



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

CONSTITUTION

FOR

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MENOMONEE FALLS, WISCONSIN

JANUARY 25~~34~~, 202~~4~~6

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**CONSTITUTION  
for  
HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MENOMONEE  
FALLS, WISCONSIN**

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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 Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- C1.02.** For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws and continuing resolutions, the congregation of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."
- 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.

**\*C2.07.** 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

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\* Required provision

## 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, ~~and~~ 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 ~~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 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 the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other expressions ~~parts~~ 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 Ministry Teams. ~~Ministry Teams.~~

- \*C4.05. This congregation shall ~~from time to time~~, 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 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 a minister of Word and Service
  - d. ~~call or~~ terminate the call of a minister of Word and Service ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers~~ in conformity with the constitution ~~applicable~~ ~~policy~~ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
  - e. adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter 1 ~~67~~, amendments to the bylaws, as specified in Chapter 1 ~~76~~, 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 officers, Congregation Council, boards, and committees, and require them 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 or the Congregational Council shall ~~choose~~ choose from among the ~~its~~ voting members of the congregation 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 the congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Greater Milwaukee Synod 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 Greater Milwaukee Synod 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 ~~clergy~~ roster of the 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 the Word and Sacrament ~~ordained ministers~~ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or to contracting for pastoral services with an ~~ordained~~ 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 ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers for call to other staff positions in the 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 may be 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 Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 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 ~~A~~ congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church ~~this church~~ in America ~~this church~~ by the following procedure:

- a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at two~~a~~ legally called and conducted special meetings of this~~e~~ congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at each meeting. The first sSuch 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 the 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 ~~he or she is a~~ voting members of this~~e~~ congregation, ~~the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any,~~ they shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.
- b. Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon at the first meeting, tThe secretary of this~~e~~ 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. ~~mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.~~

- 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. ~~The bishop of the synod and the congregation shall continue in consultation, as specified in paragraph a. above, during a period of at least 90 days after receipt by the synod of the notice as specified in paragraph b. above.~~
- d. If ~~this the~~ congregation, after such consultation, is still considering termination of its relationship with this church ~~still seeks to terminate its relationship~~, 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 ~~mailed~~ 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, ~~he or she is a voting member of the congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any,~~ they shall have voice but not vote at the 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. ~~A copy of the resolution, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, shall be sent to the bishop within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted, at which time the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to paragraphs g., h., and i. below. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that the congregation has voted by a two-thirds vote to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, the congregation will be conclusively presumed to be an independent or non-Lutheran church.~~
- 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. ~~Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of this church, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.~~
- g. This c~~o~~ngregation 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. ~~s 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.¶¶~~

~~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 synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.~~

- i. ~~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. ¶~~
  - j. ~~If this a 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 the 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. , another special meeting to consider termination of relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the 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 that second meeting.~~
- \*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. ~~effected.~~
- \*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 Greater Milwaukee Synod 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, ~~title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.~~ 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 ~~a two-thirds majority of~~ the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to relate ~~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 relate ~~transfer~~ to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Greater Milwaukee Synod.
- \*C7.04.** If ~~a two-thirds majority of~~ 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 synodical

process, 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 \*C.7.03. 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 Greater Milwaukee Synod—reconvey and transfer all right, title, and interest in the property to the synod.

## **Chapter 8.**

### **MEMBERS**

#### **HIP**

- \*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 the 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 [ELCA] [Lutheran] [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.~~ 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, ~~and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.~~
- 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.

**\*C8.03.** 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.

**\*C8.05.** 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; ~~ELCA constitutional provision 20.40. and the accompanying bylaws;~~ or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. ~~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.

## Chapter 9.

### ~~THE~~

### ~~PASTOR~~

### 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 ~~majority ballot vote of members present and~~ voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by [this congregation][~~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 clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended for the congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.~~

This congregation may call as a pastor only:

- a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop.

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

- a. Every minister of the Word and Sacrament ~~ordained minister~~ shall:
  - 1) preach the Word;
  - 2) administer the sacraments;
  - 3) conduct public worship;
  - 4) provide pastoral care; and
  - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; ~~speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.~~

- 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, proclaiming God's love for the world, 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 ~~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) relate to ~~supervise~~ all schools and organizations of this congregation;

- 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; ~~and with the council, administer discipline.~~
- 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 Greater Milwaukee Synod ; 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.*

c. ~~Every pastor shall:¶~~

- 1) ~~strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;¶~~
- 2) ~~seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;¶~~
- 3) ~~impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and¶~~  
~~endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA.~~

**\*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 the Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:

a. The call of a 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 synodical bishop, 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, no later than 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;
- 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ 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) ~~resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ordained ministers of this church;¶~~
- 8) ~~termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;~~
- 9) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
- 10) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.

b. When allegations of ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ 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 ~~in his or her~~ sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ~~ordained~~ 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 ~~ordained~~ ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ 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. ~~and the pastor shall be listed on the clergy roster as disabled. Upon resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively, removal of the disability and the restoration of the pastor to health, 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. ¶
- e. ~~In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the 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 the 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 the 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.~~
- f. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority 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 simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call
- g. 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

~~¶~~

~~If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a~~

~~legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority 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 simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call. ¶~~

~~h. \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~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 disciplinary action, 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 the 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 ordained pastor 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. ~~related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~
- \*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 parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the 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 ~~his or her~~ ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- \*C9.14. ~~The parochial~~ records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of the congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed the secretary's ~~in his or her~~ hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another call or approval of a request for a roster change. ~~field of labor or the granting by the synod of retired status to the pastor. ¶~~
- \*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.

~~C9.20. Ecumenical pastoral ministry~~

~~\*C9.21. Under 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 the purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by this congregation to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod. ~~special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synodical bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, an ordained minister 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 the congregation and the ordained minister in a form proposed by the synodical bishop and approved by the congregation.~~~~

\*C9.22. This congregation may call as a deacon only:

- a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop.

\*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, proclaiming God's love for the world, 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
- i. 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; or
- 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. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held the last part of January or the first part of February.~~ The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held the last part of January or the first part of February .
- C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the senior 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 (10%) of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synodical 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.** ~~V~~Voting members present ~~present~~ shall constitute a quorum.

**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.

**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.  
OFFICE  
RS  
(recomm  
ended  
provision  
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**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, the treasurer 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 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 two ~~two~~ years or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. The officers can serve three consecutive terms or a total of six years.

**C11.03.** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office.

**Chapter 12.**  
**CONGREGATION**  
**COUNCIL**

- C12.01.** The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the deacon(s), the officers of this congregation, and nine members of this congregation. It is recommended that in addition, a youth and young adult serve on the Congregation Council. ~~nine council representatives representing nine ministry teams.~~ Any voting member of the 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 may be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive ~~two or more regularly scheduled~~ meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state of Wisconsin, the Congregation Council 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) and the deacon(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for two years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than three ~~three~~ full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
- 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. Individuals who have served less than one-half of a regular term shall be eligible for nomination and possible election to a full term.~~
- 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) ~~pastor(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 partnership with 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 the board ~~of directors~~ of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and managing ~~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 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 the congregation.
  - c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to two and one-half percent of the annual budget ~~two and one-half percent of the annual budget~~ for items not included in the budget.
  - 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 two and one-half percent ~~two and one-half percent~~ in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership ~~partnership~~ 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. ~~benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.~~
  - 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 the 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 president, 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 senior- pastor or interim pastor, except when the senior 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 senior 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 synodical ~~real~~ 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. ~~And, to~~ to the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.



## 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 six 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 re-election.
- C13.03.** An *Audit Committee* of three voting members shall be appointed by the Executive Board. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. ~~Term of office shall be two year, with one or two members appointed each year. Members shall be eligible for reelection.~~ Members shall be selected each year.
- C13.04.** A *Mutual Ministry Committee* (in the absence of a mutual ministry committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president and the rostered minister ~~pastor~~. Term of office shall be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year.
- C13.05.** When a ~~pastoral~~ 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 pastor.
- C13.06.** Other committees of this congregation may be formed, as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.
- C13.07.** ~~Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in the continuing resolutions. congregational ministry teams shall be specified in the continuing resolutions.~~
- C13.08.** The senior ~~pastor~~ of this congregation shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees and boards of the congregation. The roster of ministers, president and vice president ~~of this congregation shall be ex officio a member 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 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 ~~and specified in a continuing resolution.~~ ¶

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## 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 the congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation

of member(s) of the 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 the 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 lay persons and two rostered ministers~~clergy~~). 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 r eply~~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 the congregation; or
  - d. termination of membership in the 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 the 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 that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the ~~shall have access to the synodical~~ bishop for consultation after informing the 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 \*C9.05.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. ~~chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the~~

~~Consultation Committee of the synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.¶¶~~

## ~~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 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 the 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.¶¶~~

~~\*C16.04. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.¶¶~~

## 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 twenty 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 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 unchanged 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-~~  
~~AMENDMENTS¶~~

**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.

~~\*C17.01. Unless provision \*C17.04. 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 50 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 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.¶¶~~

~~\*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<sup>2</sup> and noted in the constitution. ¶¶~~

~~\*C17.03. Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in \*C17.01. and \*C17.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. 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. ¶¶~~

~~\*C17.04. 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 simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to the 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 50 voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.~~

## **Chapter 18.**

### **CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**

\*C18.01. The 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 the 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 person 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**

**\*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 \*C9.05.d. 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 \*C9.25.d. 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.

¶

## **Chapter 20.¶**

### **PARISH AUTHORIZATION¶**

~~**\*C20.01.** This congregation may unite in partnership 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¶~~

¶

~~<sup>2</sup>Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of \*C17.03. to allow time for synodical review of the amendment.¶~~

¶

~~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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended to the congregation by the synodical 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 †S14.13.d. of the synodical constitution of the synod named in \*C6.01. 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 any rostered person 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. ¶¶~~

¶¶

~~CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS~~

~~(Formerly: By-Laws) January 31, 2016~~

~~¶~~

~~C11.01.01 The duties of the president shall be to:¶~~

~~Preside at all meetings of the congregation, the Congregational Council, and the Executive Board;¶~~

~~Represent the Congregational Council to the congregation;¶~~

~~Set the agenda for the Congregational Council meetings in conjunction with the senior pastor;¶~~

~~Sign documents and checks on behalf of the congregation; and¶~~

~~Perform such other duties as are delegated to the office by the Congregational Council or the congregation.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~C11.01.02 The duties of the vice president shall be to:¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Serve in place of the president in the event of the president's absence or inability to perform his/her duties;¶~~

~~Represent the Executive Board at special task forces;¶~~

~~Sign documents and checks on behalf of the congregation;¶~~

~~Perform such other duties as are delegated to the office by the Congregational Council or the congregation.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~C11.01.03 The duties of the secretary shall be to:¶~~

~~Keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the congregation, the Congregational Council, and the Executive Board in books provided by the congregation, prepared and kept in such form as the Congregational Council shall prescribe, the books to be preserved permanently in the archives of the congregation;¶~~

~~Be responsible for the official correspondence of the congregation, the Congregational Council and the Executive Board, except for correspondence for which the Congregational Council has otherwise provided;¶~~

~~Sign documents and checks on behalf of the congregation; and¶~~

~~Perform such other duties as are delegated to the office by the Congregational Council or the congregation.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~C11.01.04 The duties of the treasurer shall be to:¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Maintain proper procedures to safeguard all monies or property entrusted to the office;¶~~

~~Maintain all legal documents and fiscal records associated with monies and property entrusted to the office;¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Page 1 of 10¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Disburse the funds of the congregation in accordance with the current budget and as directed by the Congregational Council or the congregation;¶~~

~~Present the financial report to the Congregational Council at its regular meeting and to the congregation at its annual meeting;¶~~

~~Coordinate the church's budget and present the budget to the congregation at its annual meeting;¶~~

~~Submit the accounts to the annual audit;¶~~

~~Sign documents and checks on behalf of the congregation;¶~~

~~Perform such other duties as are delegated to the office by the Congregational Council or the congregation.¶~~

~~€13.01.01 The duties of the Executive Board shall be to:¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Serve as resource people for the ministry teams of the congregation;¶~~

~~Act on behalf of the Congregational Council on issues of immediate concern that require action when it is impractical to call a special meeting of the Congregational Council;¶~~

~~Meet as needed at a time determined by the members of the Executive Board;¶~~

~~Serve as a resource team for personnel needs and issues.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~€13.01.02 The term of office shall be two years. Upon expiration of three consecutive two-year terms, a member of the congregation shall be ineligible to serve again as a member of the Executive Board for a period of one year.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~¶~~

~~€13.06.01. CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY TEAMS¶~~

~~There shall be nine ministry teams of the congregation:¶~~

~~Worship¶~~

~~Christian Education¶~~

~~Stewardship¶~~

~~Youth¶~~

~~Glocal Immersion and Mission¶~~

~~Care and Community¶~~

~~Evangelism¶~~

~~Finance¶~~

~~Property¶~~

~~€13.06.02. To each operating ministry team of the church, the congregation shall elect six members, three to be elected each year at the annual meeting of the congregation. In addition, Youth shall elect four youth members for a one-year term.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Any voting member of the congregation may be elected to a ministry team, provided that the voting member is not already a member of another ministry team, associate ministry team, or an officer of the congregation.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Page 2 of 10¶~~

~~¶~~

~~The term of office shall be two years. Upon expiration of three consecutive two-year terms, a member of the congregation shall be ineligible to serve again as a member of that particular ministry team for a period of one year. ¶¶~~

~~Council representatives of each ministry team will be elected at the annual meeting by the congregation. The chairperson of each ministry team shall either be the council representative or a member of the ministry team affirmed by the Congregational Council. ¶¶~~

~~Each ministry team shall elect a secretary for a term of one year. ¶¶~~

~~If a vacancy occurs on a ministry team, that ministry team shall recommend a new interim ministry team member to the Congregational Council. Upon approval of the Congregational Council, the new member shall serve until the next regular election. When an interim ministry team member fills an unexpired term, that interim ministry team member may be elected to a regular two-year term at the next annual meeting. ¶¶~~

~~The Congregational Council may deem a ministry team member unable to fulfill his or her term if that member (1) ceases to be a voting member of the Congregation; or (2) misses three or more regularly scheduled ministry team meetings without approval of the ministry team chairperson. The Congregational Council may adopt procedures for the removal of a ministry team member in other circumstances. ¶¶~~

~~If a ministry team chairperson is unable to fulfill his or her term, the Congregational Council will appoint a new chairperson. The Congregational Council may deem a ministry team chairperson unable to fulfill his or her term if that chairperson (1) ceases to be a voting member of the Congregation; or (2) misses two or more regularly scheduled Congregational Council meetings without approval of the President. The Congregational Council may adopt procedures for the removal of a ministry team chairperson in other circumstances. In appointing a new ministry team chairperson, the Congregational Council will employ the following procedure: ¶¶~~

~~Seek a member from the ministry team. ¶¶~~

~~If no ministry team members are able to serve as chairperson, the Council will seek a candidate from the voting membership of the congregation. ¶¶~~

~~All ministry teams are to meet regularly at a time determined by the respective team members. Once a month will be the usual pattern, although summer and holidays may alter this schedule. ¶¶~~

~~Ministry teams shall oversee the appropriation and verification of budget funds in their respective area. ¶¶~~

~~All ministry teams shall be responsible for carrying out the covenants of the Safe Haven Program. ¶¶~~

~~¶¶~~

~~C13.06.A16. WORSHIP ¶¶~~

~~Mission Statement: To create inspirational worship opportunities within the life of the congregation. ¶¶~~

~~Duties: The duties of the Worship Ministry Team shall be to: ¶¶~~

~~Page 3 of 10 ¶¶~~

~~¶¶~~



~~Interpret the "Mission of the Church," of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Greater Milwaukee Synod, and the mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. ¶~~

~~Encourage the use of Spiritual Gift Inventories and appeals for volunteer participation. ¶~~

~~Support efforts to encourage participation in the Simply Giving program and other methods of electronic giving. ¶~~

~~Oversee the ordering of and messages on offering envelopes. ¶~~

~~Offer assistance with the stewardship education of Confirmation and Senior High youth. ¶~~

~~¶~~

#### ~~C13.06.D16. YOUTH ¶~~

~~Mission Statement: To keep the youth and their families active and connected in their Christian faith. ¶~~

~~Duties: The duties of the Board of Youth shall be to: ¶~~

~~Provide leadership and work with staff members and youth groups in planning and implementing youth ministry and programs. ¶~~

~~Integrate our youth in the life and work of the congregation. ¶~~

~~Help the youth mature in their Christian faith through opportunities for service and social events, Christian education, worship, and retreats. ¶~~

~~Encourage the congregation and its youth to consider the Call of Ordained Ministry and other church vocations. ¶~~

~~¶~~

#### ~~C13.06.E16. GLOBAL IMMERSION AND MISSION ¶~~

~~Mission Statement: To promote lifelong growth in faith and service through encounters with God across racial, cultural, economic, and geographic differences and connect the abundant resources of Holy Cross to people and places in need of help. ¶~~

~~Duties: The duties of the Global Immersion and Mission Team shall be to: ¶~~

~~Provide leadership and work with staff to coordinate Holy Cross's community outreach and bring attention to those local and global issues that call for a biblically-based response of faith. ¶~~

~~Provide opportunities for the congregation to engage and learn about the issues that challenge our society through a spiritual perspective. ¶~~

~~Coordinate Holy Cross's partnerships with other congregations and provide leadership for our relationships with organizations that serve our community and our world. ¶~~

~~¶~~

#### ~~C13.06.F16. CARE AND COMMUNITY ¶~~

~~Mission Statement: To promote and provide care and fellowship opportunities for all members of the congregation. ¶~~

~~Duties: The duties of the Care and Community Ministry Team shall be to provide leadership for and work with staff to coordinate care and fellowship within the congregation. ¶~~

~~Page 5 of 10 ¶~~

~~¶~~

## ~~CARE~~

~~¶~~

~~Coordinate Daily Bread Program (meals for families in need); develop volunteer resources to provide and deliver meals as needed. ¶~~

~~Provide support and encouragement for Caring Ministry Groups within the congregation. ¶~~

~~Stephen Ministry ¶~~

~~Parish Nurse ¶~~

~~Caring Companions ¶~~

## ~~COMMUNITY~~

~~Develop and promote new adult and multi-generational fellowship opportunities for the congregation. ¶~~

~~Encourage and support existing small groups. ¶~~

~~Promote and help coordinate adult retreat opportunities. ¶~~

~~Support the “Kitchen Angels” who will. ¶~~

~~Promote a climate of hospitality and community within the congregation by assisting with congregational events involving food service, including coffee hour, synod events, funeral lunches and congregational dinners. ¶~~

~~Monitor and coordinate the supplies and equipment in church kitchens. ¶~~

~~¶~~

## ~~C13.06.G16. EVANGELISM~~

~~Mission Statement: To facilitate the outreach and welcome of visitors and assimilate our new members. ¶~~

~~Duties: The duties of the Evangelism Ministry Team shall be to: ¶~~

~~Provide leadership and work with staff in coordinating the congregation’s outreach to the community. ¶~~

~~Promote a climate of hospitality and welcome. ¶~~

~~Participate in the First Friends ministry for welcoming new members. ¶~~

~~Provide leadership for and work with staff to coordinate new member assimilation. ¶~~

~~Assist in updating the pictorial directory. ¶~~

~~Review traditional methods of outreach to the community and develop creative methods of promotion. ¶~~

~~Develop and oversee all details for the Holy Cross annual Block Party. ¶~~

~~Help support and plan activities that foster welcome and information about the congregation. ¶~~

~~Provide support and guidance to members as they share their faith with others in their daily lives and invite others to worship at Holy Cross. ¶~~

~~¶~~

## ~~C13.06.H16. FINANCE~~

~~Mission Statement: To oversee and guide the leaders and members in their financial decisions for Holy Cross. ¶~~

~~Page 6 of 10 ¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Duties: The duties of the Finance Ministry Team shall be to:¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Monitor the congregation's investments, operational results, and general fiscal stability to support the mission of the church.¶~~

~~Provide guidance to the Church Council regarding significant financial transactions.¶~~

~~Review the proposed annual budget as presented by the Treasurer and make recommendations for changes.¶~~

~~Recruit independent volunteers as needed to assist in the offering count and the annual audit.¶~~

~~Meet regularly to review the financial results and provide guidance on financial issues as presented by the Treasurer, the pastors, and other church leaders.¶~~

~~Oversee Scrip program.¶~~

~~¶~~

#### ~~€13.06.116. PROPERTY¶~~

~~Mission Statement: To beautify and maintain the facilities of Holy Cross to be welcoming, safe, and secure for our community.¶~~

~~Duties: The duties of the Property Ministry Team shall be to:¶~~

~~Provide leadership and work with staff to coordinate the thorough inspection and evaluation of property, buildings, and equipment owned by the congregation to ensure that they are safe and properly maintained.¶~~

~~Evaluate short and long term needs of the physical plant and grounds including any congregation owned real estate, property and vehicles and advise church Council on each need.¶~~

~~Coordinate volunteer labor for maintenance and clean-up needs.¶~~

~~Provide support to the caretaker as needed.¶~~

~~Carry out all resolutions of the Congregational Council and/or congregation regarding purchases, repairs, and replacement of church property and equipment.¶~~

~~¶~~

#### ~~€13.06.03. ASSOCIATE MINISTRY TEAMS¶~~

~~There shall be two associate ministry teams of the congregation:¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Preschool Board¶~~

~~Mission Endowment Board¶~~

~~¶~~

~~€13.06.04. Each associate ministry team may send a representative to Congregation Council meetings. Associate ministry teams attendance at Congregation Council meetings will be without the power to vote.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~€13.06.05. To each associate ministry team of the church, the congregation shall elect six members, three to be elected each year at the annual meeting of the congregation.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~Any voting member of the congregation may be elected to the Mission Endowment Board, provided that the voting member is not already a member of¶~~

~~Page 7 of 10¶~~

~~¶~~

~~another ministry team, associate ministry team, or an officer of the congregation. To be elected to the Preschool Board, you must be either the parent or legal guardian of a preschool student or a voting member of the congregation, provided that you are not already a member of another ministry team, associate ministry team, or an officer of the congregation.¶¶~~

~~The term of office shall be two years. Upon expiration of three consecutive two-year terms, a member shall be ineligible to serve again on that particular associate ministry team for a period of one year.¶¶~~

~~Chairpersons of the associate ministry teams will be elected by the congregation at the annual meeting of the congregation.¶¶~~

~~Each associate ministry team shall elect a secretary for a term of one year.¶¶~~

~~If a vacancy occurs on an associate ministry team, that associate ministry team shall recommend a new interim associate ministry team member to the Congregational Council. Upon approval of the Congregational Council, the new member shall serve until the next regular election. When an interim associate ministry team member fills an unexpired term, that interim associate ministry team member may be elected to a regular two-year term at the next annual meeting.¶¶~~

~~If an associate ministry team chairperson is unable to fulfill his or her term, the Congregational Council will appoint a new chairperson. In appointing a new ministry team chairperson, the Congregational Council will employ the following procedure:¶¶~~

~~Seek a member from the Associate Ministry Team.¶¶~~

~~If no ministry team members are able to serve as chairperson, the Council will seek a candidate from the voting membership of the congregation.¶¶~~

~~Both associate ministry teams are to meet regularly at a time determined by the respective team members. Once a month will be the usual pattern, although summer and holidays may alter this schedule.¶¶~~

~~Associate ministry teams shall oversee the appropriation and verification of budget funds in their respective area.¶¶~~

~~¶¶~~

#### ~~€13.06.J16. PRESCHOOL¶¶~~

~~Mission Statement: To nurture children, guided by faith and God's love. Duties: The duties of Preschool Board shall be to:¶¶~~

~~Provide leadership and work with staff to promote the value of Holy Cross Preschool (HCP) in HCLC.¶¶~~

~~Set HCP policies and procedures, along with by-laws.¶¶~~

~~Establish annual budget and submit to the Holy Cross Finance Ministry Team by August of each year; submit monthly balance sheets and provide for an annual audit.¶¶~~

~~Hiring and encouragement of HCP Staff.¶¶~~

~~Establish tuition fees and salaries.¶¶~~

~~Fundraising on behalf of HCP.¶¶~~

~~Publicity.¶¶~~

~~Page 8 of 10¶¶~~

~~¶¶~~

~~Assist with HCP social activities. ¶~~

~~¶~~

~~€5.05.01. MISSION ENDOWMENT ¶~~

~~Mission Statement: To support the charitable legacy of Holy Cross. ¶~~

~~¶~~

~~The duties of the Mission Endowment Board shall be to: ¶~~

~~Interpret and promote gifts to the mission of the church through estate planning and special giving vehicles. ¶~~

~~Oversee the Holy Cross Mission Endowment Fund. ¶~~

~~Choose the Investment Management of the Mission Endowment funds. ¶~~

~~Mission Endowment Membership (hereafter called the "board") ¶~~

~~A quorum shall consist of three (3) members. When only three (3) members are present a unanimous vote shall be required to carry any motion or resolution. ¶~~

~~The board shall elect from those elected by the congregation to the board a chairperson, recording secretary and financial secretary. The chairperson, or member designated by the chairperson, shall preside at all board meetings. ¶~~

~~The recording secretary of the board shall maintain complete and accurate minutes of all meetings and supply a copy thereof to each member of the board. The recording secretary shall also supply a copy of the minutes to the congregational council. ¶~~

~~The financial secretary of the board shall work with the congregation's treasurer in maintaining and coordinating complete and accurate accounts for the fund and shall co-sign checks and all other necessary documents on behalf of the congregation in furtherance of the purposes of the fund. The Mission Endowment books shall be audited as part of the annual audit of Holy Cross. ¶~~

~~An annual report shall be prepared by the board and presented to the congregational council prior to each annual meeting. ¶~~

~~The board may request other members of the congregation to serve as advisory members and/or, at the expense of the fund income, may provide for such professional counseling/management on investments or legal matters as it deems to be in the best interest of the fund. ¶~~

~~Members of the board shall not be liable for any losses which may be incurred upon the investments of the assets of the fund except to the extent such losses shall have been caused by bad faith or gross negligence. No member shall be personally liable as long as he/she acts in good faith and with ordinary prudence. Each member shall be liable only for his/her own willful misconduct or omissions, and shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of any other member. No member shall engage in any self dealing or transactions with the fund in which the member has direct or indirect financial interest and shall at all times refrain from any conduct in which his/her personal interests would conflict with the interest of the fund. ¶~~

~~All assets are to be held in the name Holy Cross Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund. ¶~~

~~The board is chartered with overseeing the management of and distribution of fund assets. ¶~~

~~Page 9 of 10 ¶~~

~~¶~~

~~All undesignated bequests to Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be allocated to the Mission Endowment Fund.¶~~

~~Distribution¶~~

~~Annual distributions may be up to a maximum 5 (five) percent of the year-end market value of the Mission Endowment Fund provided that the year-end balance used in determining the distribution is not below \$100,000.00.¶~~

~~All unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more may have up to 10 (ten) percent of the principal amount allocated for distribution.¶~~

~~Distributions of funds shall be done in accordance with the following guidelines:¶~~

~~Minimum of 20% for outreach into the local community.¶~~

~~Minimum of 20% for ELCA Church-wide ministries.¶~~

~~Minimum of 10% for ministry initiatives within Holy Cross.¶~~

~~Remaining 50% distributed through any of the above categories.¶~~

~~The board may receive requests for funds on an annual basis. The board will review the requests for funds and announce the yearly distributions at a celebration service.¶~~

~~¶~~

~~¶~~

~~C8.05.01. When members of Holy Cross have failed to receive Holy Communion and to make a contribution of record for a period of two consecutive calendar years; they may be removed from the rolls as members by the congregational council. This procedure will take place after such members have been counseled about the matter, if possible.¶~~

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