

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Chapter 17
ADJUDICATION

- *S17.01.** The synodical Bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this Synod.
- *S17.02.** The synodical Bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from ordained ministers, associates in ministry or other persons on the official lay rosters of the church, congregations, and organizations within this Synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. When the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, the prescribed procedures for investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline of an ordained minister or a person on the official lay roster of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- *S17.03.** When there is disagreement among units of this Synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the synodical Bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for a consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Synod Council requesting it to arbitrate the issue. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.
- *S17.04.** When a component or beneficiary of a Synod has a disagreement on a substantive issue that it cannot resolve, it may address an appeal to the synodical Bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.
- *S17.10.** Adjudication in a Congregation
- *S17.11.** When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical Bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this Synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of this Synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.