



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

CONSTITUTION

FOR

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
STANLEY, WISCONSIN**

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

CHURCH IN AMERICA[®]

2022

➤ *Review by synod 11/16/2022*

INTRODUCTION to the *Model Constitution for Congregations*

The *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, like the other governing documents of this church, reflects the theology and polity of this church as it organizes itself to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the sacraments, reach out to the neighbor with good news and share the love of God in the world. Each expression of this church — churchwide, synod, and congregation — is held together in a relationship of interdependence that encourages each to respond to its context. These documents also demonstrate our commitment to seeing ourselves with others as part of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. As such, the *Model Constitution for Congregations* is deeply rooted in Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the history of this church and its predecessors.

The *Model Constitution for Congregations* was adopted by the Constituting Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as required by the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. This current edition of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* contains changes adopted by all churchwide assemblies, including the fifteenth Churchwide Assembly in 2019. It is consistent with the requirements of the governing documents of the ELCA's churchwide organization and synods, and it provides organizational flexibility to recognize the context of local congregations.

► **Required provisions:** Sections of this constitution marked by an asterisk [*] are required when a congregation amends its governing documents. These sections must be used without alteration or amendment of the text in any manner (*i.e.*, neither additions nor deletions are permissible). This requirement is based on provision 9.52. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. This provision requires that when a congregation of this church “wishes to amend any provision of its governing documents, the governing documents of that congregation shall be so amended to conform to 9.25.b.” in the churchwide constitution. Provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* identified by an asterisk [*] are those required under ELCA constitutional provision 9.25.b.

► **Review by synod:** Each congregation of this church is to provide a copy of its governing documents, and any amendments thereto, to its synod. In accordance with ELCA bylaw 9.53.03., amendments to a congregation constitution become effective *only* when approved by the synod. This bylaw provides:

All proposed changes in the constitution or incorporation documents of a congregation shall be referred to the synod with which the congregation is affiliated. The synod shall notify the congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them. The synod shall recognize that congregations may organize themselves in a manner which they deem most appropriate. No governing document amendment will be approved by a synod if it conflicts with the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. In order to meet constitutional requirements and to avoid potential problems, all proposed amendments to a congregation's constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions should be submitted to the synod for review.

► **Amendment consistent with the *Model Constitution for Congregations*:** A congregation that amends its constitution to be in conformity with the *Model Constitution for Congregations* will report these changes to its synod. The amendments become effective upon adoption by the congregation, *C16.04. While synod approval is not required, it is wise to work with the synod in preparing to present these amendments to the congregational meeting.

► **Codification explanation:** The *Model Constitution for Congregations* is organized into chapters by general subject matter and codified as (a) constitutional provisions, (b) bylaws, and (c) continuing resolutions. Each provision is preceded by a capital “C.” If a constitutional provision is mandatory, it will be preceded by an asterisk, “*C.”

- a. Constitutional provisions are codified with two sets of numbers, preceded by a “C”: the chapter number, followed by a period, and a two-digit number. A period follows the two-digit number. Thus, one required constitutional provision related to “Membership” in Chapter 8 is codified as “*C8.02.” A provision in Chapter 12 relating to a report by the Congregation Council to the congregation at an annual meeting is codified as “C12.09.” Constitutional provisions are adopted and amended in accordance with Chapter 16 titled “Amendments.”
- b. Bylaw provisions follow constitutional provisions to which they apply. They are not intended to be organized in a separate document at the end of the constitutional provisions. Bylaws are codified with three sets of numbers: the chapter number (preceded by a “C”), the related constitutional provision number, and a two-digit number. There are periods after the chapter number, after the reference to the constitutional provision, and after the bylaw number. Thus, a bylaw provision related to “Membership” would be codified as “C8.02.01.” A bylaw relating to the contents of an annual report by the Congregation Council to the congregation at an annual meeting would be codified as “C12.09.01.” Because bylaws and continuing

resolutions normally relate to specific practices and details of each congregation's organization, operation, and life, there is not a model set of bylaws or continuing resolutions. Thus, each congregation has discretion and may develop its own bylaws and continuing resolutions, including bylaws and continuing resolutions under required constitutional provisions, but no such bylaw or continuing resolution may conflict with constitutional provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, or the constitution of the synod, as indicated in *C6.03.e. Bylaws are adopted and amended in accordance with Chapters 16 and 17.

- c. Continuing resolutions are intended to provide descriptions of operational patterns and practices or of the ongoing responsibilities of committees or other units within the organizational structure of the congregation. They follow the relevant constitutional provision or bylaw to which they refer. Continuing resolutions also are codified with three sets of numbers, except that the third set is preceded by a capital letter. Thus, a continuing resolution describing congregational committees in Chapter 13 might be numbered "C13.07.A22." The initial numbers "C13.07" indicate that the continuing resolution relates to the designated constitutional provision, which in this case provides that the duties of congregational committees may be specified in bylaws or continuing resolutions. The final letter and numbers "A22" designate that this is the first continuing resolution "A" and the year that it was adopted, in this example 2022. Continuing resolutions are adopted and amended in accordance with Chapter 18. Unlike constitutional provisions and bylaws which are adopted by the congregation at a legally called and conducted meeting, continuing resolutions may be adopted either by a congregational meeting or by the Congregation Council.

➤ **Mission numbers:** You will notice that certain numbers are missing from the numbering sequence in some chapters. These omissions are intentional. For example, in some chapters the number ".10." and multiples thereof have been reserved for possible use as section headings in future editions.

➤ **Selection of options:** Alternatives are provided in some places within the *Model Constitution for Congregations*. Alternatives are noted by brackets or blank lines. For example, constitutional provision *C9.01. offers the alternative of election of a call committee by the congregation or by the Congregation Council. Only one alternative should be chosen in each instance where brackets appear in the text. In other provisions, alternative provisions are provided. Thus, in Chapters 11 and 12, regarding "Officers" and "Congregation Council," options are provided separated by the word "or." Each congregation should select one of those options, subject to approval through the synod's constitutional review process. Where a blank line appears, such as in C1.01. or C10.02., the appropriate word, phrase, or number determined by the individual congregation should be inserted.

➤ **References to church:** In the governing documents, "Church" with a capital letter refers to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. The words "church" or "this church" in lowercase letters refer to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The specific congregation may be identified, as provided in C1.02., as "this congregation."

➤ **Guidelines:** A list of guidelines for a congregation engaging in review and amendment of its constitution is available through each synod office and at ELCA.org.

➤ **Consultation and concluding comments:** Each synod has a process to review proposed amendments to congregational constitutions. The work of both congregations in amending their governing documents and the synod in reviewing proposed amendments is facilitated by consultation and cooperation *before* proposed amendments are acted upon by the congregation. In addition, each congregation should establish a process for periodic review of its governing documents. You are encouraged to contact your synod office to assist your congregation in its periodic review of governing document provisions and to assess whether problems may exist with respect to proposed amendments.

The important task of amending a constitution is challenging. It is, however, an essential endeavor that merits thoughtful work. In addressing your constitutional responsibilities, may God grant you and your colleagues wisdom, discernment, and commitment to the unity of this church in faithful witness to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Secretary Sue E. Rothmeyer
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
August 15, 2022

**CONSTITUTION
FOR
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
STANLEY, WISCONSIN
OF THE
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***PREAMBLE**

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

C1.01. The name of this congregation shall be Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church is

C1.11. This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

Chapter 2.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

***C2.01.** This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***C2.02.** This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

***C2.03.** This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.

***C2.04.** This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.

***C2.05.** This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

***C2.06.** This congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.

***C2.06.01** This congregation rejects all fellowship with organizations, secret or open, which are avowed religious or which practice forms of religion without confessing faith in the Triune God and in Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God incarnate to be our only Savior from sin, and thus teach salvation by works. Ceremonies of lodges or other such organizations shall not be permitted in the church or on the church premises of this congregation. The pastor of this congregation shall take no part in any such ceremonies even if they are conducted outside of the church premises.

¹* Required provision

*C2.07. This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scripture and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 3.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- *C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- *C3.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.
- *C3.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- *C3.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.
- *C3.05. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or "this church") as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.

Chapter 4.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- *C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- *C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
 - a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
 - b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
 - c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
 - d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and committing itself to their needs.
 - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
 - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.
- *C4.03. To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:
 - a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.
 - b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry.
 - c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.
 - d. Teach the Word of God.
 - e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.

- f. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
 - g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for this congregation's ministry and the ministry of the other expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy.
- *C4.04.** This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational group and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions in the section on the Congregation Committees.
- *C4.05.** This congregation shall adopt and periodically review a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.
- *C4.06.** References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God's mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

Chapter 5.

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- *C5.01.** The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.
- *C5.02.** The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.
- *C5.03.** Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by this congregation. This congregation is authorized to:
- a. call a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
 - b. terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
 - c. call a minister of Word and Service;
 - d. terminate the call of a minister of Word and Service in conformity with the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
 - e. adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter 16, amendments to the bylaws, as specified in Chapter 17, and continuing resolutions, as provided in Chapter 18;
 - f. approve the annual budget;
 - g. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
 - h. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
 - i. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
 - j. elect its Congregation Council and require the members of the council to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
 - k. terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Chapter 6.
- *C5.04.** This congregation shall elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- C5.05.** This congregation shall have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in this congregation's bylaws. The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation.

Chapter 6.

CHURCH AFFILIATION

- *C6.01. This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- *C6.02. This congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.
- *C6.03. This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in which:
 - a. This congregation agrees to be responsible for its life as a Christian community.
 - b. This congregation pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - c. This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod. These special circumstances are limited either to calling a candidate approved for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or to contracting for pastoral services with a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion.
 - d. This congregation agrees to consider ministers of Word and Service for call to other staff positions in this congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - e. This congregation agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the constitution of the synod.
- *C6.04. Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is terminated as follows:
 - a. This congregation takes action to dissolve.
 - b. This congregation ceases to exist.
 - c. This congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures for discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or in accordance with provision 9.23. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - d. The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin takes charge and control of the property of this congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the synod pursuant to †S13.24. of the synod constitution. This congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the next Synod Assembly.
 - e. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in *C6.05.
- *C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:
 - a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at two legally called and conducted special meetings of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at each meeting. The first such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod, during which time this congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council. Unless the bishop and/or the bishop's designees are voting members of this congregation, they shall have voice but not vote at the first meeting.
 - b. Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon at the first meeting, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall send copies of the resolution and certification to voting members of this congregation.
 - c. If the resolution was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the first meeting, the bishop of the synod and this congregation shall continue in consultation, as specified in paragraph a. above, during a period of at least 90 days after receipt by the bishop of the attestation and certification as specified in paragraph b. above.
 - d. If this congregation, after such consultation, is still considering termination of its relationship with this church, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Notice of the second meeting shall be sent to all

- voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless the bishop and/or the bishop's designees are voting members of this congregation, they shall have voice but not vote at the second meeting.
- e. Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the second special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall send copies of the resolution and certification to the voting members of the congregation. If the resolution was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the second meeting, the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to Synod Council approval as required by paragraphs f. and g. below.
 - f. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that this congregation has voted to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, this congregation shall be deemed an independent or non-Lutheran church, in which case *C7.04. shall apply.
 - g. This congregation shall abide by these covenants by and among the three expressions of this church:
 - 1) Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in *C6.05. shall be required to receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - 2) Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to receive synod approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - 3) Congregations established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to satisfy all financial obligations to this church and receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - h. If this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at this congregation's first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above or fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at this congregation's second meeting as specified in paragraph d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow all requirements of *C6.05. and may begin no sooner than six months after the meeting at which the two-thirds vote was not achieved.
- *C6.06.** If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is taken.
- *C6.07.** If this congregation considers developing an additional site to be used regularly for worship, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

Chapter 7.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- *C7.01.** If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- *C7.02.** If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline or pursuant to 9.23. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.
- *C7.03.** If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.
- *C7.04.** If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body and have followed the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05., title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the process established by the synod, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval,

title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In neither case does title to this congregation's property transfer to the synod.

- *C7.05. Notwithstanding the provisions of *C7.02. and *C7.03. above, where this congregation has received property from the synod pursuant to a deed or other instrument containing restrictions under provision 9.71.a. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, this congregation accepts such restrictions and:
- a. Shall not transfer, encumber, mortgage, or in any way burden or impair any right, title, or interest in the property without prior approval of the Synod Council.
 - b. Shall—upon written demand by the Synod Council, pursuant to †S13.23. of the constitution of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin—reconvey and transfer all right, title, and interest in the property to the synod.

Chapter 8. MEMBERSHIP

*C8.01. Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

*C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

- a. **Baptized** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
- b. **Confirmed** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
- c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.
- d. **Associate** members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. These individuals have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights or other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
- e. **Seasonal** members are voting members of other congregations of this church who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:
 - 1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or for membership on the Congregation Council or on a call committee of, this congregation;
 - 2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;
 - 3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with this church;
 - 4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly;
 - 5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and
 - 6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members.

*C8.02.01. **Unbaptized adults who have received instruction and have given evidence of having adequate understanding and acceptance of the teaching of the Word of God as confessed by the Lutheran Church shall upon confession of faith and Christian Baptism duly recorded as a ministerial act performed under the auspices of this congregation, be received as baptized members of this congregation.**

*C8.03. All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Congregation Council.

*C8.04. It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. support the work of this congregation, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

***C8.04.01. Holy Communion**

- a. This congregation invites all of the members, who have been prepared to receive the Sacrament, to participate regularly in Holy Communion.
- b. Children will be invited to Holy Communion following instruction in the sacrament by those who have been charged with their spiritual care (parents, sponsors or guardians, and pastor).
- c. Participation in Holy Communion shall be open to members of other congregations who accept the Lutheran teaching in regard to this Sacrament.
- d. It shall be made known to prospective participants that the belief of this congregation is (from Luther's small catechism): Participation in the Lord's Supper is the reception of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink. "We hold that a person is well prepared and worthy who believes these words 'given and shed for you for the remission of sins. But anyone who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is neither prepared nor worthy for the words 'for you' require simply a believing heart.'

*C8.05. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action in accordance with Chapter 20 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.

Chapter 9.

ROSTERED MINISTER

*C9.01. Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by the Congregation Council to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.

*C9.02. Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

*C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care;
 - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through available channels of effective communication;
 - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and
 - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.
- b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:

- 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
- 2) relate to all schools and organizations of this congregation;
- 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
- 4) with the council, administer discipline;
- 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization and of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; and
- 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

*C9.04. The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod

*C9.05. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in this congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of this congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of this congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to this congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by this congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, this congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee

recommended termination of the call.

- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- *C9.06.** At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor shall be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.
- *C9.07.** During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in this congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any rostered minister providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served.
- *C9.08.** This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting.
- *C9.09.** When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.
- *C9.11.** With the approval of the bishop of the synod, this congregation may depart from *C9.05.a. and call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of this congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of *C9.05.a.
- *C9.12.** The pastor of this congregation:
 - a. shall keep accurate records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from this congregation;
 - b. shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the synod; and
 - c. shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- *C9.13.** The pastor(s) shall submit a report of ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- *C9.14.** The records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of this congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in the secretary's hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another call or approval of a request for change in roster status.
- C9.15.** Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synod bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between this congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synod bishop and approved by this congregation.
- *C9.21.** Authority to call a deacon shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by the Congregation Council to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.
- *C9.22.** Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop may be called as a deacon of this congregation.
- *C9.23.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
 - a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
 - b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
 - c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
 - e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
 - f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
 - g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
 - h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.
- *C9.24.** The specific duties of the deacon, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the deacon shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.
- *C9.25.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and this congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a deacon, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the deacon, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the ministry of Word and Service effectively in this congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of disability or incapacity of the deacon;
 - 5) suspension of the deacon through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the deacon from the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement;
 - 9) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.
 - b. When allegations of disability or incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office of minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of this congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
 - c. In case of alleged disability or incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the deacon's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
 - d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of this congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the deacon and then to this congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the deacon's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by this congregation and by the deacon, if appropriate. If the deacon and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
 - e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the deacon's call, this congregation may dismiss the deacon only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
 - f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's

committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

***C9.26.** This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former deacon before calling a successor. A deacon shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting.

***C9.27.** When a deacon is called to serve in company with another rostered minister or other rostered ministers, the privileges and responsibilities of each rostered minister shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the rostered ministers, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

***C9.28.** With the approval of the bishop of the synod, this congregation may depart from *C9.25.a. and call a deacon for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the deacon and representatives of this congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of *C9.25.a.

***C9.29.** The deacon shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the deacon shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

***C9.31.** The deacon(s) shall submit a report of ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Chapter 10.

CONGREGATION MEETING

C10.01. This congregation shall have at least one regular meeting per year. The regular meeting(s) of the congregation shall be held at the time(s) specified in the bylaws. Consistent with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the bylaws shall designate one regular meeting per year as the annual meeting of this congregation.

C10.01.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held the second Sunday of February

C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president¹ of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of this congregation upon the written request of ten percent of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synod bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held, and no other business shall be transacted.

C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.

C10.04. Twenty voting members shall constitute a quorum.

C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

C10.06. All actions approved by this congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.

C10.07. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication or its equivalent. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

C10.09. "*Ex officio*" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

Chapter 11.

OFFICERS

- C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
 - b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
 - c. Officers of this congregation shall serve similar offices of the Congregation Council and shall be voting members of the Congregation Council.
 - d. If the Congregation Council elects its officers, the president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council. If the treasurer is not selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council, the treasurer shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.
- C11.02.** The Congregation Council shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of the congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
- C11.03.** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than three years in the same office.

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- C12.01.** The voting members of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor, and the number of members of the congregation specified in the bylaws. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.
- C12.01.01.** The voting members of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor and nine members of the congregation.
- C12.02.** The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor shall be elected at the annual meeting of this congregation in a manner specified in the bylaws.
- C12.03.** Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.
- C12.04.** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:
- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
 - b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
 - c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
 - d. To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
 - e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
 - f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
 - g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
 - h. To emphasize support of the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.
- C12.05.** The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

- a. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and managing its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of Wisconsin except as otherwise provided herein.
 - b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of this congregation.
 - c.
 - d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in collaboration with the synod and churchwide organization.
 - e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of mission support monies to the synod.
 - f. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.
- C12.06.** The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution, its bylaws, and the continuing resolutions are carried out.
- C12.07.** The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.
- C12.08.** The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the staff of this congregation. Nothing in this provision shall be deemed to affect this congregation's responsibility for the call, terms of call, or termination of call of any employees who are on a roster of this church.
- C12.09.** The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.
- C12.11.** The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president², and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.
- C12.12.** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when the pastor or interim pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council, following consultation with the synod bishop.
- C12.13.** The Congregation Council and its committees may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication or its equivalent. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

C12.13.01 Church Council Revisions

A. Membership and meeting of the Congregational Council

1. The Congregational Council shall consist of nine (9) members, elected each for a term of three years, but elected in such a manner that after the first election approximately one-third are elected each year.
2. The addition to the requirements of the congregational membership stated in Chapter 8 of the constitution, qualifications of membership on the Congregational Council shall include such practical ability as is needed in promoting the various interests of this congregation as outlined in the duties of the various committees of the council.
3. No member of the Congregation Council shall succeed himself or herself in office. An unexpired term of less than one year shall be considered term of office.
4. Any vacancy on the Congregation Council shall be filled by temporarily by action of the Congregation Council. At the next Annual Meeting of this congregation, the congregation shall elect a member to the congregation Council to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.
5. Meetings of the Congregation Council shall normally be monthly and the date shall be determined by the Congregation Council.
6. The Congregation Council shall not transact any business unless a majority of its members is present.
7. A special meeting of the Congregation Council may be called by a notice given at a public service or mailed to each member three days in advance. A special meeting may be called by the pastor or the president or by any three members of the Congregation Council.

B. Committees of the Congregation Council

1. Each member of the council will be elected at an annual meeting to serve a three (3) year term on council. The member will be elected to council, but not to a specific committee.
2. Procedure for Council assignments and Committee chairs is as follows:
3. At the conclusion of the Annual meeting, council members shall meet and elect from their own, the Executive committee. During the next week, the Executive committee shall work with other elected council members to select their committee. This is to be completed, by the end of the February council meeting.
4. During the month of February, each chairperson is to find a minimum of two (2) Support committee staff members to assist on the Council member's committee. Support staff may assist for a few months or for up to three (3) years.
5. Committees are to meet a minimum of four (4) times a year and shall
 - a. Meet when unexpected needs arise
 - b. Keep records of meetings, dates, times, persons in attendance and the matters discussed.
6. motions for vote brought to the council by the Committee chair shall have been approved by the specific committee.
7. In the absence of a Committee chair at a council meeting, the Committee chair may give voting power to one (1) of the Committee's Support staff members.
8. The Executive Committee will be consisting of the President, the Vice President, and Secretary, and shall be elected by the Congregation Council following the Annual Meeting.
9. The Congregation Council shall have authority to appoint or elect additional congregational members who are not members of the Council as members of its regular committees.
10. The congregational Council shall at least once a year invite the full membership of its regular committees together with representatives chosen by the organizations of this congregation to review the entire program of this congregation.

C. Duties of the Executive Committee and Committees of the Congregational Council

1. The president shall preside over meetings of the Congregational Council and of the congregation unless the meeting decides otherwise.
2. The vice president shall preside in absence of the president unless the meeting decides otherwise.
3. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the Council and of the congregation and shall preserve its archives.
4. The treasurer shall be bonded and shall be custodian of all funds of the congregation, and shall disperse all such funds in accordance with the decisions of the congregation or the Congregation Council. She/he shall present an audited report to the annual congregational meeting and such other reports to the Congregational Council as may be required.
5. The financial secretary shall keep a record of all individual contributions and shall on request, provide a report for the Congregation Council.
6. Executive members are not on any other committees, executive members should try to attend some of the committee meetings.
7. Committee of Connection and Fellowship
 - a. to connect people to our congregation and nurture fellowship in our faith community
 - b. oversee the distribution of devotional resources
 - c. work with staff on fully utilizing publications, website/app, and social media
 - d. coordinate volunteers to host fellowship after Sunday worship
 - e. coordinate volunteers to help with annual meals/events
 - f. provide leadership to our welcome ministry for newcomers
 - g. create awareness of community events that our congregation can participate in
 - h. encourage ministry opportunities through the ELCA, the NW-Synod, and ecumenically
 - i. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting
8. Committee of Worship and Music
 - a. to provide weekly in-person and online worship services centered on Word & Sacrament
 - b. assist pastor and staff with creating and providing weekly worship services
 - c. assist pastor and staff with coordinating special annual worship services
 - d. check in with Altar Guild committee each month for updates and support
 - e. assist pastor and staff with purchasing and maintaining music license agreements
 - f. assist pastor and accompanists with the scheduling of special music offerings

- g. partner with office staff in lining up readers, tech assistants, elevator support, and greeters/ushers
- h. assist pastor in working with local congregations on ecumenical opportunities for worship
- i. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

9. Committee of Education and Youth

- a. to provide ministries for lifelong faith formation
- b. assist Education Director and staff with all children's ministries
- c. assist pastor, Youth Leader, and staff with all youth ministries
- d. help recruit and equip volunteers to participate in faith formation ministries
- e. assist Bible Study leader and staff with weekly Bible Study
- f. work with staff on preparation and implementation of Faith Milestones ministries
- g. coordinate volunteers to help with annual events, activities, and fundraisers
- h. encourage children and youth to attend Luther Park Bible Camp
- i. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

10. Committee of Social Concerns and Care

- a. to share the love of Christ to our congregation, community, and world
- b. oversee our care ministry teams (Sunshine Committee, Prayer Chain, Meals, etc.)
- c. check in with pastor regarding members in need of communion visits
- d. check in with church quilting team regarding updates on quilts to Lutheran World Relief
- e. connect with partner ministry organizations and communicate needs to congregation
- f. connect with partner community organizations and communicate need to congregation
- g. work with social justice advocates and community liaisons on offering support to organizations
- h. check in with the W/ELCA leaders on ministries and organizations being supported
- i. assist Kindness Team in sharing God's love to our community
- j. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

11. Committee of Building and Grounds

- a. to oversee the maintenance, care, and protection of the church building and grounds
- b. partner with Property & Stewardship to care for the church property
- c. work with a team of volunteers to repair odds and ends projects in the building and on the grounds
- d. regularly preventive maintenance all appliances and equipment on the church property
- e. communicate to the Council any replacements, repairs, and additional items needed
- f. organize an annual clean up of church building and grounds (including the cemeteries)
- g. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

12. Committee of Property Contents and Stewardship

- a. to take care of the church building and grounds
- b. partner with Building & Grounds to care for the church property
- c. prioritize projects to improve, repair, and/or replace and recommend to Council
- d. responsible for the proper financial planning and construction of repairs to all property
- e. encourage regularly giving from congregation members
- f. supervision of all contractual work as well as that done by congregational volunteers
- g. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

Chapter 13.

CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

C13.01. The officers of this congregation and the pastor shall constitute the *Executive Committee*.

C13.02. A *Nominating Committee* of three voting members of this congregation, one of whom, if possible, shall be an outgoing member of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year.

C13.03. An *Audit Committee* of three voting members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council.

C12.03.01 Additions to Audit Committee

1.. The Auditing Committee shall audit all financial records of this congregation proper and shall report to this

congregation at the Annual Meeting.

2.. The Auditing Committee shall examine all insurance policies to determine the amount and kind of insurance is in force and report to the Annual Meeting.

C13.04. A *Mutual Ministry Committee* shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor.

C13.05. When a vacancy occurs in a position for which this congregation calls a rostered minister, a *Call Committee* of six voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called rostered minister.

C13.06. Other committees of this congregation may be formed, as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.

C13.06.01. The *Cemetery Committees* consisting of Evergreen Cemetery and Eastside Cemetery shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its cemeteries and the management of its business and fiscal affairs

C13.07. Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in the bylaws.

C13.08.

Chapter 14.

ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THIS CONGREGATION

C14.01. All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation's life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.

C14.02. Special interest groups, other than those of the official organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregation Council.

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

***C15.01.** Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of this congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of this congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15–17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary: a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor, b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, c) written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and d) written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by paragraphs a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

***C15.02.** The process for discipline of a member of this congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in*

America. If the counseling, censure, and admonitions pursuant to *C15.01. do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three laypersons and two rostered ministers). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to the consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate. The panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it.

***C15.03.** If the consultation panel fails to resolve the matter, that panel shall refer the case in writing, including the written charges and the accused member's reply, to the Committee on Discipline of the synod for a hearing. A copy of the panel's written referral shall be delivered to the vice president of the synod, the Congregation Council, and the accused member(s) at the same time it is sent to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall then select six members

from the Committee on Discipline to decide the case and shall appoint a member of the Synod Council to preside as nonvoting chair. Those six members, plus the nonvoting chair, comprise the discipline hearing panel for deciding the case. The Congregation Council and the accused member(s) are the parties to the case.

- *C15.04. The discipline hearing panel shall commence and conduct the disciplinary hearing in accordance with the provisions governing discipline of congregation members prescribed in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- *C15.05. By the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the discipline hearing panel who are present and voting, one of the following disciplinary sanctions can be imposed:
 - a. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership for a designated period of time;
 - b. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership until the pastor and Congregation Council receive evidence, satisfactory to them, of repentance and amendment of life;
 - c. termination of membership in this congregation; or
 - d. termination of membership in this congregation and exclusion from the church property and from all congregation activities.
- *C15.06. The written decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be sent to the vice president of the synod, the accused member(s), and the Congregation Council as required by the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be implemented by the Congregation Council and recorded in the minutes of the next council meeting.
- *C15.07. No member of this congregation shall be subject to discipline a second time for offenses that a discipline hearing panel has heard previously and decided pursuant to this chapter.
- *C15.10. **Adjudication**
- *C15.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president [vice president] of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Chapter 16.

AMENDMENTS

- *C16.01. Unless provision *C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least ten voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.
- *C16.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:
 - a. be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and
 - b. be ratified without change at the next regular meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.
- *C16.03. Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in *C16.01. and *C16.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The synod shall notify this congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.
- *C16.04. This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of this congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of this congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to this

congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of this congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following the congregation's vote of approval.

Chapter 17.

BYLAWS

- *C17.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.
- *C17.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.
- *C17.03. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.
- *C17.04. Adopted or amended bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

Chapter 18.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

- *C18.01. This congregation in a legally called meeting or the Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.
- *C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of a meeting of this congregation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.
- *C18.03. Adopted or amended continuing resolutions shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

Chapter 19.

INDEMNIFICATION

- *C19.01. Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt provisions providing indemnification for each person who, by reason of the fact that such is or was a Congregation Council member, officer, employee, agent, or other member of any committee of this congregation, was or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.

Chapter 20.

PARISH AUTHORIZATION

[Required provisions when congregation is part of a parish]*

- *C20.01. This congregation may unite with one or more other congregations recognized by the synod named in *C6.01. to form a parish. Except as provided in *C20.02. and *C20.03., a written agreement, developed in consultation with the synod and approved by the voting members of each congregation participating in the parish, shall specify the powers and responsibilities that have been delegated to the Parish Council. The Parish Agreement shall identify which congregation of the parish issues calls on behalf of the member congregations or shall establish a process for identifying which congregation issues calls on behalf of the member congregations.
- *C20.02. One congregation of a parish shall issue a call on behalf of the member congregations to a minister of Word and Sacrament or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended by the synod bishop to serve the congregations of the parish. Such a call shall be approved prior to issuance by a two-thirds vote at a congregation meeting of each congregation forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve the call, the other congregations of the parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.03. One congregation of a parish may issue a call on behalf of the member congregations to a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended by the synod bishop to serve the congregations of the parish. Such a call shall be approved prior to issuance by a two-thirds vote at a congregation meeting of each congregation forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve the call, the other congregations of the parish

- shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.04. Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with the pastor as provided in †S14.18.d. of the synod constitution of the synod named in *C6.01. In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
 - *C20.05. Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with a minister of Word and Service as provided in †S14.43.d. of the synod constitution of the synod named in *C6.01. In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
 - *C20.06. Whenever a parish agreement is terminated, the call of any rostered minister serving that parish is terminated. Should any congregation that was formerly part of the parish agreement desire to issue a new call to that rostered minister, it may do so in accordance with the call process of this church.

BYLAWS

– As continued and adopted by Church Council revision at the direction of the previous Annual Meeting. The Church Council approval occurred on 8/8/11 and as provided in accordance with Ch 16 of this Constitution. The previous numbering of older existing by-laws has been revised to be consistent with the new constitution format adopted 1/22/11. Note: not all Constitutional chapters have related by-laws

Part I-Communion Participation (Chapter 2 of Constitution)

This congregation invites all of the members, who have been prepared to receive the Sacrament, to participate regularly in Holy Communion.

Children will be invited to Holy Communion following instruction in the sacrament by those who have been charged with their spiritual care (parents, sponsors or guardians, and pastor).

Participation in Holy Communion shall be open to members of other congregations who accept the Lutheran teaching in regard to this Sacrament.

It shall be made known to prospective participants that the belief of this congregation is (from Luther's small catechism):

Participation in the Lord's Supper is the reception of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink. "We hold that a person is well prepared and worthy who believes these words 'given and shed for you for the remission of sins. But anyone who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is neither prepared nor worthy for the words 'for you' require simply a believing heart.'

Luther's Small Catechism

Part II-Conflicting loyalties
(Chapters 2, 4; 9 of Constitution and Article V of the Minneapolis Theses
as quoted in the United Testimony on Faith and Life)

This congregation rejects all fellowship with organizations, secret or open, which are avowed religious or which practice forms of religion without confessing faith in the Triune God and in Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God incarnate to be our only Savior from sin, and thus teach salvation by works.

Ceremonies of lodges or other such organizations shall not be permitted in the church or on the church premises of this congregation.

The pastor of this congregation shall take no part in any such ceremonies even if they are conducted outside of the church premises.

Part III-Membership (Chapter 8 of Constitution)

Admission to membership

A. Baptized

~~o Children, one or both of whose parents or guardians are members of this congregation, shall, upon receiving Christian Baptism, be received as baptized members of this congregation.~~

~~o Children neither of whose parents or guardians are members of this congregation shall, upon Christian Baptism duly recorded as a ministerial act performed under the auspices of this congregation, be received as baptized members of this congregation unless there is understanding that for good reason they will be~~

enrolled as baptized members of another congregation. In which case, notice of the Baptism shall be sent to the congregation in which the child is to be enrolled as a baptized member.

o Children baptized in other congregation shall be received as baptized members of this congregation upon the admission of one or both parents or guardians to membership, or by consent of one or both parents or guardians, or by action of the Congregation Council.

o Unbaptized adults who have received instruction and have given evidence of having adequate understanding and acceptance of the teaching of the Word of God as confessed by the Lutheran Church shall upon confession of faith and Christian Baptism duly recorded as a ministerial act performed under the auspices of this congregation, be received as baptized members of this congregation.

o When one or both parents of baptized children are received into membership of the congregation, such children shall be received into the membership of the congregation with the consent of the member parent or guardian.

o When a baptized child is an orphan or a ward of someone and these people move into the area served by this congregation, the child may be received as a baptized member when it is commended to the care of this congregation by the congregation which baptized the child.

o When the parents of a baptized child are not themselves member of the Lutheran Church, but move into an area served by this congregation, the child may be received as a baptized member.

B. Admission to confirmed Membership

o A baptized adult, not previously a confirmed member of a Lutheran congregation, shall become a confirmed member of this congregation after having received instruction, haven given adequate understanding of the teachings of the Word of God as confessed by the Lutheran Church, and having publicly affirmed his/her faith.

o However, adults received as baptized members according to the provisions of Part III, A, 4 of the bylaws shall be recognized as confirmed members, whether or not, at the discretion of the pastor, they have participated in the rite of confirmation.

o Children who are baptized members of this congregation shall be admitted to confirmed membership through participation in the rite of confirmation.

o Applicants for membership presenting Letters of Transfer showing them to be confirmed members in good standing in other Lutheran congregations shall be admitted to confirmed membership upon acceptance of their Letters of Transfer by the Congregation Council and the report of their names to the congregation.

o Applicants for membership who present evidence of confirmation in a Lutheran congregation, but do not have Letters of Transfer shall be admitted to confirmed membership when the Congregation Council has determined that they meet the standards of Christian faith and life indicated in the constitution and bylaws and when they have reaffirmed their faith before this congregation.

C. Admission of Membership

o The Congregation Council shall be responsible for determining the voting membership in accordance with the qualifications specified in the constitution and bylaws. Any doubtful cases shall be decided by this congregation.

D. Discontinuance of Membership

o Members who move away shall be encouraged to transfer their membership. A confirmed member in good standing desiring to change his membership to another Lutheran congregation shall, upon request, receive a Letter of Transfer.

o A confirmed member who in the judgment of the Congregation Council shows no interest in attending church services and does not contribute to the congregational treasury according to the congregation's records, for a period of two years, shall be called upon according to Matthew 18:15-16. If he/she continues to show no interest in attending church services and does not contribute to the congregation treasury, he/she shall be presumed no longer to be in the active membership statistics of this congregation. However, his/her name and record shall be kept in the file for a period of two years thereafter. Such a person shall be encouraged to take part in the congregational life, or to transfer elsewhere, as the situation may indicate to be advisable. If he/she resumes activity within the five year period, he/she shall be restored to the active membership list; if not, he/she shall be dismissed from the congregation and, if possible, shall be notified of the action.

o Once a child reaches the age of 12, neither of whose parents or guardians are active members of this congregation, shall be dropped from the baptized membership roll if they fail to participate in the Christian education program of this congregation.

o Members who have been excommunicated or dismissed or have resigned, have thereby terminated their

~~membership in this congregation and have surrendered all membership rights; all members who have transferred to other congregations, or who are definitely known to be members of other congregations have terminated their membership in this congregation and have surrendered all membership rights except when dual or associate membership have been requested and approved by the Congregation Council.~~

Part IV – The Church Council
(Ch. 11 of the Constitution)

Church Council Revised 8/11

A. Membership and meeting of the Congregational Council

1. The Congregational Council shall consist of nine (9) members, elected each for a term of three years, but elected in such a manner that after the first election approximately one-third are elected each year.
2. The addition to the requirements of the congregational membership stated in Chapter 8 of the constitution, qualifications of membership on the Congregational Council shall include such practical ability as is needed in promoting the various interests of this congregation as outlined in the duties of the various committees of the council.
3. No member of the Congregation Council shall succeed himself or herself in office. An unexpired term of less than one year shall be considered term of office.
4. Any vacancy on the Congregation Council shall be filled by temporarily by action of the Congregation Council. At the next Annual Meeting of this congregation, the congregation shall elect a member to the congregation Council to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.
5. Meetings of the Congregation Council shall normally be monthly and the date shall be determined by the Congregation Council.
6. The Congregation Council shall not transact any business unless a majority of its members is present.
7. A special meeting of the Congregation Council may be called by a notice given at a public service or mailed to each member three days in advance. A special meeting may be called by the pastor or the president or by any three members of the Congregation Council.

B. Committees of the Congregation Council

1. Each member of the council will be elected at an annual meeting to serve a three (3) year term on council. The member will be elected to council, but not to a specific committee.
2. Procedure for Council assignments and Committee chairs is as follows:
3. At the conclusion of the Annual meeting, council members shall meet and elect from their own, the Executive committee. During the next week, the Executive committee shall work with other elected council members to select their committee. ~~Each Committee chair will recruit two (2) members from the congregation to assist with the work of the specific committee.~~ This is to be completed, by the end of the February council meeting.
4. During the month of February, each chairperson is to find a minimum of two (2) Support committee staff members to assist on the Council member's committee. Support staff may assist for a few months or for up to three (3) years.
5. ~~At the March Council meeting, Support staff is to be approved by the Council.~~
6. ~~Support staff, after serving for a period of time may request to be replaced. The Committee chair shall find a replacement and bring their name to the next Council meeting for approval.~~
7. Committees are to meet a minimum of four (4) times a year and shall
 - i. ~~Meet monthly if possible~~
 - ii. Meet when unexpected needs arise
 - iii. Keep records of meetings, dates, times, persons in attendance and the matters discussed.
8. motions for vote brought to the council by the Committee chair shall have been approved by the specific committee.
9. In the absence of a Committee chair at a council meeting, the Committee chair may give voting power to one (1) of the Committee's Support staff members.
10. The Executive Committee will be consisting of the President, the Vice President, and Secretary, and shall be elected by the Congregation Council following the Annual Meeting.
11. The Congregation Council shall have authority to appoint or elect additional congregational members who are not members of the Council as members of its regular committees.
12. The congregational Council shall at least once a year invite the full membership of its regular committees together with representatives chosen by the organizations of this congregation to review the entire program of this congregation.

C. Duties of the Executive Committee and Committees of the Congregational Council

1. The president shall preside over meetings of the Congregational Council and of the congregation unless the meeting decides otherwise.
2. The vice president shall preside in absence of the president unless the meeting decides otherwise.
3. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the Council and of the congregation and shall preserve its archives.
4. The treasurer shall be bonded and shall be custodian of all funds of the congregation, and shall disperse all such funds in accordance with the decisions of the congregation or the Congregation Council. She/he shall present an audited report to the annual congregational meeting and such other reports to the Congregational Council as may be required.
5. The financial secretary shall keep a record of all individual contributions and shall on request, provide a report for the Congregation Council.
6. Executive members are not on any other committees, executive members should try to attend some of the committee meetings.

7. Committee of Connection and Fellowship

- j. to connect people to our congregation and nurture fellowship in our faith community
- k. oversee the distribution of devotional resources
- l. work with staff on fully utilizing publications, website/app, and social media
- m. coordinate volunteers to host fellowship after Sunday worship
- n. coordinate volunteers to help with annual meals/events
- o. provide leadership to our welcome ministry for newcomers
- p. create awareness of community events that our congregation can participate in
- q. encourage ministry opportunities through the ELCA, the NW-Synod, and ecumenically
- r. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

8. Committee of Worship and Music

- j. to provide weekly in-person and online worship services centered on Word & Sacrament
- k. assist pastor and staff with creating and providing weekly worship services
- l. assist pastor and staff with coordinating special annual worship services
- m. check in with Altar Guild committee each month for updates and support
- n. assist pastor and staff with purchasing and maintaining music license agreements
- o. assist pastor and accompanists with the scheduling of special music offerings
- p. partner with office staff in lining up readers, tech assistants, elevator support, and greeters/ushers
- q. assist pastor in working with local congregations on ecumenical opportunities for worship
- r. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

9. Committee of Education and Youth

- j. to provide ministries for lifelong faith formation
- k. assist Education Director and staff with all children's ministries
- l. assist pastor, Youth Leader, and staff with all youth ministries
- m. help recruit and equip volunteers to participate in faith formation ministries
- n. assist Bible Study leader and staff with weekly Bible Study
- o. work with staff on preparation and implementation of Faith Milestones ministries
- p. coordinate volunteers to help with annual events, activities, and fundraisers
- q. encourage children and youth to attend Luther Park Bible Camp
- r. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

10. Committee of Social Concerns and Care

- k. to share the love of Christ to our congregation, community, and world
- l. oversee our care ministry teams (Sunshine Committee, Prayer Chain, Meals, etc.)
- m. check in with pastor regarding members in need of communion visits
- n. check in with church quilting team regarding updates on quilts to Lutheran World Relief
- o. connect with partner ministry organizations and communicate needs to congregation
- p. connect with partner community organizations and communicate need to congregation
- q. work with social justice advocates and community liaisons on offering support to organizations
- r. check in with the W/ELCA leaders on ministries and organizations being supported

- s. assist Acts of Random Kindness Team in sharing God's love to our community
- t. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

11. Committee of Building and Grounds

- h. to oversee the maintenance, care, and protection of the church building and grounds
- i. partner with Property & Stewardship to care for the church property
- j. work with a team of volunteers to repair odds and ends projects in the building and on the grounds
- k. regularly check on and maintain all appliances and equipment on the church property
- l. communicate to the Council any replacements, repairs, and additional items needed
- m. organize an annual clean up of church building and grounds (including the cemeteries)
- n. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

12. Committee of Property and Stewardship

- h. to take care of the church building and grounds
- i. partner with Building & Grounds to care for the church property
- j. prioritize projects to improve, repair, and/or replace and recommend to Council
- k. responsible for the proper financial planning and construction of repairs to all property
- l. encourage regularly giving from congregation members
- m. supervision of all contractual work as well as that done by congregational volunteers
- n. report regularly to the Council on all activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

~~7. The Committee on Education shall:~~

- ~~a. Develop an effective teaching ministry which includes the training of teachers and leaders and provide opportunity by every member of the congregation through the teaching agencies.~~
- ~~b. Nominate candidates for the Sunday Church School Superintendent to the Congregation Council and recruit teachers.~~
- ~~c. Determine policy for the congregation's teaching ministry, supervise, and coordinate all teaching agencies in the congregation.~~
- ~~d. Serve as the congregation's link to Synod and National Committees on parish, college and theological education.~~
- ~~e. Report regularly to the Congregation Council on its activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.~~

~~8. The Committee on Evangelism and Social Concerns shall:~~

- ~~a. Conduct regular meetings, not less than four times a year, at such times and places as the committee may determine.~~
- ~~b. The Committee's responsibilities under Evangelism are:~~
 - ~~i. Identify and recommend what the goals and objectives of the work of Evangelism shall be in the congregation.~~
 - ~~ii. Seek out the inactive, negligent, and partial members of this congregation and use every laudable means to restore such to active participation and true loyalty within the Christian fellowship and to the life and work of the Church.~~
 - ~~iii. Seek out and visit members of this congregation who have special physical, mental, and spiritual needs and minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole man accordingly, using whatever obvious or creative means that are necessary or helpful.~~
 - ~~iv. Set in motion the forces and programs which will cause the congregation as a whole, rather than merely the committee itself to fulfill the responsibilities of evangelism.~~
 - ~~v. In so far as possible minister meaningfully and specifically to all congregational members in the Armed Forces. Evaluate the congregation's over-all evangelism program periodically to seek better ways of ministering to the whole man and to make recommendations accordingly. Serve as this congregation's link to the Synod and National Evangelism committees and personnel. Report regularly to the Congregation Council on its activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.~~

~~e. The Committee's responsibilities under Social Concerns are:~~

- ~~i. Think, plan, stimulate, coordinate, and supervise the ministry of social action in this congregation.~~

- ii. Attempt to discover unmet human needs, both within the congregation and the community at large, and devise ways of meeting those needs and involving members of this congregation.
- iii. In cooperation with the Committee on Education, help members of this congregation understand the issues that concern the community, nation, and world and how one can bring the Christian faith to bear upon them.
- iv. Cooperate with other church and community agencies in their study, education, service, and action.
- v. Stimulate and coordinate volunteer activity in the area of social services, within both this congregation and the community.
- vi. Serve as this congregation's link to Synod and National committees on Social Service, Research, and Social Concerns, Special Ministries, and Metropolitan Ministry.
- vii. Report regularly to the Congregation Council on its activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

9. The Committee on Property and Management shall:

- a. Be responsible for maintaining and protecting all properties of this congregation, checking all at least once a year and calling the attention of the Congregation Council and/or congregation to large necessary repairs, improvements, or facilities
- b. Propose necessary maintenance service and staff to the Congregation Council, including recommendations as to the responsibilities, remuneration, etc.
- c. Work with the Pastor and Stewardship Committee in handling the memorial and legacy gifts to the world-wide mission programs of this congregation and through the ECLA.
- d. Report regularly to the Congregation Council on its activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

10. The Committee on Worship shall:

- a. See to interpret and enrich the worship life of the church
- b. Give leadership, council, and guidance in all matters pertaining to worship and church music within this congregation
- c. Be responsible for the elements needed for and contributing to regular and special services, including hospitality, ushering, preparation of the altar, preparation for assistance with the Communion Service, care of all parameters and vestments
- d. Consult the Pastor and work with the Congregation Council relative to music staff
- e. Establish criteria for music to be used in worship service and at weddings and funerals, with counsel and cooperation of the Pastor and music staff
- f. Recruit and develop musical talent for both present and future service
- g. Serve as this congregation's link to Synod and National committees on worship and music.
- h. Report regularly to the Congregation Council on its activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

11. The Committee on Stewardship shall:

- a. Encourage liberal, thankful, loving, and worshipful giving on the part of the membership.
- b. Study available material and discuss the principles of stewardship and use God-pleasing means to promote a strong stewardship consciousness
- c. Sponsor stewardship talks, discussions, and forums.
- d. Assist in the training of lay workers, and inform this congregation of the stewardship challenges of the Synod and National Church body.
- e. Plan and execute scripturally valid programs in which the members are encouraged to meet this congregation's own financial needs and enlarge the proportion of giving beyond the congregation.
- f. Serve as the congregation's link to Synod and National Stewardship Committees and personnel.
- g. Report regularly to the Congregation Council on its activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

12. The Committee on Youth shall:

- a. Be the voice of this congregation's concern for the ministry to youth as persons.
- b. Encourage a broad, meaningful, ministry to youth, one that includes person faith, worship, education, witness, stewardship, service, fellowship, and recreation
- c. Seek to involve the entire congregation, including specific lay leaders, in ministry to youth of both

~~congregation and community, which ministry means serving the whole person.~~

~~d. Serve as this congregation's link to Conference, Synod, and National Committees on Youth.~~

~~e. Report regularly to the Congregation Council on its activities and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.~~

Part V Congregational Committees
(Chapter 13 of Constitution)

A. Auditing Committee

a. The Auditing Committee shall audit all financial records of this congregation proper and shall report to this congregation at the Annual Meeting.

b. The Auditing Committee shall examine all insurance policies to determine the amount and kind of insurance is in force and report to the Annual Meeting.