

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH BYLAWS

Part I COMMUNION PARTICIPATION

1. Participation in Holy Communion shall be open to all persons of any Christian faith who proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord who are able to participate in a worthy manner. Worthy participation requires sincere repentance, faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, and an earnest desire to amend one's sinful life, as well as acceptance of the scriptural teaching regarding the Real presence of Christ with His Body and Blood in the Sacrament.

Baptized youths, who have been instructed in preparation for the Sacrament, and who in pastoral judgment demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the significance of Holy Communion, may partake in the Sacrament. This generally occurs during the later half of the fourth grade.

2. Record of participation in Holy Communion shall be entered upon the books of the congregation. If a member of another congregation communes, notice shall be sent to his/her congregation.

Part II CONFLICTING LOYALTIES

1. This congregation rejects all fellowship with organizations that practice forms of religion inconsistent with 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.

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

3. The pastor of this congregation shall not take part in any such ceremonies even if they are conducted outside of the church premises.

Part III MEMBERSHIP

A. Admission to Baptized Membership

1. 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.

2. Children, one or both 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 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.

3. Children baptized in other congregations shall be received as baptized members of this congregation upon 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 council.

4. Unbaptized adults who have received instruction and have given evidence of having an adequate understanding and acceptance of the teachings 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.

B. Admission to Confirmed Membership

1. Baptized adults, not previously members of the congregation, who have received instruction and have given evidence of having adequate understanding, acceptance of, and confessed the teachings of the Word of God as held by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall be admitted to confirmed membership following public affirmation of same.

2. However, adults received as baptized members according to the provisions of Section A, 4 of the Part 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.

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

4. Applicants for membership who present evidence of confirmation in a Lutheran congregation but who do not possess Letters of Transfer shall nonetheless be admitted to the confirmed membership of this congregation when (1) they have been instructed in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church by the Pastor, (2) the Church Council has received acknowledgement that they meet the standards of Christian faith and life indicated in our constitution and these bylaws, and (3) they have reaffirmed their faith before the congregation. In the event of serious illness or other extenuating circumstances, the reaffirmation may instead occur in the presence of the Pastor and one witness.

5. Baptized adults who apply for membership and who present evidence of confirmation in a Protestant Church and have a Letter of Transfer shall be admitted to the confirmed membership of this congregation when they have been instructed in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church by the Pastor and when the Church council has determined with the personal recommendation of at least one council member that they meet the standards of this constitution and bylaws.

C. Admission to Voting Membership

The Church Council shall be responsible for determining the voting membership in accordance with the qualifications specified in the constitution and bylaws.

D. Change in Membership Status

1. 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.

2. A confirmed member will remain an active member by participating in the life of the church, partaking of Holy Communion and contributing to the congregational treasury. A member who does not participate in any of these activities for one year will be sent a letter regarding their membership. The member will be encouraged to participate in the life of the church, partake in Holy Communion and support the church financially or indicate what is desired regarding their membership status. If another year passes without the member participating in the life of the church,

partaking of Holy Communion or contributing financially to the church, the member will be sent a second letter informing him/her that he/she will be added to the inactive membership of the church. An inactive member will remain in continuing pastoral care.

If an inactive member resumes participation in the life of the church, partakes of Holy Communion or contributes financially to the congregational treasury, he/she will resume active membership.

Part IV THE PASTORAL CALL

If the pastor receives a call to another congregation, he/she shall consult with his/her present congregation, or at least with the Church Council, before coming to a decision. He/she should attempt to reach a decision as quickly as possible, normally within three weeks. He/she shall thereupon notify his/her present congregation and the synod bishop. When a release has been granted and the call accepted, the pastor shall terminate his/her ministry and transfer to his/her new field of service as quickly as feasible, normally within one month.

Part V THE ANNUAL MEETING

1. The current roster of voting, confirmed, and baptized members shall be determined prior to each annual meeting.

2. The order of business at the annual meeting shall be:

- (a) Opening devotions
- (b) Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- (c) Reports of Pastor, Church Council, Treasurer, Committees, and others
- (d) Elections
- (e) Approval of the budget
- (f) Unfinished business
- (g) New Business
- (h) Closing Prayer

3. In the following cases voting shall be by written ballot:

- (a) To elect the members of the Church Council
- (b) To adopt or amend the articles of incorporation, constitution, or bylaws of the congregation.
- (c) To call a pastor or to request his/her resignation;
- (d) To excommunicate a member from the congregation or to remove a member from office in the congregation;
- (e) To sever membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- (f) To dispose of, encumber, or purchase real property;
- (g) When requested by ten or more voting members.

Part VI THE CHURCH COUNCIL

A. Membership and Meetings of the Church Council.

1. In addition to the requirements of congregational membership stated in Chapter 12 of the constitution, qualifications for membership on the Church Council shall include such practical ability as is needful in promoting the various interests of the congregation as outlined in the duties of the various ministry teams and/or committees of the council.

2. An unexpired term of less than one year shall not be considered a term of office.

3. Within 10 days after the annual meeting of the congregation, the Church Council shall elect the officers and within sixty days shall appoint or approve ministry teams and/or committees prescribed by the constitution and bylaws.

4. The pastor(s) shall be ex-officio member(s) of the Church Council.

5. Meetings of the church Council shall be held on a specified and regular day of each month; said day to be determined, if necessary, by the Council each year, as new council members are elected.

6. A special meeting of the Church council may be called by notice given at a public service or mailed to each member 5 days in advance. A special meeting may be called by the pastor or the president or by half of the Church Council.

7. If a member of the Church Council absents him/herself from three consecutive regular meetings without an excuse acceptable to the Council, he/she has forfeited his/her membership. A member having two consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings shall be notified thereof by the secretary.

B. Ministry Teams of the Church Council

1. Members of ministry teams shall be approved or appointed to three year terms by the Church Council, and shall be allowed to serve up to three consecutive terms. Seated council members may serve as members of the ministry teams. The chairperson of each ministry team shall be appointed or approved by the church council. Ministry teams shall be expected to make reports to the church council on a regular basis, with such frequency to be determined by the church council, but not less than twice per year. The chairperson of each ministry team (or his/her designee) shall be designated as the liaison of that team to the church council.

2. The church council shall appoint as many ministry teams as the local and wider concerns of the congregation shall require. Each ministry team shall be composed of one or more members of the council. In addition, other persons on the active roll of confirmed members shall be recruited to participate and serve with specific teams and will be approved by the church council. Although appointed by and responsible to the church council, these ministry teams shall be recognized as representatives of the interests of, and performing essential services for, the congregation as a whole. The pastor(s) shall have voice without vote in all ministry teams. The ministry teams may include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. Property:

To oversee the caretaking of all properties associated with Christ Lutheran Church and to work with the personnel committee regarding personnel and addressing salary issues.

b. Christian Education:

To coordinate, implement, and carry out all aspects of the education program in concert with the Christian Education Coordinator and the Pastor(s) at Christ Lutheran Church from pre-school to adult education including confirmation.

c. Worship and Music:

To liaise with pastors in coordinating and carrying out of all aspects of worship at Christ Lutheran Church and to ensure those worship opportunities are conducted within the theological framework of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This shall also include coordinating and planning worship with ushers, choirs, guilds, and other participants.

d. Fellowship:

To foster and strengthen relationships among the people of Christ Lutheran Church through planning and implementing various social and service activities.

e. Milestone Ministries:

To nurture faith development in families focusing on the significant milestones of life from birth to death.

f. Missions and Social Concerns Committee:

To increase awareness and participation in, and encourage support for local and global missions for the purpose of sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

g. Youth:

To provide, coordinate, and support faith fellowship and nurturing opportunities with and for the youth of Christ Lutheran.

h. Budget and Finance:

To determine the annual budget in cooperation with the various committees and staff and to oversee the ongoing financial operation of Christ Lutheran Church. This committee will communicate with the congregation treasurer.

i. Stewardship:

To coordinate and facilitate the sharing of God's gifts present in the people of Christ Lutheran Church.

j. Outreach:

To coordinate congregational efforts to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people in the surrounding community and to assist in the assimilation of new congregational members.

C. Auditing Committee

An auditing committee composed of 3 persons shall be appointed by the president with the approval of the Church Council. The auditing committee shall audit all financial records of the congregation proper, and shall present its report to the annual meeting in writing. The auditing committee shall carefully examine all insurance policies to determine the amount and kind of insurance in force and include this report in its statement.

D. Use of property.

1. The property of the congregation shall be for the use of the congregation in its normal function as a Lutheran Church and shall not be used in any way not in harmony with the purpose of the congregation.

2. Buildings which are the property of the congregation shall not be lent or rented to any group or individual not affiliated with the congregation or with The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America unless application for such use has been approved by the Church Council by a two-thirds majority in the case of a request for occasional use, or by a two-thirds majority vote of the present and voting members of the congregation in the case of a request for regular use.

Part VII NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. The members of the nominating committee shall serve for the year following their election. They shall nominate one or more candidates for each vacancy to be filled and shall secure the consent of each candidate to serve if elected. Candidates shall be nominated at large.

2. The candidates of the nominating committee shall be made known to the congregation in conjunction with the announcements of the special or annual meeting at which the election is to take place.

3. In addition to the candidates submitted by the nominating committee, additional nominations may be made from the floor.

4. A vacancy in the congregationally elected membership of the nominating committee shall be filled by majority vote of the Church Council.

Part VIII REPORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS

All committees and organizations handling funds within the congregation shall submit accounts to the treasurer or the church office prior to the annual meeting, and the treasurer shall include such accounts in his/her report to the meeting.

Part IX PARISH RECORDS

The pastor shall be responsible for keeping accurate record of membership and of his/her ministerial acts, on forms provided by the congregation and which shall remain the property of the congregation. He/She shall report these statistics to the congregation annually, and, when required, to the secretary of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Upon leaving the congregation, he/she shall complete the records of his/her ministry up to the time of his/her departure.