

congregations develop a sound procedural routine for handling them. There are several other resource documents that address the substance of the two matters subject to ratification this year. Finally, I have included a model ballot and the Notice of Ratification Vote form to assist you in this process.

Under Section 17.03 of the Provisional Constitution, ratification can take up to a year. However, I urge all congregations to act within the next six months (which, incidentally, is the time that would be allowed for ratification under the proposed Constitutional Amendments). Time is of the essence. In order to prepare properly for the 2012 Convocation, the Executive Council and the Nominating Committee need to know well in advance whether the proposed Constitutional Amendments have been approved or whether instead the Provisional Constitution will remain in effect.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, either about the process or about the two items subject to ratification, please contact:

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These items that you are being asked to consider for ratification are very important in our life together. The Constitution provides for good order, making us more effective in mission and ministry. The full-communion agreement with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus gives expression to our oneness in Christ, our willingness to participate in mission to the ends of the earth, and our commitment to develop partnerships with other faithful, orthodox Christians for mutual encouragement and strength.

The result of our involvement in this process is a stronger witness to the world regarding our commitment to Jesus Christ. I close with the final portion of scripture I shared with you on that first day, encouraging you with Paul's words to the church in Rome. "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry and for taking time to strengthen our work together by the direct involvement of every congregation that constitutes the North American Lutheran Church.

I remain humbled by your affirmation, honored by your trust and strengthened by your prayers.



Rev. John F. Bradosky, Bishop