



# Congregational Constitution, Immanuel Church

*The Congregational constitution comprises **Theological foundation**, Congregational statutes and byelaws, adopted by Immanuel Church in Stockholm on **XXX**.*

*Immanuel Church is affiliated to the Uniting Church in Sweden (Equmeniakyrkan) and shares the view of the Church and congregation expressed in the Theological foundation of the Uniting Church in Sweden. **The official language of the congregation is Swedish.***

## **Theological foundation**

### *About the Church*

The Church is one, holy, universal and apostolic. The Church is one, which reflects the unity of the triune God, with whom the Church lives in fellowship. The foundation of this unity is in God as Father, Son, and Spirit. The Church is the body of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit and the people of God. It is called to manifest its unity within the framework of the diversity of humanity and all creation. The Church is holy because it is created and chosen by God. The Church is universal because it transcends all boundaries and proclaims the Gospel to all people and all creation. The Church is apostolic because it is sent into the world. It rests on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and has Christ as its cornerstone.<sup>(1)</sup>

The Church is visible in the world, the small group and the local congregation, as well as in the denomination and the universal Church.

The Christian faith has its foundation in Christ and Holy Scripture. The Apostolic and Nicene creeds are summaries, testifying to this faith. On the basis of these creeds, the Uniting Church in Sweden affirms that it belongs to the whole of God's Church.<sup>(2)</sup>

The Uniting Church in Sweden is a fellowship of both congregations and people confessing Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.<sup>(3)</sup>

The Uniting Church in Sweden is part of the worldwide Church and shares in its Christian confession and worship of God. The Uniting Church in Sweden traces elements of its heritage from the testimony of the apostles and God's dealings with his Church in all times and among all people. Prominent features of this heritage include the emphasis on personal commitment to Christ, the responsibility of the individual within the congregation and society, and democratic forms of decision-making. This heritage has its historic roots in the United Methodist Church of Sweden, the Baptist Union of Sweden and the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden.

In a divided world, the church aims to be a sign of a fellowship that is rooted in the unity of the triune God. It is through the unity of Christians that the world will come to faith. This unity needs to be continually renewed and confirmed, growing in diversity of faith and deed. Ecumenism involves prayer and working for unity between local congregations and between different denominations. The Uniting Church in Sweden is a temporal provision, awaiting the visible unity of the Church of Christ. <sup>(4)</sup>

### *About the Congregation*

The congregation is the body of Christ, where the divine and the human meet. The local congregation gathers regularly for worship, where the Word of God and the Gospel are shared, baptism takes place, and the Lord's Supper is celebrated. <sup>(5)</sup>

Christ is made visible through the fellowship of believers and in the mission of the congregation to proclaim the Gospel and practise the ministry of love among fellow human beings. <sup>(6)</sup>

The congregation is independent and democratically responsible for its own ministry; at the same time it is part of the Uniting Church in Sweden.

### *Notes to the **Theological foundation***

1. Matt. 28:18–20, Mark 16:15, John 15:12–17, Col. 3:12–17, Eph. 2:4–22, 4:15–16
2. Isa. 40:8, 1 Cor. 3:11, 2 Tim. 3:16–17
3. Rom. 10:9, 1 Cor. 8:6, Phil. 2:9–11
4. John 17:21–23, Eph. 3:11–4:6, Phil. 2:1–5, 1 John 1:3
5. 1 Cor. 12:12–27, Col. 3:16–17 6. Matt. 25:31–40, James. 1:19–27

## **Congregational Statutes**

*The congregation of Immanuel Church has adopted these Congregational statutes to describe its life, focus and goals.*

### *The Congregation*

The congregation is created by God and is a fellowship of all who have become members of the body of Christ through faith. The congregation is called to be the visible body of Christ. Only God knows who in truth belongs to God's people.

The congregation is affiliated to the Uniting Church in Sweden and shares the view of the Church and congregation expressed in the theological foundation and byelaws of the Uniting Church in Sweden.

The congregation, as a living fellowship, is described in different Biblical metaphors:

- branches that are one with, and take their strength from, the vine, <sup>(1)</sup>
- members of one and the same body, where Christ is the head of the Church, <sup>(2)</sup>
- living stones in a house, where Christ is the cornerstone and the apostles and prophets the foundation, <sup>(3)</sup>
- God's own people, whose citizenship and home are with God, <sup>(4)</sup>
- a family, with God as the Father and the disciples God's children, <sup>(5)</sup> and
- those who belong to the Way. <sup>(6)</sup>

The Church becomes visible when people join in worship around the Word of God and the sacraments in faithfulness to the Apostolic faith. This fellowship exists for the sake of the whole of God's world.

The congregation is called to be a sign of God's will for the future unity of mankind and accordingly aims to make diversity manifest: people of all ages, from different countries and with different languages, all with different gifts. The fellowship is enriched when different experiences, varied interpretations of the Bible and independent points of view on questions relating to the consequences of faith in life are shared in humility, openness, love and sensitivity. Each and every one serves the congregation and the surrounding world as they are able.

### *Centre and Spiritual Wellspring*

Jesus Christ crucified, dead and risen is the centre of the congregation, which is nourished by and lives through the Word of God, the sacraments and fellowship in Christ, as a body both assembled and sent into the world. The assembled congregation is strengthened by communal worship: singing to the glory of God, prayer, confession, restoration and renewal, the

preaching of God's Word, baptism and the Lord's supper, and intercessory prayer. An encounter with the Holy One and fellowship with God's people prepares the congregation for everyday service in word and deed among fellow human beings. <sup>(7)</sup>

### *Purpose*

The Church exists in the world and for the world. Through mission, witness, service and fellowship, the congregation manifests the presence of Christ and shares in the daily life of the people where it is situated.

The Church lives out this mission through:

- evangelism – carrying the Good News about Jesus Christ to all people,
- ministries of care – meeting everyone through acts of love, and
- fellowship – building signs of unity in a divided world, with joy in life and with expectation for and hope in God's future.

The Church is holistic, seeking to meet the needs of people of all ages and in different life situations.

The Church is sent into the whole of creation. The congregation's meetings with other churches, and with society and culture, enrich its own understanding of the richness and diversity of the Gospel. In this way, faith and responsibility are expanded. The congregation aims to work for unity with other Christians in the same locality through fellowship in worship, the Lord's Supper, evangelism and ministries of care. The congregation's mission is a part of the larger mission of the Uniting Church in Sweden, crossing all boundaries.

Therefore the congregation seeks to:

- show the way to faith in Jesus Christ and invite people into lifelong fellowship with him in the congregation, and share the calling of the whole Church in taking the Gospel to all nations,
- live in the everyday, at work and in society, assert everyone's equal dignity, protect what is righteous and reveal what is unrighteous, encourage community participation, contribute to an equal sharing of global resources and be a responsible steward of God's creation, and
- build a fellowship that is open to all, while serving as an instrument of reconciliation in the immediate surroundings and in the whole of God's world.

### *Baptism into Christ*

Baptism into Christ is a gift of God that is received in faith. Through the congregation's openness to God's work in different baptismal traditions, both child baptism and baptism

based on personal confession are offered. The congregation also aims to help people renew the gift and promise of their own baptism and to live it out in their lives.

Children are baptised in the congregation at the request of their parents, with the pledged support of the fellowship. This is done in prayer and in the hope that the child will grow in faith and confirm their own relationship to God through membership of the congregation.

Children are dedicated to God in the congregation at the request of their parents. This is done in prayer and in the hope that the child will grow in faith and confirm their own relationship to God through baptism and membership of the congregation.

The congregation shares with parents the responsibility for the Christian training of children. The congregation also seeks a living dialogue with the parents of children who share in the life of the congregation without having ties to it through their family.

### *Membership of the Congregation*

All who seek to approach Christ through prayer and dialogue, in worship or through acts of love among their fellow human beings, are part of the Church's fellowship and concern. All are on a journey, sharing their experience of seeking, growing and discovering how God reveals himself to humankind.

The congregation is made up of those who in faith and hope say "yes" to God's invitation to the fellowship of new life. Personal faith can be expressed in different ways at different times of life. This is an expression of the fact that Christian life and faith are held together by their centre, Jesus Christ, and not by boundary limits.

The Church invites into membership anyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Historically and ecumenically, the Christian Church sees baptism and faith as the way into congregational membership. Baptism is God's gift offered by the Church. Personal confession of faith in Christ is a response to God's invitation.

**Membership is an expression of the desire to belong to Jesus Christ and to share the responsibilities in the congregation. Anyone who wants to become a member of the congregation discusses faith, baptism and fellowship with the Senior Pastor or the pastor he/she delegates. A new member is normally welcomed at a joint worship service. Senior Pastor is then responsible for ensuring that the name is entered in the congregational register and that the congregation will be informed.**

**When a member comes with a moving certificate from another church, the person is offered a conversation about faith, baptism and fellowship with the Senior Pastor, or another pastor whom he/she delegates. The new member is normally welcomed at a joint worship service. The Senior Pastor is then responsible for ensuring that the name is entered in the congregational register and that the congregation is notified. A member who moves out of the**

congregation notifies the Senior Pastor, who issues a certificate of relocation to the new congregation.

When a member wishes to leave the congregation, this is notified to the Senior Pastor who either him/herself, or through the pastor he/she delegates, invites to a conversation.

The congregation may ask a member to leave if they are clearly dividing or damaging the fellowship. This can only be done, however, after consultation with the regional church leader. Anyone asked to leave will continue to be included in the intercessory prayer and concern of the congregation. <sup>(8)</sup>

### *Forms of Ministry*

The task of the congregation is expressed in different forms of ministry. Congregational fellowship is important.

In worship the congregation expresses its desire to be a holistic Church. In thanksgiving and intercession it reflects the rhythm of life from beginning to end, in its choices, joys and sorrows. The congregation offers marriage and funeral ceremonies in the form of a public service or as a private act. **The congregation offers marriage for all couples who, in front of God, promises fidelity to each other.**

The congregation offers Christian teaching to support the development of faith and spiritual maturity, and the making of life choices. It has a special responsibility for those who have been baptised or dedicated in the congregation, as well as for all who are a part of its fellowship and concern. In the case of children, the congregation shares this responsibility with parents.

Confirmation classes are another expression of this offer, where the congregation and the confirmands share their life, fellowship and faith. This also provides an opportunity to confirm faith or to receive baptism and become a member of the congregation.

Ministries of care are part of the life and mission of a Christian congregation. The congregation aims to serve fellow human beings in homes and neighbourhoods, in working life and in the community. One expression of this is work among children and youth. Care and concern for individuals and the community are kept alive both through the congregation's worship and in members' everyday lives.

Work among children and youth in Immanuel Church takes place in cooperation with its Equmenia association, based on the confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord". All who participate in the work of the congregation's Equmenia association are part of the congregation's fellowship and concern. The congregation expresses its involvement in work among children and youth through financial support, intercessory prayer and active participation. One of the areas in which the congregation should recognise a particular responsibility for involvement is in leadership. The Equmenia association is an essential part of congregational life. The congregation seeks varied forms for belonging and shared responsibility. It has particular

responsibility to be attentive to the ideas of young people about how the life and work of the congregation should be expressed.

The congregation can be divided into smaller groups to facilitate closer contact and fellowship. The leaders of these, chosen by the congregation, can work with the Pastor to arrange opportunities for discussion, Bible study and prayer. Groups can also be working fellowships within the congregation and a forum for discussion prior to the Congregational meeting. Groups in the congregation may meet regularly and celebrate worship in different languages.

### *Joint Responsibility*

The Congregational meeting is the congregation's highest decision-making body, the democratic expression of everyone's opportunity to exert influence and share responsibility. The congregation constantly seeks ways to deepen participation.

As an expression of this joint participation, the congregation appoints a Board, leaders for various groups, communion servers, and individuals for other assignments as need arises. Together with the Senior Pastor, the Board plans and leads the work of the congregation. Members chosen to serve and be responsible for congregational unity in worship, fellowship, and service in the world are set apart for these tasks through the laying on of hands and prayer, as the Apostles did. <sup>(9)</sup>

The finances of the congregation and the Uniting Church in Sweden – as well as their shared responsibility for mission – are based on the joint responsibility of God's people. Conditions for acting on that responsibility can vary during different periods of life. It is, however, a basic principle that all contribute as they are able. Fellowship is free, but responsibility is jointly shared. Offerings are collected as specified by the congregation and the Uniting Church in Sweden.

### *Specific Responsibility*

God has also equipped and called people to specific responsibilities within the congregation. Their task is to strengthen everyone who serves and take responsibility for diversity and unity in the life and purpose of the congregation. By ordaining women and men to be pastors and deacons, the Uniting Church in Sweden confirms the call these people have received from God to be Christ's servants in the congregation. Through ordination, the Church as a joint fellowship prays for the gift of the Holy Spirit and God's blessing, empowering pastors and deacons to serve in the congregation.

The congregation chooses and calls pastors and deacons according to the principles outlined in the congregation's bylaws. This is done in consultation with the regional church leader. At installation, the congregation receives pastors and deacons as servants of Christ in the congregation. A letter of welcome states whether a pastor is invited to serve as Senior Pastor.

A Pastor is Christ's servant in the congregation and the community with the task of gathering together and building Christ's body, preaching the Word, administering the sacraments,





serving as a spiritual counsellor and leading the congregation in a life of worship and mission.  
(10)

A deacon is Christ's servant in the congregation with the task of upholding and strengthening the call of the congregation to ministries of care in the world. Through involvement with the community, and with an eye to the needs of the individual, a deacon clarifies the relationship between worship and service within the life of the Church and beyond. (11)

Pastors, at the time of their ordination, make a vow of silence regarding what is revealed during confession and individual counselling. Deacons likewise make a vow of silence concerning what is revealed during counselling or in regard to people's individual circumstances. These vows are renewed at installation.

The duties of a Pastor in the congregation are to:

- proclaim the Word of God, teach, baptise and conduct the Lord's Supper and other ceremonies such as child dedications, weddings and funerals,
- offer counselling, receive confession and declare absolution,
- address the issue of membership and, as far as is possible, maintain personal contact with members and those who are part of the congregation's fellowship or in its vicinity,
- prepare and be responsible for the congregation's worship life,
- supervise and care for the life of the entire congregation,
- encourage and foster the ability of individuals and groups to take on various leadership roles in the congregation and in worship,
- lift the congregation and others to God in prayer and intercession,
- promote the congregation's presence in the surrounding community,
- monitor the development of the congregation, particularly concerning its future, and its relation to other congregations in the same area and to the surrounding community, and
- promote the visible unity of Christ's Church in the area where the congregation serves.

Further, the Senior Pastor will:

- maintain the Congregational register (main register and registers of baptisms, child dedications, confirmations, weddings, and funerals) and provide statistical data to the Uniting Church in Sweden, and
- work with the Board to plan and lead the work of the congregation and, as appropriate, act as the congregation's official representative.

The duties of a deacon are to:

- have special responsibility for the congregation's ministries of care,
- convey the Word of God and lift the congregation and others to God in prayer and intercession,
- help maintain the vitality of the congregation's call to service in the world, monitor societal developments and be attentive to people's needs,
- encourage and foster the ability of individuals and groups to take on various leadership roles in the congregation and in worship,
- assist in congregational teaching and be responsible for the nurture and development of those engaged in ministries of care,
- visit and maintain personal contact with those in vulnerable life situations and offer them spiritual counsel, and





- take the Lord's Supper to those unable to attend church services.

### *Notes to the Congregational Statutes*

1. John 15:1 – 8
2. Rom. 12:4 – 5
3. Eph. 2:20 -22, 1 Pet. 2:4 -5
4. 1 Pet. 2:10
5. Matt. 6:6, 9, 1 John 3:1 – 3
6. Acts 9:1 -2, 24:14
7. 1 Cor. 15:14
8. Matt. 18:15 -17
9. Acts 14:23
10. Acts 20:28, 1 Pet. 5:2 -3
11. Acts 6:2 – 6

## Congregational Byelaws

*The congregation of Immanuel Church in Stockholm has adopted these byelaws based on the Congregational statutes in order to regulate its structural framework and organisation.*

### §1 Congregation of Immanuel Church

**A** The congregation of Immanuel Church is affiliated to the Uniting Church in Sweden and shares its view of congregation and Church as expressed in the theological foundation and byelaws of the Uniting Church in Sweden.

**B** As far as possible, the congregation takes responsibility to implement the decisions of the Church Conference. The congregation's goals, focus, life and regulations are described in its statutes.

**C** The congregation is based in Stockholm.

**D** Decisions regarding the congregation and its property are taken by the congregation itself, **with the exception of what is stated in § 9 B of these statutes.**

**E** The instruments of the congregation are:

- Congregational meeting
- Congregational Board
- Senior Pastor
- Election Committee
- **Auditor and ministry evaluation committee.**

### §2 Membership

**A** Anyone who confesses faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour may be received as a member of the congregation.

**B** A member may leave the congregation. The congregation may exclude a member in the manner prescribed in the Congregational statutes.

### §3 Congregational meeting

**A** **The Congregational meeting is the highest decision-making body of the congregation and must be carried out as a physical meeting. In the event that the possibility of meeting physically is prevented by law or by a decision made by authorities, the Congregational meeting can be carried out through digital attendance or by physical letter. The meeting forms**

cannot be combined. In the Congregational meeting every present member has one vote. The right to vote cannot be transferred or exercised through a proxy or by warrant.

**B** A Congregational meeting is convened by the Board, or when at least one tenth of the congregation's members so request. It is held at a date decided by the congregation or the Board. The date is announced at least two weeks in advance. If the meeting is to decide on calling a pastor or deacon, or if a matter of major financial importance is to be dealt with, this must be stated in the announcement.

**C** Suggestions for matters to be addressed at a Congregational meeting **must** be submitted by members to the Board no later than **two weeks** prior to the meeting or, in the case of an Annual meeting, no later than **eight** weeks prior to the meeting. Proposals that concern spiritual care must be submitted to the Senior Pastor.

**D** Every year is one Congregational meeting an Annual meeting, which is to be held before the end of April on date to be determined by the Board.

Calling to the Annual meeting shall be given at the church service at least ten weeks in advance and by information in the media where the congregation regularly communicates.

The voting list for the Annual meeting is established ten weeks before the Annual meeting.

**E.** At Congregational meetings, minutes are taken which are adjusted by the chairman of the meeting and in particular by the appointed adjusters.

**F.** Decisions at Congregational meetings are made by simple majority, except when the matter concerns calling a pastor or deacon, changing byelaws or dissolving the congregation, purchasing or selling fixed property or other major financial commitments, the decisions require a two-thirds majority, **as long as the byelaws does not require larger majority in certain issues**. In case of a tied vote, the position supported by the Chairperson prevails, except at an election, when the matter is decided by drawing lots. **Decisions are taken by open voting, unless the statutes state otherwise for a particular issue or if the meeting decides otherwise for a particular issue and when voting is done by physical mail. At meetings with a digital presence, decisions are made by voting through the tool that the board decided to use at the meeting in question.**

**G** The articles of association of a company in which the congregation has a **determining influence** must be approved at a Congregational meeting. The Chairperson and at least half the members of the board of such a company must be members of the congregation.

If the congregation intends to establish another legal entity, this must be approved by a Congregational meeting.

**H** For decisions concerning disposal or other transfer of (i) shares in Probitas AB (or company that replaces it) (ii) a significant portion of the congregation's securities portfolio for other purposes than the management of such portfolio, or (iii) a significant part of the congregation's assets, a consensus is required to make equal decisions at two Congregational



meetings, one of which is an Annual meeting. Between these meetings shall elapse at least six months. Such a decision requires a 3/4 majority of the voters. This provision also applies to pledging of shares in Probitas AB (or companies that replace it).

**I** The Annual Meeting must deal with the following:

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary for the Annual Meeting.
2. Election of two **adjusters** to verify the minutes alongside the chairperson of the meeting.
3. **Election of at least two tellers.**
4. Whether the meeting was called according to the byelaws.
5. Presentation of the Annual Report and the Annual Financial Report for the previous financial year.
6. Presentation of the Auditors' Report.
7. **Report from the ministry evaluation committee.**
8. Approval of the Statement of Income and the Balance Sheet.
9. Discharge of the Board from liability.
10. **Confirmation of the approved ministry plan for the current year.**
11. Election of the congregation's Chairperson.
12. Election of other members of the Congregational Board.
13. **Election of auditor, deputy auditor, and a ministry evaluation committee.**
14. Confirmation of the Equmenia Immanuel Stockholm election of Youth Council and leaders.
15. Elections to ministry councils and committees.
16. Election either of an Election Committee or of a Nominating Committee for the Election Committee.
17. Other matters submitted to the Annual Meeting.

#### **§4 Congregational Board**

**A** Together with the Senior Pastor, the Board leads and is responsible for the ministries and activities of the congregation in accordance with the constitution of the congregation (i.e. **Theological foundation**, the Congregational statutes, the byelaws), and the decisions made at the Congregational meeting.

**B** The Board consists of the Chairperson, who is elected for one year period, and twelve members, each elected for a two-year term, half of whom are elected in any one year. If there are more candidates than open positions, election will be by closed voting.

The Chairperson is appointed by the congregation, while the Board chooses one or more Vice-Chair(s) and other such functionaries. The functionaries of the Board are also the congregation's functionaries.

Anyone who is employed by the congregation, or employed in a senior position in a company that is directly or indirectly owned by the congregation, or is a spouse, common-law partner, registered partner, parent or child of such a person, cannot be a member of the congregation's board.

A board member may not participate in the handling of a case if there is a conflict of interest. The board member may also not be present in decision making if there is a conflict of interest. By "conflict of interest" is meant any circumstance that may damage confidence in a member's impartiality/objectivity at the processing of a case.

C The Senior Pastor and a representative of the Equmenia association are entitled to participate in the Board's deliberations and have their views noted in the minutes. However, they do not have the right to vote.

D The duties of the Board include:

- planning and leading the work of the congregation together with the Senior Pastor,
- implementing the decisions of the Congregational meeting,
- being responsible for the congregation's financial administration,
- preparing the call of pastors, deacons and other employees when the Congregational meeting makes a decision,
- exercising employers' responsibilities for employees of the congregation,
- safeguarding confidentiality concerning contractual agreements, as appropriate,
- **decide on the necessary steering documents for the ministry,**
- reviewing and approving the byelaws and rules of procedure for organisations and working groups active within the congregation, and
- appointing representatives to company and association meetings in the case of companies and cooperative associations wholly or partly owned by the congregation.
- **establish ownership directives for Probitas AB (or companies that might replace it) and its subsidiaries.**

E The Board may mortgage property owned by the congregation and take out loans using mortgage deeds as security.

The Board may acquire or sell residential properties such as houses or tenant-owned apartments on behalf of the congregation. Such acquisitions must be intended to provide places to live for employees of the congregation.



The Board must report decisions made under the first and second paragraph of this section at the next Congregational meeting.

Beyond what has been stated above, the Board may not, without the approval of the Congregational meeting: acquire or sell property or otherwise financially make the congregation responsible in business of a greater scope.

**F** Guidelines regarding the use and/or rental of the worship spaces or other facilities are established jointly by the Board and Senior Pastor. Decisions in specific cases are then made by the Senior Pastor based on these guidelines.

**G** The Board appoints and authorises person(s) as signatories for the congregation.

**H** The Board meets when called by the Chairperson, or when the Senior Pastor or at least one third of the members of the Board request it. A quorum is established when at least seven members, including either the Chairperson or the Vice-Chair, are present. Decisions are taken by open voting, except when a member requests a closed vote on a certain matter. In the event of tied votes, the position supported by the Chairperson prevails, except at an election, when the matter is decided by drawing lots.

Minutes are taken at Board meetings, which are adjusted in the manner adopted by the Board.

**I** In matters that fall under a court of law or another authority's jurisdiction, the congregation is represented by a person appointed by the Board.

## **§5 Senior Pastor**

**A** There must be a Senior Pastor who serves as the congregation's spiritual leader, with responsibility for spiritual care.

**B** Together with the Board, the Senior Pastor will plan and lead the work of the congregation in accordance with the Congregational statutes and the decisions of the Congregational meeting. The special duties of the Senior Pastor are described in the Congregational statutes.

**C** Anyone called to serve as Senior Pastor must have been ordained or received for service within the Uniting Church in Sweden. Prior to such a decision being made, consultation must take place with the regional church leader.

## **§6 Election Committee**

A The Election Committee must prepare for the Annual Meeting a list of nominees to serve as functionaries, as members of the Board, as auditors, and in other positions or assignments as required.

B Any member may nominate candidates for membership on the Board or for other positions. Such nominations should be submitted to the Election Committee no later than **twelve weeks** prior to the meeting at which the election is to take place.

## **§7 Accounts, auditing, checking minutes**

A The calendar year is the congregation's fiscal year. January 1 to December 31.

B **The accounts and management shall be audited by a certified auditor appointed by the Annual meeting. The authorised public auditor's duties shall, in addition to what is required by law, and generally by accepted auditing standards, also include the auditing of Board's compliance with the congregation's statutes.**

C **The authorised public accountant collaborates with the Ministry evaluation committee. The task of the Ministry evaluation committee is to monitor the activities and be helpful in the management audit. The mandate of the Ministry evaluation committee, and forms for its reporting to the Annual meeting, shall be determined by the Congregational meeting in a separate assignment instruction.**

**The Ministry evaluation committee consist of two to four ordinary members, who shall be members of the congregation and well acquainted with its activities. This committee is elected by the Annual meeting for one year at a time. A member may be re-elected for a maximum of four consecutive years.**

## **§ 8 Work among Children and Youth**

A The congregation's work among children and youth takes place in cooperation with the Equmenia association in Immanuel Church. The Equmenia association in Immanuel Church has its own byelaws.

## **§9 Change of Theological foundation, statutes and byelaws**

A Changes to the Theological foundation, Congregational statutes or byelaws shall be made through similar decisions of two consecutive Congregational meetings, one of which is an Annual meeting. Such a decision must be made by a 2/3 majority of the voters.

**Changes of § 3H of these byelaws must be made by similar resolutions at two Congregational meetings, one of which is an Annual meeting. At least six months must elapse between the meetings. Such a decision must be made by a 3/4 majority of the voters.**

**Changes of § 10 of these statutes shall be made by similar resolution at two successive Annual meetings. At least eleven months must elapse between the meetings. Such decisions must be made by a 3/4 majority of voters.**





B Proposals for changes of the Congregational byelaws must be submitted to the Board at least eight weeks before the Annual meeting. The Board shall, with its own motivation, submit the proposal to the the congregation no later than four weeks before the Annual meeting.

Changes of Congregational statutes or byelaws that affect the Uniting Church in Sweden Congregational vision, decision to leave the Uniting Church in Sweden, and § 10 of the byelaws must be submitted to the board of the Uniting Church in Sweden for approval. In the event that the congregation decides to leave the Uniting Church in Sweden, the congregation's assets must be offered to the Uniting Church in Sweden.

### **§ 10 Dissolving the Congregation**

A Dissolution of the congregation requires similar decisions in two Annual meetings. At least eleven months must elapse between the meetings. Such decision 3/4 majority of voters.

B In the event of dissolution, the congregation's assets shall be offered to the Uniting Church in Sweden.