

CONSTITUTION  
of  
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, UAC.  
Leavenworth, Kansas, Inc.

April 24, 2024, rev as approved by KSLCMS.  
May 18, 2024, adopted by Voters.

PREAMBLE

It is the will of our Lord Jesus Christ that His disciples should share the Gospel with the whole world. That Christ's mission for His Church might be carried out according to His will, He has commanded that Christians unite in worship, practice fellowship with one another, and serve the needs of all people in Christian Love. Christians administer the Office of the Keys as His church and maintain decency and order in the church. Therefore, we the members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church accept and subscribe to the following constitution and bylaws in accordance with which our congregational affairs, both spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

ARTICLE I – CORPORATION NAME

The name of this corporation shall be Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC. Leavenworth, Kansas, Inc. (Unaltered Augsburg Confession)

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation is to spread the Kingdom of God by the preaching and teaching of His Word and the administration of the Sacraments to the end that we might all grow in our abilities to be worshipping, witnessing, serving, nurturing, and giving Christians.

Our Lord said, "As my Father has sent Me, so I send you." (John 20:2). As the body of those who believe in Christ and accept His Lordship, the Church is, therefore, Christ's mission.

We affirm in faith, humility, and joy that the mission is the Lord's, and we are sent to be Christ's mission to the Church, the whole person, the whole society, and the whole world.

ARTICLE III – DOCTRINAL BASIS

This congregation adopts and acknowledges without reservation all the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired and infallible Word of God and all the Symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580 as the true and sound statement of Christian doctrine taken from, and in full agreement with, the Holy Scriptures. These symbolic books are:

1. The three Ecumenical Creeds: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.
2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession.
4. The Smalcald Articles.

5. Luther's Small Catechism.
6. Luther's Large Catechism.
7. The Formula of Concord.
8. The Treatise on the Authority and Primacy of the Pope.

All teachings and preaching within this congregation shall always be in agreement with these confessions. No doctrine that is at variance with them shall be allowed and all doctrinal disputes, which may arise, shall be decided, and judged by them.

#### ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

All members must be baptized in the name of the Triune God, (that is, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). Communicant members must accept the Word of God as the only divine rule and standard of faith and conduct. While they may not be acquainted with all the symbolical books enumerated in Article III, they should be familiar, at the least, with the doctrines of Luther's Small Catechism and declare their acceptance thereof. They should express a desire to participate with this congregation in the mission of the Christian Church as described in Article II. Privileges and responsibilities of membership are described in the bylaws.

#### ARTICLE V – CALLED WORKERS

Only such men shall be called as Ordained Ministers, and only such men and women shall be called as Commissioned Ministers who accept all the books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, who are in full agreement with the Confessional Standard (Constitution Article III), and who have the qualifications for such calls according to the standards and teachings of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Pastor in the call extended to him and accepted by him pledges himself to this confessional standard. The Commissioned Minister in the call extended to him/her and accepted by him/her pledges himself/herself to this confessional standard.

#### ARTICLE VI – DOCTRINAL LITERATURE AND INSTRUCTION

Only such hymns, prayers, and liturgies shall be used in public services of the congregation and in all ministerial acts as conform to the confessional standard of Article III. Likewise, all religious teaching and instructional material shall conform to this same standard.

#### ARTICLE VII – POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- A. **General:** The congregation as a body, through the voting members, shall have supreme authority to administer and manage all of its internal and external affairs. The establishment and conduct of all ad hoc groups, committees, teams, and boards within the congregation shall at all times be subject to the approval and supervision of the congregation. The congregation, however, shall not be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the confessions of the Lutheran Church (Article III). Any such decisions shall be null and void.
- B. **Right of Calling:** The right of calling Ordained and Commissioned Ministers shall be vested in the congregation alone and shall never be delegated to a smaller body or individual.

- C. Decisions: The Word of God shall decide matters of doctrine and conscience. Other matters shall be decided by the congregational voters' meeting called for that purpose, as specified in the bylaws.
- D. Powers of Offices: Congregational officers, boards, teams, or committees, whether elected or appointed, shall have no authority beyond that which the congregation has conferred upon them. The congregation may at any time revoke the powers delegated to them.
- E. Removal from Office: Any elected official, called Ordained or Commissioned Minister may be removed from office by the congregational voters' meeting called for that purpose, by written ballot, in Christian and lawful order. Removal is for one of the following causes: persistent adherence to false doctrines, scandalous life, inability to perform his/her duties, or willful neglect of them. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast is required for removal.

#### ARTICLE VIII – PROPERTY RIGHTS

- A. Ownership: Title to all real or personal property acquired by the congregation, its organizations, or individuals for the congregation or its organizations shall be held by the congregation.
- B. Schisms: If at any time a split or division in the congregation should take place, may Almighty God always prevent this from happening, the advice of the District President shall be sought. If the split or division continues the property of the congregation and all benefits connected to it shall remain with the majority of the congregation as determined by a majority vote, in a duly announced congregational meeting, which is called for the express purpose of determining which group will retain church property. This will be consistent with Article IV.
- C. Disbandment: In the event the congregation shall totally disband, and we pray that God in His grace would prevent any such event, the congregation shall notify the District President and the Circuit Visitor for proper guidelines, since closure involves the disposal of property, payment of debts, care for a congregation's cemetery, and notification of the State of Kansas. The property and all rights and benefits connected therewith shall be transferred to such Christian church, or other organization in Christian service, exempt from taxation under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, as the majority of the congregational voters' meeting called for that purpose shall determine. In the event that such a majority decision cannot be determined, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be disposed of by the final Voter's Assembly for the payment of debts and all just claims against the congregation. In the event the congregation chooses to dissolve, it shall pass a resolution including: final dates, a plan for payment of all debts and just claims against the congregation, dispersal of all properties, and a local designee to carry out the congregation's will. Any and all surplus items, and all rights connected to the remaining property, shall be dispersed by the Voters' Assembly or group designated by that body, with special consideration being given to the LCMS Kansas District.
- D. Loss of Rights: Any person whose membership has been terminated in accordance with the bylaws shall have forfeited all rights of membership in the congregation and all claims upon the property of the congregation, as long as such person is not reinstated

into membership.

#### ARTICLE IX – MEMBERSHIP IN THE SYNOD

This congregation shall be a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as long as the Synod remains steadfast in the doctrinal basis as outlined in Article III.

#### ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS AND ALTERATIONS

Amendments to this constitution must be proposed in writing. Such proposals shall be provided to the membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the special congregational meeting called to act upon the proposed changes. Constitutional changes shall be considered valid provided they are passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all votes cast in a meeting of the congregation called for that purpose. The revised Constitution shall, as a condition of continued membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, be submitted to the President of the Kansas District for review by the District's Constitution and Bylaw Committee, and favorable action by the District's Board of Directors, before being implemented by the congregation.