
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF OUR SAVIOR

CONSTITUTION

ROSEMOUNT, MN

MARCH 2005

PROCESSING RECORD
CONSTITUTIONS AND
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Date Received: 04-16-05
Date Reviewed: 08-19-05
Date Approved: 08-19-05
or
Returned to Congregation: _____
Date Approved by MNS Board of Directors: 09-13-05

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MISSION

Whereas the Word of God demands that a Christian congregation not only conform to the Word of God in doctrine and practice (**Psalm 119:105; Galatians 1:6-8**), but also that all things be done decently and in order (**I Corinthians 14:10**) therefore, as Christians who are members of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, set forth this constitution and By-laws. Said document shall govern all our congregational affairs.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND LOCATION

The Name of this congregation shall be *The Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Rosemount Minnesota.*

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

TO BRING LOST PEOPLE INTO A LIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

The purpose of the congregation of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior is to reach out and present the Gospel in such a way that lost and un-churched people come into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, become His disciples, grow into mature, fruitful leaders, who will in turn go into the non-believing world and bring others into a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE III: CONFSSIONAL STANDARDS (UNALTERABLE)

This congregation acknowledges and accepts without reservation all the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed Word of God, verbally inspired and acknowledges and accepts all the Symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580 A.D. as true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of

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God.

These Confessional Books are:

- The Three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian)
- The Unaltered Augsburg Confession
- The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
- The Smalcald Articles
- Luther's Large and Small Catechisms
- The Formula of Concord

All preaching and teaching must be in accord with the above, and all doctrinal controversies which may occur shall be decided in accordance with the same.

ARTICLE IV: SYNOD AFFILIATION

This congregation with its pastor(s) and called staff shall be a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod so long as said synod shall remain true to the Confessional standard as set forth in Article III of this constitution as determined by a majority of the voting membership at a meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Baptized Members:

Baptized members are all members who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God, and have been received into membership in accordance with the By-laws.

Confirmed Members:

Confirmed members are those baptized members who have declared their acceptance of the standard for doctrine and confession of this congregation (Article

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III) and who have been received into membership in accordance with the By-laws.

Voting Members:

All confirmed members of the congregation who have attained the age of 18 years shall be eligible to vote in accordance with the By-laws.

ARTICLE VI: CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

The Voter's Assembly shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These individuals shall be the officers of the congregation.

The officers of the congregation shall serve as the Executive Committee as well as the officers of the corporation. The Executive Committee will obtain its authority for action at the express designation of the full Board of Directors. The President and Secretary shall sign all legal documents.

The Voter's Assembly shall also elect other voting Board members in accordance with the By-laws. The duly elected Board members plus the four (4) officers and the Senior Pastor shall comprise the Board of Directors. The Senior Pastor shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors. Both the Senior Pastor and the President shall be non-voting ex-officio members of all other Boards and Committees. The nomination and election of officers and Board of Directors members shall be as specified in the By-laws.

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to develop and implement those policies, procedures and ministries to promote the Mission approved by the Voter's Assembly. Written policies and procedures shall be available to voting members upon request. The Board of Directors shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them by the Constitution, its By-laws or by the Voter's Assembly, and authority delegated to them may at any time be altered or revoked by the Voter's Assembly.

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DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The duties of the Board of Directors are as outlined in the By-laws.

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Any officer or board member may be removed from office by the voters assembly by a two-thirds majority ballot vote, in Christian and lawful order, for one of the following reasons:

- Persistent adherence to false doctrine
- Scanadlous life
- Willfull neglect
- Inability to perform the duties of the office
- Other reasons as deemed appropriate

ARTICLE VII: OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY

The pastoral office of this congregation as well as the office of other called persons, shall be conferred upon only such ministers and candidates who:

- Profess and adhere to the confessional standards as set forth in Article III of this constitution
- Who are well qualified for their work
- Who are endorsed by, and a member of the Synod

Pastors and called staff shall, in the call extended to and accepted by them, must be pledged to this confessional standard.

ARTICLE VIII: REMOVAL OF CALLED WORKERS

Any pastor or other called worker who is persistent in adherence to false doctrine, leads a

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scandalous life, shows willful neglect of responsibilities, or an inability to perform their assigned duties may be removed from office in a Christian and lawful order by a two thirds majority vote of the Voters' Assembly. Upon such accusations, the Board of Elders and the Board of Directors shall investigate the charges and bring the matter to the Voters Assembly as deemed appropriate. Reasons for dismissal for called staff shall be as specified by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE IX: AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION

The congregation, through its Voter's Assembly, shall be empowered to administer and manage all of the congregation's external and internal affairs. The congregation, however, shall not be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the confessions of the Lutheran Church (see Article III), and any such contrary decision shall be null and void. Matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided in accordance with the Word of God. Other matters shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the voting members in attendance at a Voter's Assembly meeting unless otherwise specified by this constitution or By-laws.

The right of calling pastors and other called workers shall be vested in the Voter's Assembly and shall not be delegated to a smaller body or an individual. The Board of Directors may authorize the hiring and release of non-called staff as approved in the annual budget or by the Voter's Assembly.

The Board of Directors shall obtain prior approval of the Voter's Assembly on the following actions/items.

1. Annual Financial Ministry Plan. (Budget)
2. Acquisition or disposal of any single asset or liability that exceeds 5% of the annual operating budget.
3. Administrative process of Calling or removal of called staff.
4. Dissolution of the Congregation.

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ARTICLE X: DIVISION

All property of this congregation shall be held in the corporate name as stated in Article I. If at any time a separation should take place in this congregation, the property of the congregation and all benefits pertaining thereto shall remain with those confirmed members who shall continue to adhere to Article III and Article IV of this constitution. In the event of the dissolution of this congregation, all property of the congregation shall be disposed of by the final Voter's Assembly for the payment of debts, and any and all surplus, after due settlement of just claims against this congregation, shall be conveyed to and become the property of the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE XI: BY-LAWS

This congregation, through its Voter's Assembly, may adopt such By-laws as the accomplishment of the mission of this congregation may demand or require so long as they are not in conflict with the Scriptural principals of the Constitution.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in writing in any Voter's Assembly meeting by any voting member. If the majority of the voting members present shall vote in favor of the proposal, a copy of such proposed amendment shall be mailed to all voting members at least two (2) weeks preceding the next meeting. Thereupon the final vote shall be taken in that meeting, or at a duly publicized continuation of that meeting, and a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members there present shall be required for adoption. Upon adoption, such amendment shall be submitted to the District Committee on Constitutions for approval in accordance with the Synod's By-laws.

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ARTICLE XIII: MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the voters assembly shall be held as determined in the bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV: QUORUM

All voting members present at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XV: UNALTERABLE ARTICLES

The following articles of this Constitution or sections thereof shall be unalterable and irreplaceable: III (Confessional Standard), VII (Office of the Ministry) and this Article (XV).

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