

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKE NORDEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

***North American Lutheran Church
Final Adoption & Ratification on January 15, 2012
Amended on _____***

INTRODUCTION

This edition of the constitution and bylaws is based on The Model Constitution for Congregations of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), as well as other sources. The former Constitution and Bylaws of Trinity Lutheran church, while a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, were consulted and many of the provisions, especially in the bylaws, were included in this document.

REQUIRED PROVISIONS

Sections of this constitution marked by an asterisk [*], specifically chapter two, and sections C6.02 and C6.03c and C6.03d are required by the North American Lutheran Church when a congregation joins the NALC and accepts the Constitution of the NALC. These sections have been included without alteration or amendment of the text in any manner (neither additions nor deletions).

CODIFICATION EXPLANATION

A numerical codification indicates (a) general subject, (b) constitutional provisions, (c) bylaws, and (d) continuing resolutions.

- a. Major sectors are designated as chapters. The chapter designation becomes the first number in the codification sequence and is followed by a period.
- b. Constitutional provisions are codified with two sets of numbers: the chapter number and a two-digit number preceding the second period in the codification.
- c. Bylaw provisions are codified with three sets of numbers: the chapter number, the related constitutional provision number, and a two-digit number. Bylaw provisions are also italicized.
- d. The Congregation Council may adopt “continuing resolutions,” which may provide descriptions of operational patterns or of the ongoing responsibilities of committees or other units within the organizational structure of the congregation. Within the governing documents of a congregation, continuing resolutions are the provisions most easily amended. Unlike constitutional provisions and bylaws, continuing resolutions may be updated regularly by the Congregation Council without the necessity of calling a regular or special Congregation Meeting.
- e. Continuing resolutions also are codified with three sets of numbers except that the third set is preceded by a capital letter. They may be in a different print font or style to separate them from Bylaw provisions. Thus, a continuing resolution might be numbered **C13**. to designate the chapter; **C13.07**. to designate the subject matter within the chapter; and the third set might be numbered **A11**. in the codification **C13.07.A11**. to indicate by the “A” that it is the first continuing resolution regarding that subject and to indicate by the “11” that it was adopted in 2011.

EASE OF USE

The provisions of your congregation's constitution, the bylaws, and the continuing resolutions that pertain to the same matter are placed together for clarity and ease in use.

If chapter numbers are considered the major sequence number, constitution numbers as a fraction of the chapter number, and bylaw numbers as a fraction of the constitution number, then the codification can be said to provide a progressive sequence. Thus, *C5.01. will precede C5.03.10., and C9.11.16. will precede *C9.13.

All provisions in this edition are prefaced with "C" to distinguish these provisions from comparable ones in regional or national church constitutions.

REFERENCES TO CHURCH

In the governing documents, "Church" with a capital letter is used in references to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. In references to the North American Lutheran Church, the words, "church" and "this church" in lower case letters are employed, although, for clarity in this constitution, the full name or "NALC" normally is used. The specific congregation may be identified, as "this congregation."

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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 Trinity Lutheran Church of Lake Norden, South Dakota.

C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church of Lake Norden, South Dakota, is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."

C1.03. This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of South Dakota and the Articles of Incorporation consistent with this Constitution shall be filed, under the laws of the State of South Dakota.

C1.03.01 *The official seal of this congregation presents the name, "Trinity Lutheran Church" forming the outer circle; three sides of a triangle within the circle are formed by "Hellig – 1880," "Hellig – 1886," and "Pyha – 1891." The words meaning "holy" in Norwegian, Danish, and Finnish, respectively; the dates indicate the organization of the three predecessor congregations. Outside the triangle are the words "Lake Norden," "South Dakota," and the date "1967." Inside is the cross and vine as a symbol of the Church from John 15:1-8.*

Chapter 2. CONFESSION OF FAITH

This congregation incorporates Article 2 of the constitution of the North American Lutheran Church (the "NALC"), confessing:

***C2.01.** The Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***C2.02** 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 the Holy Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them the Holy Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

***C2.03** 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, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged." (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Part I)

- *C2.04 The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of the Church.
 - *C2.05 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 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.
 - *C2.07 The Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures 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.
- C2.07.01 *This congregation honors and accepts **The Common Confession (2005)**, attached in Appendix "A" hereto, as a summary of teachings otherwise affirmed in the Lutheran Confessions.*

Chapter 3. NATURE OF THE CHURCH & THE MINISTRY

- 3.01. The Church is the universal assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel. (Augsburg Confession VII)
- 3.02. 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.
- 3.03. 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.
- 3.04 This congregation exercises ministry within the mission of the NALC. This congregation embodies the Church in its community and, for the sake of mission, lives in cooperative partnership with other congregations and within the other structures of the NALC. This congregation shall share responsibility for the decision-making processes of the NALC.

C3.04.01 *Within the people of God and for the sake of the Gospel ministry, entrusted to all believers, God has instituted the office of the ministry of Word and Sacrament. To carry out this ministry the North American Lutheran Church ordains qualified persons, both men and women. Within the office of the ordained ministry is a ministry of oversight in the church. In the North American Lutheran Church this ministry of oversight includes a bishop and others in leadership who, in a collegial manner, serve the church in Word and Sacrament, visit among the congregations, provide support for pastors and congregations, participate in the process of doctrinal discernment, and authorize ordinations on behalf of the Church.*

C3.04.02 *The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies all who believe in Jesus Christ to be priests for service to others in Jesus' name, and desires to make use of the spiritual gifts He has given through the priesthood of all believers. In its structures, the church equips and supports its members for their ministries in the world and in the Church.*

C3.04.03 *As the North American Lutheran Church reflects on and makes decisions regarding its mission, ordained ministers and lay delegates elected by the congregations, as well as congregations themselves, shall participate in the decision-making process of the NALC.*

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 and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, 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 rightly 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.

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. Encourage its members to provide financial support for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the North American Lutheran Church.

h. Foster and participate with other congregations of the NALC as well as with others in ecumenical relationships consistent with NALC 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 Council.

C4.05. This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

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 the congregation. The 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 or terminate the call of commissioned lay leaders in conformity with the applicable policy of the North American Lutheran Church.
- d.** adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter 17, and amendments to the bylaws, as specified in Chapter 16.
- e.** approve the annual budget;
- f.** acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- g.** hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- h.** sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- i.** elect its Congregation Council, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
- j.** terminate its relationship with the North American Lutheran Church as provided in Chapter 6 of this constitution.

C5.04. This congregation shall choose from among its voting members persons to serve as lay delegates and alternates to represent it at meetings of any conferences, convocations, and other meetings where this congregation is entitled to such representation.

C5.05. This congregation may develop an endowment fund that will operate as specified in this congregation's bylaws. The purpose of the 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 a member of the North American Lutheran Church or its successor. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the North American Lutheran Church.

***C6.02.** This congregation subscribes to the constitution of the North American Lutheran Church and shall act in accordance with it.

6.03. This congregation will conduct its ministry in a manner consistent with its membership in the NALC:

- a.** This congregation is responsible for its life as a Christian community.
- b.** This congregation pledges its participation in the life and mission of the NALC, including the prayerful consideration of appropriate financial support.
- *c.** This congregation shall call only pastors who are members of the NALC or otherwise are authorized by the NALC to serve.
- *d.** This congregation shall appoint only commissioned lay leaders who are members of the NALC or otherwise are authorized by the NALC to serve.

- 6.04.** Affiliation with the NALC may be terminated as follows:
- a.** This congregation dissolves.
 - b.** This congregation ceases to exist.
 - c.** This congregation is removed from membership in the NALC according to the procedures for discipline of the NALC.
 - d.** This congregation, at a legally called and conducted special meeting, approves by at least a majority of those present and voting a resolution directing that this congregation withdraw from the NALC. If this congregation adopts a resolution withdrawing from the NALC, all provisions of this constitution binding this congregation to the NALC shall be immediately ineffective. The congregation shall promptly deliver a copy of the withdrawal resolution to the NALC general secretary.

Chapter 7. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

C7.01. If this congregation ceases to exist, title to its property shall be distributed, in accord with applicable law and with this congregation's governing documents, to an entity determined by the Congregation Council.

C7.02. If this congregation is removed from membership in the North American Lutheran Church according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.

C7.02.01 *This congregation is an independent legal entity with rights to purchase, hold, and convey real and personal property in accord with applicable law. The NALC shall have no right to or interest in the property of this congregation unless this congregation expressly conveys such a right or interest to the NALC.*

C7.03. If a majority of the voting members of this congregation present and voting at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, relate to a non-Lutheran church body, or become independent, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.

Chapter 8. MEMBERSHIP

C8.01. Members of this congregation shall be the pastor and 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 the congregation.

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, or persons who wish to retain a relationship with this congregation while being members of other congregations. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council 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;
- c. support the work of this congregation through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

C8.04.01 *Regular use of the Word and sacraments includes:*

- a) *Studying the Holy Bible and practicing family and private devotions;*
- b) *Partaking regularly of Holy Communion after proper preparation;*
- c) *Presenting children by their parents or guardians for Holy Baptism in early infancy and nurturing them in the Christian faith in their home and in Sunday School*

C8.04.02 *Participation in Holy Communion shall be open to all Christians who believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ is given with the bread and wine of the sacrament, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink.*

C8.04.03 *People are prepared to come to the Lord's Supper who believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ is given and shed for the remission of sins.*

C8.04.04 *Any member of this congregation, in disagreement with any policy, procedure or practice of this congregation and desiring resolution of that disagreement, after making ample effort to have questions answered and concerns resolved through contact with the pastor, may contact any member of the Congregation Council for explanations and/or help in the matter. Should such contact fail to resolve the disagreement, the member may petition, in writing, the Congregation Council which shall schedule a hearing of the matter at the next regular meeting of the Congregation Council. (See Chapter 12, Congregation Council for further details.)*

C8.04.05 *The Marks of Discipleship for membership in this congregation include:*

Upon reception of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, being baptized in the name of the Triune God, and being in agreement with this congregation's statement of faith and purposes, members of this congregation shall:

1. *worship regularly;*
2. *make prayer and Biblical study a part of daily life;*
3. *give "first fruits" to God and work toward tithing (10%) of one's income;*
4. *serve in a ministry based on one's spiritual gifts and talents*
5. *commit oneself to sharing one's faith with others in word and deed*
6. *protect the unity of this congregation by:*
 - *Acting in love toward other members*
 - *Refusing to gossip*
 - *Supporting its leaders*
 - *Resolving conflict according to Matthew 18:15-17*
 - *Living a godly life*

C8.04.06 *The church building and grounds of this congregation shall be open to people to share in its worship, instruction, pastoral care, and fellowship, including weddings and funerals of other Christian congregations in the community.*

C8.04.07 *This congregation rejects, however, all fellowship with organizations, secret or open, which are avowedly religious or which practice religious rites or ceremonies without confessing in the triune God and in Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God incarnate to be the only Savior from sin or which teach salvation by works.*

C8.04.08 *Ceremonies of lodges or other such organizations shall not be permitted in the building or on the premises of the congregation.*

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 by the Congregation Council; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws. Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.

C805.01 *The Church Council at their discretion with consultation of the pastor may remove members from the membership roster after prolonged and successive period of inactivity in the congregation after a final attempt is made by the leadership to bring them back into the congregational life.*

C8.05.02 *Discipline as provided in C8.05(d) of this constitution shall follow this procedure:*

- 1) *A person who is requested to appear before the Congregation Council for possible discipline, shall be advised no less than ten days prior to the hearing. The written notice shall include the time and place of the hearing and shall specify the exact reason for the possible discipline.*
- 2) *If that person fails to appear at the time and place of the hearing without a valid excuse, the Congregation Council may proceed with the hearing and may make its conclusion in the absence of that person.*
- 3) *Should the person be found guilty by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Congregation Council, the council shall impose one of the following:*
 - a) *Censure before the Congregation Council or the congregation;*
 - b) *Suspension from membership until proof is given of sufficient repentance and amendment of life;*
 - c) *Exclusion from membership and the sacraments.*
- 4) *In the event of the imposition of sections (b) or (c) of C8.05.03(3), the action of the Congregation Council shall be in writing.*

Chapter 9. THE PASTOR

C9.01. Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose.

C9.01.01 *Before a call is issued, the congregation council and/or a call committee appointed by the Congregation Council to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop and regional dean of the North American Lutheran Church.*

C9.02. Only a member of the clergy roster of the North American Lutheran Church, or a candidate who has been recommended by the bishop or regional dean, may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the North American Lutheran Church,

a. Every ordained minister shall:

- 1) preach the Word;
- 2) administer the sacraments;
- 3) conduct public worship;
- 4) provide pastoral care;
- 5) serve as the chief evangelist in his or her ministry; and
- 6) proclaim God's love to the world.

b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:

- 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
- 2) supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation;
- 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
- 4) with the council, administer discipline;
- 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;

c. Every pastor shall:

- 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
- 2) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
- 3) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the North American Lutheran Church.

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, drafted and approved by the Congregation Council.

C9.04.01 *The pastor shall abide by the provisions of the most recent edition of the "STANDARDS FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY" of the North American Lutheran Church.*

C9.05. The following provisions apply to the call of a pastor:

a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated for 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, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
- 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;
- 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
- 5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;

- 6) the dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 7) suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.
- b. If the Church Council determines that it may be appropriate to end a call for one of the reasons set out in sub-section (a), the Council shall consult with the pastor regarding the matter in accord with Biblical principles. If the Church Council and pastor do not reach agreement, the Congregation shall inform the Bishop of the NALC, who shall consult with the Church Council and the pastor and shall attempt to reach an agreed resolution. If the Bishop fails to facilitate an agreed resolution, the Church Council may terminate the pastor's call by a vote of two-thirds of all members of the Church Council. In all events, the Church Council can suspend a pastor with pay by majority vote if the Church Council determines that such suspension is necessary to protect the congregation and all whom it serves.

C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor may be appointed by the the Congregation Council.

C9.07. During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor.

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 related to the North American Lutheran Church.

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. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

C9.10. The 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. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of **C9.05.a.** and **C9.05.b.**

C9.11. The pastor of this congregation:

- a. shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation; such records shall remain the property of this congregation.
- b. shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the congregation council; 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 each of the congregations.
- d. shall become a voting member of the Congregation Council.
- e. shall be an ex-officio member (with voice and vote) of all teams, committees, task forces and ministry boards.
- f. shall not vote on matters that pertain to allegations of physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office.

C9.11.01 *The pastor shall not participate in any ceremonies of lodges wherever they are conducted as they are described in **C8.04.07** and **C8.04.08.***

C9.11.02 *The following bylaw declarations regarding Pastoral Ministry which were adopted on January 17, 2010, shall continue to apply:*

- A. *Trinity Lutheran Church, as a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church, understands that it has the right to call, or refuse to call, any person who is on the roster of ordained ministers.*
- B. *Trinity Lutheran Church will not call a pastor who is or intends to be in such a same-gender relationship. Any pastor who does not live up to this standard shall be subject to termination of his/her call to this congregation.*
- C. *The pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church shall not perform any marriages, civil unions, or blessings of persons in same gender relationships and no such services will be held in this church building nor authorized by this congregation.*
- D. *The pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church shall neither promote nor engage in sexual promiscuity, sexual seduction, or sexual harassment. A single (unmarried) pastor is expected to live a chaste, celibate life. A married pastor is expected to live in fidelity to his/her spouse.*
- E. *The pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church shall live in conformity with the 1990 document entitled "Visions and Expectations" of Ordained Ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including any additions or amendments made by the North American Lutheran Church.*

Chapter 10. CONGREGATION MEETING

C10.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.

C10.01.01 *The books of the financial secretary, the treasurer of the congregation and all auxiliary organizations shall be closed on December 31st of each year.*

C10.01.02 *The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held on a date in January of each year as determined by the Congregation Council.*

C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of the congregation upon the written request of ten percent of the voting members.

C10.03. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.

C10.03.01 *Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship in the preceding two consecutive weeks and shall be given by newsletter announcement if possible, mail, e-mail or phone to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.*

C10.04. A quorum of no less than 10 percent of the voting members is required for any Congregation Meeting.

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

C10.06. All actions approved by the 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.

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. The Congregation Council will elect its officers, the president, vice president, and secretary from the elected membership of the Congregation Council.

C11.01.01 *The duties and responsibilities of the officers of the congregation are as follows:*

- a. *The **president** shall preside over all meetings of the congregation or the Congregation Council and shall conduct congregation and Congregation Council activities to comply with the Word of God, this constitution, its bylaws and the policies of this church. He/She shall communicate regularly with the pastor, and ensure all constitutional provisions and policies as they pertain to the pastor and church staff are followed.*
- b. *The **vice-president** shall assume all responsibilities and perform all duties of the president in the event of the president's absence or perform select responsibilities and/or duties as requested by the president.*
- c. *The **secretary** shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the congregation and of the Congregation Council which shall be preserved permanently in the congregation's archives. The secretary shall maintain the congregation's files of legal and other valuable documents, and shall ensure compliance with all federal and state reporting requirements.*
- d. *The **treasurer** shall keep and maintain the books of account of the congregation. The treasurer shall receive from the financial secretary all funds received and shall disburse them on properly approved orders. If the financial secretary position is not occupied, the treasurer shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the financial secretary on a temporary basis until the Congregation Council appoints a new individual to the position. 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.*
- e. *The **financial secretary** shall receive, record, and maintain records of all income received from contributing members and all other sources.*

C11.01.02 *Unless otherwise specifically authorized by the congregation or the Congregation Council, all official and legal documents of the congregation relating to the sale, conveyance, purchase, or encumbrance of real estate or the borrowing of money, shall be signed on behalf of the congregation by the president or vice-president, together with the secretary when two signatures are required, or when only one signature is required, it shall be the signature of the president or vice-president.*

C11.01.03 *Access to the congregation's bank accounts shall be limited to the president, vice-president, and the treasurer.*

C11.02. The Congregation Council shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of the congregation. The officers 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. The pastor shall be an *ex officio* member, with voice and vote, of the Congregation Council.

C11.04. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer, except the treasurer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Chapter 12. CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor, and nine members of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office.

C12.01.01 *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.*

C12.01.02 *Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.*

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected to serve for three years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

C12.02.01 *Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship by the pastor on a Sunday soon after their election.*

C12.02.02 *Only one member of a family may serve on the Congregation Council during the same term. For the purpose of this bylaw, "family" includes all of the following: spouse, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister, brother, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and natural, step, and adopted children.*

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 North American Lutheran Church. 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 pastor 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 partnership with the North American Lutheran Church as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the North American Lutheran Church.
- i.** To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the North American Lutheran Church as well as other reputable Lutheran Churches.
- 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 the board of directors of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of 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 South Dakota, 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 the congregation.
- c.** The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to 5 percent of the budget for items not included in the budget or in other existing designated funds.
- 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, and may incur obligations of more than 5 percent of the budget in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting or as council approves from existing, designated funds.
- 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 benevolence monies to the appropriate recipient.
- 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 salaried lay workers of this congregation.

C12.09. The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.

C12.10. The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one-half of the Council members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

C12.11. 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.

C12.12. The Congregation Council shall verify the eligibility of nominated voting members seeking to be considered for election to the Congregation Council at the annual meeting. Eligible nominated individuals shall be presented for consideration at the annual meeting by the president.

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, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

C13.03. An *Audit Committee* of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office shall be one year. Members shall be eligible for reelection.

C13.04. A *Mutual Ministry Committee* of four voting members (in the absence of a mutual ministry committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) may be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor (two members each). Term of office shall be two years, with two members to be appointed each successive year.

C13.05. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a *Call Committee* of six voting members shall be elected by this congregation upon the recommendation of the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.

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

C13.06.01 *Each such committee shall be composed of one or more members of the Congregation Council and other active confirmed members of the congregation who shall be recruited by the council member on the committee.*

C13.07. Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in the continuing resolutions of the Congregation Council.

C13.07.A.11 *There shall be a Christian Education Committee which shall:*

1. *Oversee the conduct and promotion of the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and assist the pastor with Confirmation Ministry as needed;*
2. *Encourage the use of teaching materials published or approved by the North American Lutheran Church;*
3. *Promote the use of periodicals and family devotional resources in the homes of the congregation.*
4. *Shall encourage qualified youth to pursue the call to ministry and other full-time Christian vocations.*
5. *Consist of one Congregation Council member appointed annually by the council and at least three other members elected by the congregation for three year terms; and no member shall serve more than two full terms consecutively;*
6. *Shall normally meet monthly or as necessary to complete its work;*
7. *Shall elect any necessary officers or superintendents as may be needed;*
8. *Shall appoint a treasurer who shall receive and disburse all Sunday School and VBS offerings and other monies for educational programs;*
9. *Shall promote and encourage youth to attend camps, retreats and conventions;*
10. *Shall submit a written report for each annual meeting of the congregation.*

C13.07.B.11 There shall be an **Evangelism Committee** which shall:

1. Seek to stimulate members of the congregation to witness to their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
2. Work to reawaken those who may be spiritually indifferent;
3. Labor to win non-believers or un-churched people to the gospel of Jesus Christ;
4. Study periodically the congregation and the needs of the surrounding community;
5. Extend the compassion of the congregation to serve the needs of the hungry and poor of the community, including supervising Trinity's Food Pantry;
6. Seek to encourage the congregation to serve other critical problems in the community.

C13.07.C.11 There shall be a **Property Committee** which shall:

1. See to the proper maintenance and protection of the Church building, grounds, and the parsonage;
2. Review all insurance needs;
3. Supervise the janitor;
4. Make recommendations to the council for repair or replacement of all church appliances and equipment.

C13.07.D.11 There shall be a **Stewardship Committee** which shall:

1. Promote the Christian faith in daily life of the members of this congregation;
2. Teach the Christian use of money;
3. Share knowledge of the needs and opportunity to financially support the NALC;
4. Promote the needs and opportunities to support this congregation's American Mission Partner;
5. Promote the needs and opportunities to support this congregation's Global Mission Partner;
6. Lead members to higher levels of proportionate giving for congregational ministries;
7. Promote the opportunities for members to support Trinity's Food Pantry;
8. Promote the opportunities to donate to the World Hunger Appeal.

C13.07.E.11 There shall be a **Worship and Music Committee** which shall:

1. Assist the pastor in planning services of worship, both traditional and contemporary;
2. Recruit and train competent ushers, lay-readers, communion servers, and greeters;
3. Assist the pastor in recruiting and training organists and other instrumentalists;
4. Recruit members to sing solos, quartets, in choirs;
5. Arrange care for vestments, paraments, and sacramental vessels with the Altar Guild;
6. Work with the pastor, organist, and office secretary in budgeting for necessary worship and music supplies and materials;

C13.07.F.11 There shall be a **Finance Committee** which shall:

1. Prepare a draft annual budget for the Council's recommendation to the congregation; keeping anticipated expenses in balance with anticipated income.
2. Present "benevolence" goals for
 - a. General Mission Support of the NALC;
 - b. American Mission Partner support;
 - c. Global Mission Partner Support;
 - d. Trinity Food Pantry;
 - e. Other needy recipients such as LSS, LO, Campus Ministry and other needs;
3. Supervise the treasurer and give particular attention to the prompt payment of all budgetary obligations and the regular forwarding of all benevolence offerings to intended recipients.

C13.08. The pastor and the president of this congregation shall be *ex officio* with the privilege of both voice and vote of all committees and boards of the congregation, except the nominating committee.

Chapter 14.

ORGANIZATIONS **WITHIN THE 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 annual meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.

C14.01.01 *Current Organizations and Ministries*

- a. *A listing of all current organizations and ministries which exist in this congregation shall be attached to this constitution and its bylaws within Appendix "C" and updated by the secretary of the Congregation on a yearly basis;*
- b. *A person must be a voting member of the congregation in order to be the team leader of any organization or ministry.*

C14.01.02 *Starting New Organizations and Ministries*

- a. *Any new idea for starting a new organization or ministry must meet the following qualifications:*
 - 1) *The ministry idea must be biblically sound.*
 - 2) *The ministry idea must be consistent with the Mission, Statement of Faith, and goals of the congregation.*
 - 3) *The ministry idea must fulfill one or more purposes of the church (see Chapter 4).*
 - 4) *The ministry idea must not involve the independent raising of funds (which may compete with the church stewardship) unless expressly approved by the Council.*
 - 5) *The ministry idea must be "transferable" (in other words, does not depend upon specific personalities).*
 - 6) *The new ministry must be led by a leadership team that includes a minimum of two voting members.*
- b. *All requests to start a new ministry shall be submitted to the pastor, and be approved by the pastor or the Congregation Council.*
- c. *All requests to start a new organization shall follow the same guidelines under C14.01.02b for starting a new ministry. In addition, any new organization must be approved by the Congregation Council.*

C14.01.03 *The treasurer of each auxiliary organization, ministry or activity shall submit a financial report for auditing to the Audit Committee at the end of each calendar year. After the audit is completed, that report shall be included in the annual congregational report.*

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

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

C15.01. Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps: a) private admonition by the pastor, b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and c) citation to appear before the Congregation Council. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a. and b. hereof, the president (if not the pastor) or vice president shall administer such admonitions.

C15.02. The process for discipline of a voting member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by this chapter. If discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor or his/her designee or Congregation Council president, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor or Congregation Council president, who shall advise the Congregation Council of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused. A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregation Council after having received a written citation, at least ten days prior to the meeting. If the member charged with the offense fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Congregation Council may proceed with the hearing and may pass judgment in the member's absence.

C15.03. Members of the Congregation Council who participate in the preparation of the written charges or who present evidence or testimony in the hearing before the Congregation Council are disqualified from voting upon the question of the guilt of the accused member. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Congregation Council who are not disqualified but who are present and voting, and renewed admonition prove ineffectual, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. censure before the council or congregation; or
- b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
- c. exclusion from membership in this congregation;
- d. disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.

C15.04. All actions and decisions made by the Congregation Council shall be considered final, unless an appeal is made as described in Section **C15.05**.

C15.05 The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Church Council shall have the right to appeal to a Congregational Meeting, which may revise or overturn the Church Council's decision by a majority vote. Any such vote will be by secret ballot.

C15.06. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of a) evidence that injustice has been done or b) evidence of repentance and amendment.

Chapter 16. BYLAWS

C16.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

C16.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.

C16.03. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, 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 and that the Congregation Council notify the congregation's members by mail of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.

C16.04. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the appropriate person in the North American Lutheran Church.

Chapter 17. AMENDMENTS

C17.01. Those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the North American Lutheran Church, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least ten percent of the 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 the congregation's members by mail of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

C17.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under **C17.01**, shall:

- a. be approved at a legally called Congregation Meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting;
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.

Chapter 18. CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

C18.01. 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 the Congregation Council.

C18.02.01 *Congregation Policies and Procedures may be adopted as continuing resolutions with the assistance of the pastor, staff and leadership. The secretary shall keep an ongoing record of Congregation Policies and Procedures. These policies are to be communicated, executed and upheld by the pastor, staff and leadership, and shall govern the everyday operations of the church. No policy shall conflict with any provisions outlined in this constitution or its bylaws.*

C18.02.02 *The Congregation Policies and Procedures shall be attached to this constitution and its bylaws as Appendix B and updated by the secretary of the Congregation Council on a yearly basis.*

Chapter 19. LIMITS OF LIABILITY AND 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 person is or was the pastor, 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 & RECORDS

C20.01. This congregation may unite in partnership with one or more other congregations recognized by the North American Lutheran Church to form a parish. Except as provided in C20.02. and C20.03., a written agreement, developed and approved by the voting members of each congregation participating in the parish, shall specify the powers and responsibilities that have been delegated to a Parish Council.

C20.02. Whenever a letter of call is being recommended for extension to an ordained minister of the North American Lutheran Church or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended to the congregation by the regional dean or the bishop to serve the congregations of a parish, such letter of call shall be first approved by a two-thirds vote at congregational meetings of each of the congregations forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve extending this call, the other congregation(s) in the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish arrangement.

C20.03. Any one of the congregations of a parish may terminate the call of a pastor as provided in **C9.05** of this constitution. In such case, the other congregation(s) in the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish arrangement.

C20.04. Whenever a parish arrangement is terminated, the call of the pastor serving that parish is terminated. Should any congregation that formerly was part of the parish arrangement desire to issue a new call to that rostered person, it may do so in accordance with the call process of this church.

C20.05. The records of this congregation and parish shall be and remain the property of this congregation.

C20.05.01 *The pastor shall be responsible for the maintenance of the records and upon the termination of the pastor's service, the records shall have been brought up to date prior to the pastor's departure.*

C20.05.02 *The records shall consist of :*

- a) The roster of baptized, confirmed, and voting members;*
- b) The ministerial acts preformed by the pastor;*
- c) The minutes of all meetings of this congregation and the Congregation Council and any Parish Council, for which the secretary of this congregation shall be responsible;*
- d) The financial records of the congregation, for which the treasurer of this congregation shall be responsible;*
- e) The official minutes and reports of the North American Lutheran Church.*

C20.05.03 *The pastor shall report to the general secretary of the North American Lutheran Church such statistics and reports as may be requested.*

C20.05.04 *In the event that this congregation is dissolved, the official records of this congregation shall be deposited in the archives of the North American Lutheran Church.*

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* *Indicates Required Provision by the NALC.*

End of Revised Draft of Constitution and Bylaws

*– with changes and editorial revisions
and incorporating the required sections of the NALC Model Constitution for Congregations
and other corrections that seemed necessary and good.*

*It will be given to Congregational Council for its review and possible changes & recommendations
on October 6, 2011.*

*It will be recommended for final approval with necessary NALC required changes, etc.
to the Congregation in January, 2012*

***This edition as mended will be ratified as the permanent edition
at the congregation's annual meeting in January of 2012.***

***The Provisional edition is guiding all congregational actions and decisions for the one year
prior to its ratification in 2012.***

APPENDIX 'A'

THE COMMON CONFSSION

The Common Confession is a summary of teachings in the Lutheran Confessions and adopted by the Lutheran Core in 2005 and affirmed by the North American Lutheran Church in 2010:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ

We are people who believe and confess our faith in the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We trust and believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

2. The Gospel of Salvation

We believe and confess that all human beings are sinners, and that sinners are redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God alone justifies human beings by faith in Christ—a faith that God creates through the message of the Gospel. As ambassadors for Christ, God uses us to speak His Word and build His kingdom.

3. The Authority of Scripture

We believe and confess that the Bible is God's revealed Word to us, spoken in Law and Gospel. The Bible is the final authority for us in all matters of our faith and life.

4. A Common Confession of Faith

We accept and uphold that the Lutheran Confessions reliably guide us as faithful interpretations of Scripture, and that we share a unity and fellowship in faith with others among whom the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the sacraments are administered in accordance with the Gospel.

5. The Priesthood of All Believers

We believe and confess that the Holy Spirit makes all who believe in Jesus Christ to be priests for service to others in Jesus' name, and that God desires to make use of the spiritual gifts he has given through the priesthood of all believers.

6. Marriage and Family

We believe and confess that the marriage of male and female is an institution created and blessed by God. From marriage, God forms families to serve as the building blocks of all human civilization and community. We teach and practice that sexual activity belongs exclusively within the Biblical boundaries of a faithful marriage between one man and one woman.

7. The Mission and Ministry of the Congregation

We believe and confess that the church is the assembly of believers called and gathered by God around Word and Sacrament, and that the mission and ministry of the church is carried out within the context of individual congregations, which are able to work together locally and globally.

APPENDIX 'B'

Policies and Procedures

There are no "Policies or Procedures" written at the time of the provisional adoption of this document. If and when there are any adopted at a later date, they shall be codified as CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS of the Congregation Council and shall be included here.

APPENDIX 'C'

Organizations and Ministries of the Congregation

A listing of all current organizations and ministries which exist in this congregation shall be attached to this constitution and its bylaws within Appendix "C" and updated by the secretary of the Congregation on a yearly basis.

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[end]