



## Addendum Index to RLC Council Position Statements and Addendums

Position Statement / Addendum	Brief Summary
Addendum <a href="#"><u>Index to RLC Council Position Statements and Addendums</u></a>	This addendum is an index to position statements and addendums in the conflict with the Alaska Synod Bishops of the Congregation Council of RLC, prepared by Congregation Council of RLC Counsel and adopted as an official position statement by the Council on January 16, 2025, on information and belief.
Addendum <a href="#"><u>Helpful Summaries to the RLC Council Position Statements</u></a>	This addendum are short summaries of the RLC Council position statements in the conflict with the Alaska Synod Bishops of the Congregation Council of RLC, prepared by Congregation Council of RLC Counsel and adopted as an official position statement by the Council on January 16, 2025, on information and belief.
Position Statement <a href="#"><u>Understanding Constitutional Violations</u></a>	This position statement outlines significant constitutional violations at RLC involving actions by former Bishop Shelley Wickstrom and current Bishop Timothy Oslovich. It details governance overreach, including an unconstitutional vote to terminate Pastor Karen Perkins' call, interference in RLC's elections, and breaches of the ELCA Model Constitution. The document critiques misuse of the *C15.11 adjudication process and raises concerns about the implications for governance within the Alaska Synod and the ELCA as a whole.
Position Statement <a href="#"><u>Authoritarianism, Secrecy and Complicity</u></a>	This position statement critiques the authoritarian actions of former Bishop Shelley Wickstrom, current Bishop Timothy Oslovich, and a small faction within RLC. It examines violations of constitutional governance, secretive decision-making, and complicity in undermining RLC's mission and council authority. Specific examples include unconstitutional votes, wrongful dismissal of Pastor Karen Perkins, and the creation of a "shadow church" that bypasses congregational processes. The statement calls for accountability and restoration of constitutional integrity to uphold ELCA's principles and support RLC's mission.
Addendum <a href="#"><u>Money Over Mission</u></a>	This addendum examines potential motivations behind the two years of conflict at RLC. It highlights the church's successful mission growth during the COVID-19 pandemic, including innovative outreach efforts and facility improvements funded by grants. Despite this success, the addendum details how misrepresentations of financial conditions were used to justify efforts to reduce RLC's ministry and leadership, including blocking new grants and contracts. It also explores how the valuable real estate and assets of RLC may have influenced the actions of certain individuals and groups, raising concerns about priorities that favor property development over the church's mission..

Addendum  
*Recent Actions of Concern: Forming  
a Shadow Church*

This addendum outlines alarming actions taken by a small faction within RLC, allegedly aimed at undermining the church's mission, governance, and transparency. The group is accused of forming a "shadow church," making unauthorized decisions, and disregarding the congregation's established leadership. Key concerns include financial mismanagement (e.g., freezing accounts, diverting funds, and failing to report finances), unauthorized control over church activities (e.g., disabling security cameras, restricting access, and breaking into offices), bullying and harassment targeting minority groups and volunteers, and promoting plans to close RLC, merge it with another church, and sell its property. These actions have disrupted ministries, alienated members, and jeopardized the church's financial and operational stability, prompting a call for immediate intervention to restore governance and integrity.

Addendum  
*Merrell Emails with Presiding Bishop  
Eaton and the RLC Council*

This addendum contains correspondence highlighting the ongoing conflict at RLC in Juneau, Alaska. It includes an email from Music Director Lucy Merrell to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on December 27, 2024, detailing actions by a dissident group at RLC that disrupted church operations, including blocking internet access to prevent streaming services and excluding members from church spaces and decision-making. The addendum also features Bishop Eaton's January 9, 2025, response, emphasizing the limits of her authority, and an email from Lucy Merrell to the RLC Council on December 18, 2024, describing frustrations with governance failures, theft, and harassment. Together, these documents reveal escalating tensions and highlight the urgent need for accountability and justice.

Position Statement  
[Challenge to Act Justly, Seek  
Truth and Fulfill Fiduciary  
Duty](#)

This position statement addresses the moral, legal, and fiduciary responsibilities of ELCA leadership in the ongoing conflict at RLC. It details unconstitutional actions by former and current bishops, including the misuse of the \*C15.11 / †S17.11 adjudication process, harassment, and manipulation of the Synod Council. The document calls for transparency, accountability, and courage from Synod Council members and the presiding bishop to confront these injustices. It urges decisive action to restore trust, uphold constitutional governance, and protect RLC's mission in serving the Juneau community.

Addendum  
*Timeline Highlights in Conflict with  
Synod Bishops*

This addendum provides a detailed timeline of events highlighting the conflict between RLC and the bishops. It outlines key moments from February 2023 through November 2024, including allegations of constitutional violations, bullying, financial mismanagement, and authoritarian actions by former Bishop Shelley Wickstrom, current Bishop Timothy Oslovich, and a small faction within RLC. The timeline reveals significant procedural irregularities, misuse of governance processes, and escalating tensions, culminating in the removal of Pastor Karen Perkins from the Alaska Synod roster. The document emphasizes the ongoing struggle for accountability, justice, and the preservation of RLC's mission amidst this prolonged conflict.

Addendum  
*Revised Annotated Alaska Synod  
Council RLC C15.11 Adjudication  
Documents*

This addendum provides a detailed, annotated analysis of the Alaska Synod Council's handling of the \*C15.11 adjudication process regarding RLC in Juneau, Alaska. It critiques inaccuracies, biases, and omissions in council minutes and related documents. Key issues include the exclusion of Pastor Karen Perkins, the RLC Council, and vital counter-evidence from the adjudication process, as well as constitutional breaches in council decisions. The addendum underscores the need for transparency, impartiality, and adherence to ELCA constitutional norms in resolving disputes.

Position Statement  
[What Happens Next and Your  
Involvement](#)

This position statement examines the ongoing conflict at RLC and the critical role of the Alaska Synod bishops in perpetuating governance violations. It calls for immediate intervention to restore integrity, justice, and proper constitutional processes within RLC. The statement highlights the bishops' support for a dissenting faction, the improper appointment of an interim pastor, attempts to manipulate governance through unconstitutional meetings, and the deliberate exclusion of loyal congregation members from decision-making. It also documents tactics such as gerrymandering membership lists, scheduling rushed annual meetings, and undermining the legitimate RLC Council. Additionally, the position statement urges members of the ELCA leadership and broader church community to reach out to Bishop Oslovich, advocating for him to recognize and rectify past wrongs, including declaring prior unconstitutional actions void, ending the interim pastor's appointment, and reinstating Pastor Perkins on the Alaska Synod roster.

Addendum  
*A Staged Coup: The Bishops' Bid  
for Control Under the Guise of  
Fair Process*

This addendum outlines the contentious events surrounding a congregation meeting at RLC called by Bishop Oslovich. It highlights significant concerns, including improper notice of the meeting, the lack of financial transparency, the unconstitutional removal of Pastor Karen Perkins, and the questionable authority of Council Member Lisa Brendle. The addendum details how actions taken by the bishops and a small dissident group continue to undermine RLC's governance, culminating in an attempt to appoint an interim pastor despite unresolved legal and constitutional issues. It underscores the broader implications of this "staged coup," which jeopardizes RLC's mission and governance integrity.

Addendum  
*President Lawfer Response to  
Brendle Meeting Agenda -  
Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup>*

This addendum includes President Karen Lawfer's formal response to a meeting agenda circulated by Council Member Lisa Brendle for an unscheduled and irregular council meeting on January 9, 2025. Lawfer raises concerns about the legitimacy of the meeting, including improper notice, deviation from the regular meeting schedule, and the questionable authority of Brendle to call or preside over such meetings. The response critiques agenda items that contradict established governance protocols, such as the removal of council members based on alleged absences and the handling of private property stored at the church. Lawfer also highlights the ongoing lack of financial transparency, unresolved governance disputes, and the inappropriate appointment of an interim pastor before the resolution of critical legal and constitutional matters.

Addendum  
*Draft Letter Requesting Support  
from Congregations*

This draft letter appeals to Alaska Synod congregations and ELCA members to address governance and justice issues at RLC in Juneau, Alaska. Written by RLC Council President Karen Lawfer, the letter outlines constitutional violations, harassment, and governance overreach by Bishops Wickstrom and Oslovich and a dissenting faction within RLC. The document highlights how these actions have undermined the church's ministries, disrupted community services, and damaged the congregation's trust. The letter calls for collective advocacy to restore integrity, protect RLC's mission, and prevent similar overreach in other congregations. Attachments provide detailed evidence of the issues, including constitutional violations and ethical concerns.

Addendum  
*Draft Letter Requesting Support  
from Organizations*

This draft letter appeals to organizations that partner with or utilize RLC in Juneau, Alaska, to address critical challenges threatening the church's stability and mission. The letter outlines ongoing governance overreach, harassment, and service disruptions stemming from internal conflicts and external interference by church leadership. It highlights the negative impact on partnerships, including disrupted programs addressing homelessness, food insecurity, education, and the arts. The letter calls for advocacy and support to restore governance integrity and protect RLC's vital role in the community. It emphasizes the importance of collective action to safeguard RLC's ability to continue serving Juneau and its residents.

Addendum  
*Recent Brendle Lawsuit  
Documents*

This addendum compiles recent filings and briefs related to the ongoing litigation between Lisa Brendle and RLC, Karen Lawfer, Pastor Karen and Brad Perkins. Key legal issues include disputes over church governance, allegations of financial misconduct involving \$205,000 in missing church funds, and questions surrounding the validity of elections and pastoral termination. The briefs examine the application of the ecclesiastical abstention doctrine, balancing constitutional protections for church autonomy with the court's authority to adjudicate secular matters, such as financial accountability and compliance with Alaska's nonprofit laws. The filings highlight allegations of bullying, defamation, and physical altercations, further complicating the legal and moral dimensions of the case.

*Prepared by Congregation Counsel of Resurrection Lutheran Church Council on behalf of the Council, on information and belief, subject to reasonable amendment by Counsel, with concurrence of the Congregation President.*