

Translation from Norwegian

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN MISSION

OBJECTS AND FOUNDATION

Art. 1

The objective of the Norwegian Lutheran Mission (“NLM”) is the spread of the Kingdom of God. To this end, NLM will preach the Gospel and promote missionary work nationally and internationally. We will train, send out and support missionaries, and train and support national personnel in the mission fields, in China in particular, but also in other countries.

Art. 2

NLM builds its work on Holy Scripture, the Ecumenical creeds, the Augsburg Confession and Luther’s Small Catechism.

NLM requires of its associates that they teach and administer the sacraments in accordance with Holy Scripture and the Confession.

Art. 3

NLM is composed of *mission fellowships** which are registered in the regions to which they naturally belong, and which will work to promote NLM’s objects as provided for in Arts.1 and 2.

* The term “mission fellowship” is used by NLM as a collective term for the various types of fellowships, associations, groups and congregations for adults, children and young people. They must be registered in one of NLM’s regions in order to send delegates to the General Assembly.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Art. 4

The General Assembly is NLM’s highest decision-making authority (see, however, Arts. 8, 13 and 14).

The General Assembly shall transact the following business:

- Overarching strategy plans for the work at national and international levels.
- The Central Executive Board’s three-year report and a general outline of the work to be conducted at national and international levels during the subsequent three years.
- Financial statements for the three-year period for the two accounting entities of NLM for the three-year period.
- The allocation of financial resources between NLM’s work at national and international levels.
- The report of the Control Committee.
- The establishment of missions to new population groups. In cases that require a speedy decision or that are of a sensitive nature, the Central Executive Board has the authority to decide questions of the establishment of missions.
- Amendments to the Constitution.
- Any other business proposed by the Central Executive Board and/or the Council Meeting (see also Art. 9, second paragraph).

The General Assembly shall elect (see Art. 6):

- The Central Executive Board
- The Control Committee
- The Election Committee/Credentials Committee

Moreover, the General Assembly shall make time available for meetings, Bible classes, informative and mission-inspiring lectures and provide opportunities for informed discussions of the work.

Art. 5

The General Assembly convenes every three years by the end of the month of July.

The General Assembly comprises:

- delegates from mission fellowships that are registered in the regions no later than one month before the General Assembly convenes. Mission fellowships elect delegates to the General Assembly. Mission fellowships with up to 25 members are represented by one delegate, while mission fellowships with 26-50 members are represented by two delegates. In the case of mission fellowships with membership numbers in excess of this, one new delegate is elected for every 50th member,
- the seven elected members of the Central Executive Board. These members do not have voting rights on business proposed by the Control Committee.

All delegates must be participants in NLM's work, be aged 18 or over and present a letter of proxy.

Art. 6

The General Assembly elects the members of the Central Executive Board for six-year terms of office. Every third year, three and four of these members stand down in alternation. They may be re-elected. The General Assembly elects four deputy members to the Central Executive Board for three-year terms of office. Separate elections are held for deputy members.

The General Assembly elects a three-member Control Committee for six-year terms of office and one deputy member for three-year terms of office. Every third year one and two of these members stand down in alternation. They may be re-elected.

The General Assembly elects an Election Committee/Credentials Committee for the next General Assembly comprising five members and three deputy members.

Employees of the Central Executive Board's administrative staff cannot be members of the Central Executive Board, the Control Committee or the Election Committee/Credentials Committee.

Art. 7

The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly. The Extraordinary General Assembly may consider and adopt resolutions only on business proposed by the Central Executive Board and/or the Council Meeting.

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Art. 8

The Central Executive Board comprises seven members elected by the General Assembly and heads the work of NLM.

The Central Executive Board is quorate when at least four of its members are present. The General Secretary attends and has the right to address and table motions at Central Executive Board meetings but has no voting rights. One representative of the National Board of NLM Ung (the youth wing of NLM) attends and has the right to speak and table motions at Central Executive Board meetings but has no voting rights.

Art. 9

The Central Executive Board convenes the General Assembly to meet on the specified date. It presents the three-year report and financial statements to the Assembly. The report shall provide a clear picture of the work conducted at national and international levels and present a general outline of the work to be performed during the next three years. The Central Executive Board prepares and presents other business for discussion by the General Assembly. Business of this nature must be prepared and communicated to the mission fellowships no later than one month before the date of the General Assembly.

Registered mission fellowships may also present business to the General Assembly. Business of this nature must reach the Central Executive Board no later than three months before the date of the General Assembly.

Art. 10

The Central Executive Board constitutes itself and elects its Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members.

The Central Executive Board

- shall concretise, implement and evaluate strategy for the work
- shall review annual reports and reports from NLM's various areas of activity
- shall put in place the overarching financial regulations governing the work
- shall adopt annual budgets in accordance with the strategies adopted by the General Assembly and submit audited financial statements as at 31 December
- shall appoint the General Secretary and heads of department at Head Office
- shall appoint and station missionaries¹
- shall appoint lay preachers
- shall fix terms of employment and pay for NLM's employees

¹ The term *missionaries* is used in NLM's Constitution as a collective term for all associates in the service of NLM internationally.

- may enter into binding agreements with collaborating churches and international organisations
- may render opinions on current issues of significance to the work
- shall elect the necessary boards, committees and councils and adopt guidelines governing their work
- shall approve purchases, sales and mortgaging of real property (see Art. 19)

The appointment of the General Secretary, head of NLM Norge and head of NLM Utland (NLM's international activities) are subject to the approval of the elected members of the National Supervisory Council (see Art. 12).

Appointments of missionaries and lay preachers are subject to the approval of the National Supervisory Council (see Art. 12).

Art. 11

NLM is committed in every respect when two of the following persons sign on behalf of the Central Executive Board: The Chair, Vice Chair or General Secretary. The Central Executive Board may confer power of procuracy.

THE NATIONAL SUPERVISORY COUNCIL

Art. 12

The National Supervisory Council has overarching responsibility for spiritual supervision within the organisation and shall therefore be kept up-to-date on and involved in the work of spiritual supervision at national level. The National Supervisory Council shall present a report to the Council Meeting and prepare and convene Council Meetings at least once every year. The National Supervisory Council comprises five supervisors and two deputy supervisors elected from amongst the ranks of the Council Meeting's elected representatives. The elected representatives on the Supervisory Council shall:

- approve the appointment of the General Secretary, the head of NLM, the head of NLM Utland (NLM's international activities).
- Approve the appointment of missionaries and lay preachers

THE COUNCIL MEETING

Art. 13

The Council Meeting has special doctrinal responsibility on behalf of the entire organisation and therefore comprises men.

The Council Meeting shall convene for the first time no later than three months after the General Assembly.

One fourth of the members of the Council Meeting or a minority of three members of the Central Executive Board may call for a Council Meeting to be convened.

The Council Meeting comprises the regional supervisory councils (see Art. 17), the General Secretary, the head of NLM Norge, the head NLM Utland (NLM's international activities), the members of the Central Executive Board and two deputy members, as well as two members elected by the National Board of NLM Ung (the youth wing of NLM).

The members of the Central Executive Board and the members elected by the National Board of NLM Ung attend and have the right to speak and table motions but have no voting rights. The Control Committee has the right to attend in an observational capacity.

The votes of the representatives of the regional supervisory councils are weighted according to the number of mission fellowships in their individual regions with one vote per 100 mission fellowships. Up to 100 mission fellowships: one vote; up to 200 mission fellowships: two votes, etc.

The Council Meeting elects five supervisors and two deputy supervisors from amongst its members to the National Supervisory Council. These persons must not be employees of Head Office or the regions.

The National Supervisory Council may convene persons who it considers should take part in the Council Meeting, but only elected representatives have voting rights.

The Council Meeting constitutes itself.

Art. 14

The business that the Council Meeting is to consider must be prepared by the National Supervisory Council and circulated among the members of the Council Meeting no later than one month before the date of the meeting. The business documents must be made public. In the case of matters in which the Council Meeting adopts the final decision, this must be made clear in the documentation of the matter at hand.

The Central Executive Board may ask the Council Meeting to consider matters of a doctrinal nature. In addition, the Council Meeting shall consider doctrinal documents, statements and guidelines.

If the Council Meeting advises the General Assembly that it should adopt amendments to the Constitution of a doctrinal nature, a two thirds majority of the Council Meeting is required.

The Council Meeting decides what constitutes an amendment to the Constitution of a doctrinal nature on the basis of a simple majority.

The members of the Council Meeting may add business to the agenda of the Council Meeting and require such business to be transacted. This must take place no later than three months before the meeting in question is held. The Council Meeting adopts final decisions on issues of principle in doctrinal matters and on matters passed on to it by the previous General Assembly.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

Art. 15

The Central Executive Board and the National Supervisory Council call, initiate and send out missionaries to the mission fields on behalf of NLM.

A Missionary Conference is held every year. The Missionary Conference is NLM's highest decision-making authority in the individual country/area. All Conference decisions require the approval of the Central Executive Board.

The Central Executive Board lays down the ground rules for missionaries.

The international missionary work is headed within the terms of the framework laid down by the Central Executive Board, the Conference and the collaboration agreements with the national church, where such agreements exist.

THE REGIONS

Art. 16

NLM's activities in Norway are divided into regions. Each year, these regions hold regional meetings. The work of the regions is headed by a Regional Board.

The Annual Regional Meeting shall *inter alia*:

- elect the Regional Board and the Regional Council for Children and Youth Ministry
- consider the annual report and the income statement
- elect two permanent representatives and one deputy representative to the Regional Supervisory Council and Council Meeting. (See Art. 13)

Art. 17

The Regional Board calls and appoints personnel in its region.

The appointment of Regional Leader, Leader of Children and Youth Ministry, Administrative Leader and permanent appointment of lay preachers is subject to the approval of the Regional Supervisory Council.

The Regional Supervisory Council has special responsibility for spiritual supervision in the region and is therefore composed of men. The Regional Supervisory Council comprises the Regional Leader and two permanent representatives and a deputy representative elected by the Regional Annual General Meeting for three-year terms of office.

The Central Executive Board has the authority to ask the Regional Board to put in place measures necessary to safeguard a good working environment and compliance with the provisions of NLM's Constitution, Value Statement and contracts of employment.

PROPERTY/FINANCES

Art. 18

All donations to NLM in the regions or to the mission fellowships in the regions shall be regarded as NLM's property and shall not be used for any other purpose.

Art. 19

Properties and parts of properties belonging to NLM's mission fellowships, local associations, institutions or regions in Norway shall be understood to be the property of NLM and their use is decided exclusively by the Central Executive Board. The same applies to NLM's properties outside Norway.

The purchase, sale or mortgaging of real property requires the approval of the Central Executive Board or the Central Executive Board's authorised representative.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Art. 20

This Constitution may be amended only by a two thirds majority of a General Assembly following the announcement of the amendment proposal in the manner provided for in Art. 9. Amendments of this nature must not contravene NLM's objectives and principles as expressed in Arts.1 and 2.

True translation certified

Government Authorized Translator