If a position becomes vacant during the three-year term, the Board may appoint a replacement to serve until the next Annual Meeting, at which point a candidate will be elected to serve the balance of that term; that candidate will also be eligible for reelection, not to exceed a total of seven consecutive years of service.
- ~~E.~~ A quorum of the board may conduct urgent business as required. A quorum will be a simple majority of the board.
- ~~F.~~ The Association Board shall provide for an annual business meeting of IMA.
- ~~G.~~ The Association Board shall appoint two members in good standing of the IMA who are not serving on the Board to conduct an annual financial audit.
- ~~H.~~ The Association Board reports to the Annual Meeting of IMA members. Its report is to be made available to members via electronic media following this meeting.
- ~~I. Members of the NALIP Coordinating Council shall be elected by the Annual Meeting for one five-year term (first year as a “shadow” then as a full member of the Coordinating Council for the remaining four years), not renewable. One member shall be elected every other year or as needed to fill partially expired term. Members of the NALIP Coordinating Council shall make reports to the Board.~~
- ~~J. The Association Board shall make recommendations for NALIP consideration based upon the input from the annual meeting.~~
- ~~K. The Association Board shall receive a complete annual report from NALIP, including the treasurer’s and audit reports.~~

~~L. The Association Board will appoint one member in good standing of IMA to serve on the NALIP audit committee.~~

MH. The Association Board shall oversee other projects suggested by the IMA annual meeting. This work may be delegated to IMA Task Forces.

~~N. The Association Board will insure that the IMA promptly remits its designated share of NALIP support.~~

VI. OFFICERS:

A. Officers of the Association Board shall be Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, with the usual duties of those offices.

B. The Chair and Secretary shall be elected from among the members of the board and shall serve for two-year terms, renewable once. Terms of office for the Chair and Secretary shall be staggered to promote continuity of leadership and rotation of officers.

C. The Treasurer shall be appointed yearly from among the members of IMA, and serve no more than 5 consecutive years.

VII. AMENDMENTS:

A. Amendments to this document may be proposed by the Association Board in writing to the membership not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting.

B. The Association Board will accept and review suggestions for amendment from members and make recommendations to the IMA membership in writing not less than 60 days prior to the next annual meeting.

C. Amendments to this document may also be proposed by action of the annual meeting.

D. Amendments to this document will be adopted upon a 2/3 vote of the voting members attending the annual meeting.

~~E. Amendments to this document should be drafted in consultation with the ELCA Vocation and Education program unit and must be approved by the ELCA Church Council.~~

VIII. DUES:

A. Members shall pay annual dues. These dues enable IMA to provide communication, advocacy, and some resources for its membership and the ELCA and underwrite the costs of the work of the Association Board ~~and NALIP.~~

B. The amount of dues will be determined by the Association Board and approved by the annual meeting.

IX. DISSOLUTION:

Upon dissolution, this association will disburse any assets to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for the support of transitional ministries.