

**CONSTITUTION
OF
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**A CONGREGATION OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA®**



2009

***PREAMBLE**

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

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- C1.01.** The name of this congregation shall be Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- C1.02.** For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."
- C1.11.** This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of North Dakota.

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.

* 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.** 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.

Chapter 4.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- *C4.01.** The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- *C4.02.** To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
 - a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
 - b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
 - c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
 - d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
 - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
 - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.
- *C4.03.** To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:
 - a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is 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 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 the Bylaws in the section on the Congregation Council.
- *C4.05. *This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.*

Chapter 5.

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

***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.
- d. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in *C6.05.

***C6.05.** This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:

- a. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.
- b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of this congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.
- c. The bishop of the synod shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least 90 days.
- d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.
- e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between this congregation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be terminated.
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.

***C6.06.** If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

Chapter 7.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

***C7.01.** If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to the Eastern North Dakota 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.

***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 transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Eastern North Dakota 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, 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 established 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.

- 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 Eastern North Dakota Synod—reconvey and transfer all right, title, and interest in the property to the synod.*

Chapter 8.

MEMBERSHIP

- *C8.01.** Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
- *C8.02.** Members shall be classified as follows:
- a. **Baptized** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
 - b. **Confirmed** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
 - c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.
 - d. **Associate** members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, or persons who wish to retain a relationship with this congregation while being members of other congregations. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.
- *C8.03.** All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Congregation Council.
- *C8.04.** It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:
- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
 - b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; 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 by the Congregation Council; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws. Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.

Chapter 9.

THE PASTOR

- *C9.01.** Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds 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 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.
- *C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
 - a. Every ordained minister shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care; and
 - 5) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
 - b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline.
 - 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
 - 4) 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 Eastern North Dakota 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.**
 - a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;

- 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;
 - 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;
 - 6) the dissolution of the congregation; or
 - 7) *suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.*
- b. When allegations of physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office have come to the attention of the bishop of the synod, the bishop in his or her sole discretion may, or 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 the congregation, the bishop shall, investigate such conditions personally in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.
 - c. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity, competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of the synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of the synod shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.
 - d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the synod together with the committee described in *C9.05.b. shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor 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.*
 - e. *If, in the course of proceedings described in *C9.05.d., the committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action to the synodical bishop, who may bring charges in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the constitution of this synod.*
 - f. If, following the appointment of the committee described in *C9.05.b. or d., it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregations being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregations without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint synodical and churchwide fund and with housing provided by the congregations.

***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.

***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, the congregation may depart from *C9.05.a. and call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the 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 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 in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another field of labor or the granting by the synod of retired status to the pastor.*
- C9.20. ***Ecumenical pastoral ministry:*** *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 as pastor of this congregation, subject to approval of the synodical bishop and the pastor's denomination.*

Chapter 10.

CONGREGATION MEETING

- C10.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.
- C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of the congregation at the written request of not less than 10 percent of the voting members. 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 read at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays. Such notices shall state the time, place, and the purpose and shall also be posted conspicuously in the place where the congregation customarily worships. The notice of a special meeting shall be read at a public service of the congregation at least 10 days preceding the date of the meeting.
- C10.04. Twelve voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- C10.06. All actions approved by the congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.
- C10.07. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

Chapter 11.

OFFICERS

- C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a president, *vice-president*, secretary, *financial 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.
- C11.02.** The ~~Congregation~~ Council shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of the congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
- C11.03.** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. ~~No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than five consecutive years in the same office.~~

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- C12.01.** The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), and not more than 12 or fewer than 5 members of the congregation, including the officers of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. *Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.*
- C12.02.** The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected ~~by written ballot~~ to serve for three years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. ~~The treasurer shall be appointed by the Congregation Council.~~
- C12.03.** Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.
- C12.04.** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:
- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
 - b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
 - c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
 - d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment 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 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 North Dakota, except as otherwise provided herein.
 - b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.
 - c.. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation and shall supervise the expenditure of funds. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in 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 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 ~~appointment~~ *employment* and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this congregation.
- C12.09.** The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.
- C12.10.** The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, ~~and shall~~ *or may* 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.
- C12.11.** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when ~~such person~~ *the pastor or interim pastor* requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to ~~an~~ *the* agenda ~~of routine matters which shall be the only business of the meeting~~ *for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council, following consultation with the synodical bishop.*

Chapter 13.

CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

- C13.01.** The officers of this congregation and the pastor shall constitute the *Executive Committee*.
- C13.02.** A *Nominating Committee* of three voting members of this congregation, *two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council,* shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.
- C13.03.** An *Audit Committee* of two voting members shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office ~~will~~ *shall* be one year. Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

- C13.04.** *The duties of a **Mutual Ministry Committee** (in the absence of a mutual ministry committee, their duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year. carried out by the Tri-County Ministry parish Personnel Committee.*
- C13.05.** *When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a **Call Committee** of six voting members shall be elected by [this congregation] [the Congregation Council]. will be formed according to the Tri-County Ministry Continuing Resolutions, and the calling of pastoral leadership for the congregation will be conducted in accordance with those Continuing Resolutions. Term of office on the Call Committee 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 bylaws.*
- C13.08.** *The pastors of this congregation shall be ex officio a members of all committees and boards of the congregation. The 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.*

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

- *C15.01.** *Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps: a) private admonition by the pastor, b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and c) citation to appear before the Congregation Council. *If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a. and b. hereof, the president (if not the pastor) or vice president shall administer such admonitions.**
- *C15.02.** *The process for discipline of a 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 discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor, who shall advise the Congregation Council of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused. A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregation Council after having received a written notice, specifying the exact charges that have been made against the member citation, at least ten days prior to the meeting. *If the member charged with the offense fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Congregation Council may proceed with the hearing and may pass judgment in the member's absence.**

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

Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.
- *C15.04. The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Congregation Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final.
- *C15.05. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of a) evidence that injustice has been done or b) evidence of repentance and amendment.
- *C15.06. *For disciplinary actions in this congregation, “due process” shall be observed as specified in 20.41.04. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*
- *C15.07. *No member of a congregation shall be subject to discipline for offenses that the Congregation Council has previously heard and decided, unless so ordered by the Synod Council after an appeal.*
- *C15.10. *Adjudication*
- *C15.11. *When there is disagreement among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the 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, however, that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Congregation Council notify the congregation’s members by mail of the proposal with the council’s recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.
- *C16.04. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent *by the secretary of this congregation* to the synod.

Chapter 17.

AMENDMENTS

- *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 to this constitution may be proposed by at least ten voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation’s members in writing of the proposal together with the council’s recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.*

- *C17.02.** ~~A proposed~~ An amendment to this constitution, *proposed under *C17.01.*, shall:
- a. be approved at a ~~properly~~ 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 resolution¹ 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 amendment shall become effective within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the synod unless the synod informs this congregation that the amendment is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the constitution of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA.
- *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—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 given notice in writing 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 ten 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 ~~which describe the function of the various committees or organizations of this congregation.~~ *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.*

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

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

- *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 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.*

BYLAWS

Part I – Communion Participation

(cf. Chapter 8.04 of Constitution)

1. This congregation invites ~~all of its members~~ *everyone* who ~~have~~ *has* been prepared to receive the Sacrament to participate regularly in Holy Communion.
2. ~~Preparation for~~ Holy Communion will ~~normally~~ be provided ~~for persons as young as ten years of age.~~ *baptized members who have received instruction in the sacrament of Holy Communion.*
3. ~~Participation in Holy Communion shall be open to members of other congregations who accept the Lutheran teaching in regard to the sacrament.~~ It shall be made known to prospective participants that the belief of this congregation is: Participation in the Lord's Supper is the reception of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us to eat and drink. We hold that a "person is well prepared and worthy who believes these words, 'given and shed for you for the remission of sins'. But any one who does not believe these words or doubts them, is neither prepared nor worthy, for the words 'for you' require simply a believing heart." (Small Catechism)
4. Record of participation in Holy Communion ~~shall~~ *may* be maintained. ~~If a member of another congregation communes, notice shall be sent to his/her pastor whenever possible. (Cards to be given to the usher for mailing.)~~

Part II – Conflicting Loyalties

(cf. Article V of the Minneapolis Theses as quoted in the United Testimony of Faith and Life)

1. ~~While the buildings of the congregation shall be open to all people to share in its worship, instruction, pastoral care, and fellowship, the~~ *This* congregation rejects all fellowship with organizations, secret or open, which *are avowedly religious or which* practice forms of religion without confessing faith in the Triune God and in Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God incarnate to be our only Savior from sin, and which thus teach salvation by works.
2. ~~Ceremonies of lodges or other such organizations shall not be permitted in the buildings or on the church premises of this congregation nor shall its pastor(s) take part in any such ceremonies wherever they are conducted.~~
3. *The pastor of this congregation shall take no part in any such ceremonies without proper authorization from the Congregation Council, even if they are conducted outside of the church premises.*
4. *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. (From the constitution, C14.02.)*

Part III – Membership

(cf. Chapter 8 of Constitution)

A. Baptized Members

1. ~~A child~~ *Children*, one or both of whose parents or guardians are members of ~~the~~ *this* congregation, shall, upon receiving Baptism, ~~become~~ *be received as* a baptized members of this congregation.
2. ~~A child~~ *Children* neither of whose parents or guardians is a member of this congregation shall, upon ~~receiving~~ *Christian* Baptism *duly recorded as a ministerial act performed under the auspices of this congregation,* ~~become a~~ *be received as* baptized members of this congregation, unless *there is understanding that,* for good reason, ~~he/she is to be a~~ *they will be enrolled as* baptized members of another congregation, in which case ~~his/her membership shall be transferred to that congregation.~~ *notice of the Baptism shall be sent to the congregation in which the child is enrolled as a baptized member.*
3. ~~A child~~ *Children* baptized in ~~another~~ *other* congregations shall be received as a baptized members ~~in~~ *the of this* congregation ~~when a transfer has been received. He/she may also be received~~ upon

admission of one or both parents or guardians to membership, or by consent of one or both parents or guardians, or by action of the Congregation Council.

4. ~~An~~ Unbaptized adults who have received instruction and have given evidence of having an adequate understanding and acceptance of the teachings of the Word of God as confessed by the Lutheran Church shall, upon confession of faith and *Christian Baptism duly recorded as a ministerial act performed under the auspices of this congregation*, be received as baptized member of this congregation.
5. *When one or both parents of baptized children are received into the membership of the congregation, such children should be received as baptized members with the consent of the member parent or parents.*
6. *Where a baptized child is an orphan or a ward of someone, and these people move into the area served by this congregation, the child may be received as a baptized member when it is commended to the care of this congregation by the congregation which baptized the child.*
7. *When the parents of a baptized child are not themselves members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America but move into the area served by this congregation, the child may be received as a baptized member.*

B. Confirmed Members

1. A baptized adult, not previously a confirmed member of an *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* congregation, shall become a confirmed member of this congregation after having received instruction, having given evidence of adequate understanding of the teachings of the Word of God as confessed by the Lutheran Church, and having publicly affirmed his/her faith.
2. ~~A baptized member of the congregation shall become a confirmed member through the rite of confirmation; except that an~~ *However, adults who has become a received as baptized members in accordance with according to the provisions of Section A.4. of this part of the bylaws shall be considered a recognized as confirmed members without participation whether or not, at the discretion of the pastor, they have participated in the rite of confirmation.*
3. *Children who are baptized members of the congregation shall be admitted to confirmed membership through participation in the rite of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation).*
4. ~~An~~ Applicants for membership ~~who presenting a Letter of Transfer which certifies that he/she is a showing them to be confirmed members in good standing of a in other Lutheran congregations shall become a confirmed member, with notice given to the church council.~~ *be admitted to membership upon acceptance of their Letters of Transfer by the Congregation Council and the report of their names to the congregation.*
5. ~~An~~ Applicants for membership who present evidence of confirmation in a Lutheran congregation but does not have a Letter of Transfer shall be admitted to confirmed membership when the ~~Church~~ *Congregation Council* has determined that ~~he/she~~ *they* meets the standards of Christian faith and life indicated in the constitution and bylaws and when ~~he/she has~~ *they have* reaffirmed ~~his/her~~ *their* faith before the congregation.

C. Voting Members

The Church Council shall determine the roster of the voting members of this congregation in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws. The roster of voting members shall be available at all regularly called meetings of this congregation. The term "in good standing" shall be defined to include:

1. those who partake of Holy Communion;
2. those who contribute to this congregation's treasury according to this congregation's record;
3. those who participate in the life and worship of the congregation;
4. those by exception as determined by the Church Council.

D. Discontinuance of Membership

- ~~1. When a member leaves the community, the congregation shall support the spiritual growth of the member by encouraging that member to request a transfer to a Lutheran congregation which can best serve his/her effectively. This congregation will notify the ELCA of the change of address so that contact can be made with congregations in the community of his/her residence.~~
2. *Members who move away shall be encouraged to transfer their membership.* A confirmed member in good standing desiring to change his/her membership to another Lutheran congregation shall, upon request, receive a Letter of Transfer.
3. A confirmed member who *in the judgment of the Congregation Council shows no interest in attending church services and does not, for a period of one year, partake of Holy Communion; and who does not contribute to the congregational treasury according to the congregation's records, for a period of two years, shall be presumed no longer to desire active church membership. Upon his/her voluntary assent, his/her name and record shall be kept in the inactive files for a period of five years thereafter. Such a person shall be ministered to and shall be encouraged to take part in the congregational life, or to transfer elsewhere, as the situation may indicate to be advisable. If he/she resumes activity within the five-year period, he/she shall be restored to the active membership list; if not, he/she shall be continually encouraged to take part in the corporate Christian life and his/her name and record will remain in the inactive files.* ~~support the church with his/her offerings, and does not appear to desire to participate in the life and worship of the congregation shall be visited by the pastor and the congregation's officers and encouraged by them to active membership. If, during the second year, the confirmed member does not actively participate, his/her name shall be removed from the membership roster of the congregation but be retained on a responsibility list as one who is in special need of the congregation's prayer and concern.~~
4. ~~A child, Children, neither of whose parents or guardians is a~~ *are active members of the congregation, shall be cared for spiritually by the members of this congregation. Every effort to minister to them and teach the gospel to them will be made. These children will be encouraged to participate in Christian education and the corporate life of the church.* ~~may be removed from the roster of the baptized members by action of the Church Council if he/she fails to participate in the life and the worship of the congregation.~~
5. *Members who have resigned, and members who have transferred to other Lutheran congregations or who are definitely known to have become members of other congregations without transfer, have thereby terminated their membership in the congregation and have surrendered all membership rights.*

Part IV – Meetings of the Congregation

1. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held *as close to the beginning of the calendar year as possible*, weather permitting, as determined by the *Congregation Council*.
2. Announcement of the time and place of the annual meeting shall be made in accordance with C10.03. of the Constitution and in such publications as the congregation or the pastor may periodically issue. *The current roster of confirmed and baptized members shall be determined prior to each annual meeting.*
3. *A quorum for the conduct of business at annual and special congregational meetings shall consist of 12 voting members.* The annual meeting shall receive reports from all the organizations of the congregation.

Such reports, including a financial statement, shall be submitted in writing to the church secretary not less than ten days before such meeting.

4. *The order of business at the annual meeting shall be:*
 - a. *Opening Devotion*
 - b. *Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting*
 - c. *Reports of pastor, Congregation Council, treasurer, committee, and others*
 - d. *Elections*
 - e. *Approval of budget*
 - f. *Unfinished business*
 - g. *New Business*
 - h. *Closing prayer*

The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each position to be filled on the Congregation Council and shall secure the consent of each nominee. The list of nominees shall be announced to the congregation, if possible, at least a week before the meeting. In addition to the candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee, additional nominations may be made from the floor, if the consent of the nominee is given.

5. *In the following cases voting shall be by written ballot:*
 - a. *To elect the members of the Congregation Council, if deemed necessary by the Council;*
 - b. *To adopt or amend the articles of incorporation, constitution or bylaws of the congregation;*
 - c. *To call a pastor or to request his/her resignation;*
 - d. *To excommunicate a member from the congregation or to remove a member from office in the congregation;*
 - e. *To sever membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;*
 - f. *To dispose of, encumber, or purchase property;*
 - g. *When requested by 6 or more voting members present.*
6. *Except as otherwise provided in the constitution and bylaws, all matters shall be decided by the majority vote of those present and voting.*
7. *No one shall be declared elected unless he/she has received a majority of the votes cast.*
8. *If more than one ballot is required in an election, a motion shall be in order to limit the balloting after the first ballot to the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot; and after second ballot to limit the balloting to the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.*
9. *Unless otherwise ordered, parliamentary procedure shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.*

Part V – Officers and Boards

A. Duties of Officers

1. The president shall preside at the meetings of the Congregation Council and of the Congregation.
2. ~~The longest standing deacon~~ *The vice-president shall preside whenever the president is absent from the chair. The vice-president shall also chair the pastoral salary and evaluation committee.*
3. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the Congregation Council and of the Congregation.
4. *The financial secretary shall keep the records of individual contributions.*
5. The treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the congregation. He/she shall receive and disburse such funds in accordance with the decisions of the Congregation Council.

****NOTE: The proposed constitution would eliminate sections V.B., V.C., and V.D., below, and replace them with the section in italics, inserted below section V.D. The proposed new section (V.B.1-4) was approved for use in Council organization and operations by the Trinity Congregation Council on November 5, 2007.**

[proposed constitution would eliminate this section]

B. Organization and Duties of the board of Deacons

There shall be a Board of Deacons composed of two members, elected annually by the Congregation. The pastor shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Deacons. The Board of Deacons shall be responsible, under the leadership of the pastor, for the spiritual life and

concern of the congregation.

Duties of the Board of Deacons will be to:

1. Supervise the worship life of the congregation and coordinate the work of the Altar Committee with Women of the ELCA (WELCA);
2. Select ushers and supervise their duties;
3. Provide pulpit supply when needed, using the suggestions of the pastor;
4. Assist the pastor with the serving of Holy Communion;
5. Provide for organist or pianist for worship services;
6. Provide for at least two representatives from the congregation to serve on the Parish Worship Committee;
7. Be responsible for a friendly, personal welcome of visitors and congregational members at worship;
8. Provide for mission and outreach emphasis;
9. Be involved in ELCA and Synodical concerns related to their other functions;
10. Provide fellowship opportunities in the congregation;
11. Integrate new members into the life of the congregation;
12. Reach out to the unchurched in the community;
13. Promote the spiritual growth of the congregation;
14. Initiate and carry out witness and service in the community by visiting new residents of the community and assisting the pastor in the visitation of the sick;
15. Be responsible for the annual review of the responsibility and the roster of baptized, confirmed and voting members.

The above duties will be shared by each of the Deacons. The Deacons may choose the areas in which they would be the most capable of serving.

[proposed constitution would eliminate this section]

C. Organization and Duties of the Board of Trustees

There shall be a Board of Trustees composed of two members, chosen annually by the Congregation. The pastor shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have charge of the general management and control of the business affairs and service and support ministries of the congregation.

Duties of the Board of Trustees will be:

1. Maintain and repair church properties, which include the church building, its contents and the grounds surrounding the building;
2. Hire a janitor and consult with him/her regularly;
3. Explore the need for and inventory of equipment;
4. Review guidelines for use of property and fees (guidelines for kitchen usage set by WELCA);
5. Have control of keys;
6. Provide for annual review of insurance;
7. Conduct annual Stewardship Emphasis, with an emphasis upon the biblical standards for stewardship;
8. Encourage volunteer work and support in the community;
9. Be involved with ELCA and synodical concerns related to their functions.

[proposed constitution would eliminate this section]

D. Organization and Duties of the Board of Education

There shall be a Board of Education composed of two members, chosen annually by the Congregation Council. The Pastor shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Education. The Board of Education shall be responsible for the leadership and supervision of the educational and youth ministries of the congregation.

Duties of the Board of Education will be:

1. Be in charge of Sunday school, selecting teachers and assistants;
2. Be in charge of vacation Bible school, selecting teachers, assistants and program materials;
3. Help to determine a program of Adult Education;

4. Work with the pastor on Confirmation;
5. Evaluate and review teachers and curriculum;
6. Provide for training opportunities of teachers;
7. Provide and coordinate camps and retreats;
8. Ensure that the library is functioning properly;
9. Assist and promote a strong program for the youth of this congregation and the community, including Bible study, discussion of issues confronting Christian young people, and appropriate social and recreational activities.

[Proposed constitution would replace the above three sections “B”, “C” and “D” with the following section “B”.]

B. Committee Job Responsibilities

The following job descriptions are intended to be the basic outline of the responsibilities for the designated standing committees. Each committee shall appoint a chairperson and a recording secretary. A church council member will be appointed to serve on each of the committees. The Council representative on each committee will report the actions of the committee to the Church Council at their monthly meeting. The Council member of each committee will be responsible for recruiting committee members. Each committee shall consist of three members including the Council member.

1. Worship Committee

The committee shall assist the Pastor and the Congregational Council in seeing that services of the Church are conducted regularly and in accordance with the liturgy for the ELCA. The committee shall work with the Pastor to prepare services that may be termed contemporary or informal. The committee shall make certain that worship materials are provided and properly cared for (hymnals, special song books and devotional booklets). The committee shall oversee and provide support for the organists, the sound system captain, recruitment of members or others to provide special music (especially for Sunday services), organize and support a praise and worship band/choir for special services and shall arrange for the proper care of paraments, vestments, musical instruments and the church sound and projection system. The committee shall approve and assist in the selection and purchase of musical supplies appropriate for use in the worship of a congregation of the ELCA.

2. Stewardship Committee

The committee shall evoke and promote the expression of Christian faith through stewardship in the lives of the members of the congregation so as to lead all members to higher levels of proportionate giving of their time, talents and tithes for the Lord’s work in the congregational, synodical, national and worldwide ministries. The committee will encourage stewardship of our congregational members through stewardship education and special fund raisers (such as the Pony Express or funds for special needs in our church or our Synod). The committee will encourage our congregational members to take an active role on the church council or church committees, to participate in special church events and activities, and in general terms, be an active member of our church.

3. Education Committee

With the guidance of the Pastors, the committee shall oversee the children’s Sunday School activities. The committee will be responsible for the recruitment of Sunday School teachers. They shall encourage the use of teaching and worship materials published by the ELCA. The members will introduce the Church’s periodicals and books of family devotion into the homes of the congregation. The committee, with the guidance of the Pastors, shall introduce and organize Bible studies for the adult members. The committee will assist the Pastors in recruiting Bible study leaders. The Bible studies may take place during the Sunday School hour or at other times that will encourage participation. The committee shall also assist in the organization and oversight of the entire TCM youth program . The committee members will demonstrate care and concern for all students, including those away from home at college.

4. Evangelism Committee

The committee members, in association with the Pastors, shall stimulate and lead all members of the congregation in continuous and concerted endeavors regarding fulfilling the spiritual lives of our members. They shall also develop programs and procedures that will reach out to others with the Gospel

of Jesus and bring them to Christ's Church. Special interest shall be given to visitors and inactive members of the congregation. The committee will also visit new members of the community and invite them to consider our Church as their Church Home.

The committee shall endeavor, with the guidance of the Pastors, to extend Christian compassion and helpfulness to the ill, the aged, the widowed, the underprivileged and to all persons of all ages in need of aid in body, mind, and soul. The committee will strive to enlist, in these efforts, other members of the congregation.

The committee will develop and carry-out programs and activities that will help the members of our congregation feel that we are a welcoming and caring ministry.

5. Building and Grounds Committee

The committee shall see to the care, protection and maintenance of the church building and related equipment to include the proper cleaning. They shall be responsible for the proper planning and construction of all repairs to the building, including supervision of all contractual work as well as that done by congregational volunteers. The committee shall see to the proper planning and maintenance of the grounds of the Church property. They shall be responsible for the cutting and adequacy of the grassed areas, maintenance and cleaning of the walkways and maintenance of the parking lots, including the removal of snow in the winter.

Part VI – Parish Records

The records of the congregation shall be and remain the property of the congregation. The pastor and/or the recording secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of the records, except as otherwise provided herein. Upon the termination of his/her service to the congregation, he/she shall have brought the records up to date prior to his/her departure. The records shall consist of:

1. The roster of baptized, confirmed and voting members;
2. The ministerial acts performed by the pastor;
3. The minutes and reports of the synod and the handbook of the ELCA;
4. The minutes of the meetings of the congregation and the Congregation Council, for which the secretary of the congregation shall be responsible;
5. The financial records of the congregation, for which the treasurer and the financial secretary of the congregation shall be responsible.

The recording secretary ~~and/or the pastor~~ shall report to the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America such statistics as may be requested and annually report to the congregation a summary of the pastor's ministerial acts.

Should the congregation be dissolved, the official records of the congregation shall be deposited in the archives of the ELCA or its successor.