



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONSTITUTION

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Date of Organization  
03/21/93

Date of Constitutional Revision  
2/12/2017

## Chapter 1

### MISSION OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH:

#### C1.01 The Great Commission – Matthew 28:19-20

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

#### The Great Commandment – Matthew 22:36-40

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

Resurrection Lutheran Church meets you where you are on your faith walk with life-transforming experiences that help you mature as a disciple of Christ. We promise to meet people where they are, but love them enough not to leave them there.

## Chapter 2

### NAME AND INCORPORATION

C2.01. The name of this congregation shall be Resurrection Lutheran Church.

C2.02. For the purpose of this constitution, the Resurrection Lutheran Church congregation is hereinafter designated as “this congregation.”

C2.03. This congregation is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

## Chapter 3

### NATURE OF THIS CONGREGATION

C3.01. As Resurrection People, we believe in the one eternally, co-existing Triune God –Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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. We accept the Apostle, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds as statements that declare our history, faith, and practices. As a Lutheran congregation we profess the Augsburg Confession and recognize Martin Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms as explanations of our doctrinal beliefs.

C3.03. We believe God has a distinct purpose for Resurrection Lutheran Church in this community and world. We are committed to listening for God’s direction and changing personally and corporately to align with His Will. We believe this community of faith is called to be relevant, growing in faith and followers, and willing to sacrifice for God’s bigger vision.

C3.04. We believe that God expects each of us to grow and mature as new creations in Christ. Our growth is a never-ending process of learning, listening, worshipping, serving, and forgiving ourselves and others. As Resurrection People, we are intentional in our spiritual growth, so we can be effective ambassadors for Jesus, and use His teachings to bless ourselves, our families, the community, and the world we touch.

C3.05. The policies and guidelines of this congregation will be maintained and managed by the Congregation Council or other organized units determined by the Congregational Council. These policies and guidelines are available for any member to review.

C3.06. This congregation shall be part of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (“LCMC”) or its successor. Affiliation with LCMC or its successor may be terminated as follows:

- a. A two-thirds majority vote to terminate the affiliation at a duly called congregation meeting for this specific purpose.
- b. This congregation ceases to exist.

#### Chapter 4

#### POWERS OF THIS CONGREGATION

C4.01. The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its Mission and Vision.

C4.02. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution (see Chapter 5).

This congregation is authorized to:

- a. Approve the unamendable budget;
- b. Acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- c. Hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- d. Sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- e. Elect its Congregation Council, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution and policies
- f. Amend this constitution as defined in Chapter 9

C4.03. All property that is acquired by the congregation will be held, owned and titled in the name of this congregation. This congregation’s real property, in excess of 10% of the congregation’s annual budget, will not be purchased, disposed of, or encumbered in any manner except as approved by a two-thirds majority vote of a duly called congregation meeting.

C4.04. To terminate this congregation’s existence, a two-thirds majority vote to terminate at a duly called congregation meeting for this specific purpose. Should the congregation disband title to its land and other property, real and personal, the land and property or the proceeds, must be used for charitable purposes as directed by a two –thirds majority vote of duly called congregation meeting.

#### Chapter 5

#### CONGREGATION MEETING

C5.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. The Congregation Council shall set the agenda, date, time and place for the annual meeting.

C5.02. A special Congregational Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregational Council, or the president of this congregation. A special Congregational Meeting shall be called at the written request of at least 20% of eligible 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.

C5.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the worship services on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by electronic mail to all (voting) members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.

C5.04. The voting members present at any annual or special meeting shall constitute a quorum.

C5.05. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Voting by absentee ballot shall be permitted. Absentee ballots shall be obtained only from the Church Office and due 48 hours prior to the meeting.

C5.06. Permitting absentee ballots necessitates that any motion requiring a vote by the congregation cannot be amended once voting on the motion(s) is allowed.

C5.07. All actions by the congregation shall be by a simple majority vote except as otherwise provided in this constitution.

C5.08. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

## Chapter 6

### POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C6.01. All remaining authority is retained by the Congregation Council or other organized units determined by the Congregational Council. This congregation will have an organizational structure as described in the congregation policies.

C6.02. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the Lead Pastor or Interim Lead Pastor and not less than five (5) and no more than nine (9) members of the congregation. The Congregational Council will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer and one (1) to four (4) at large members.

C6.03. The members of the Congregation Council, except the Lead Pastor, shall be elected by written ballot to serve for 3 years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. 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. No member of the Congregation Council shall hold more than one office at a time.

C6.04. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council.

C6.05. 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 is done in accordance with the Word of God. The Congregation Council will be the governing authority and be responsible for descriptions of each committee, task force, or other organizational groups and shall review their actions. These descriptions and the duties of the Congregation Council positions will be included in the congregation policies. The Congregation Council is responsible to provide an annual written report for the congregation.

## Chapter 7

### MEMBERSHIP

C7.01. Members of this congregation shall be those members on the roll of the congregation at the time this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted there after and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the congregation policies.

C7.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

- a. Baptized members are:  
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.
- b. Confirmed members are:
  - 1) Baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation or,
  - 2) Those that have been received by adult baptism or as confirmed members from other Christian congregations. These persons also need to complete the new member orientation and make an affirmation of faith to this congregation.
- c. Voting members are:

Confirmed members that are 18 years of age or older. Voting members shall have made a financial contribution per the congregation office records during the current or preceding year to be eligible to vote at a congregation meeting.

C7.03. 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 teachings of the Lutheran church
- c. Serve the vision and mission of this congregation with their time, talents and treasures

C7.05. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. Death;
- b. Resignation;
- c. Transfer or release;
- d. Removal from the roll due to inactivity which is defined as no record of a financial contribution for five (5) years or longer;
- e. Due process and disciplinary action by the Congregation Council;

## Chapter 8 PASTOR POSITIONS

C8.01. A Pastoral Call committee may be formed for Lead and other pastor positions and given guidelines to nominate to the Congregational Council for vote. The responsibilities of the Lead Pastor and other Pastoral positions will be part of the congregation policies.

C8.02. This congregation shall extend a call to the Lead Pastor upon a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members present and voting (including properly submitted absentee ballots) at a legally called meeting of this congregation called for this specific purpose.

C8.03. The Lead Pastor relationship may be dissolved by resignation, or by action of the Congregation Council by a two-thirds majority vote recommending dissolution of the relationship followed by a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members present (including properly submitted absentee ballots) at a legally called meeting of the congregation called for this specific purpose.

C8.04. Authority to call and dissolve relationships with interim and non lead pastors shall be held by the Congregation Council.

## Chapter 9 AMENDMENTS

C9.01. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least 20% of 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 its regular or special meeting called for the purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the members of the proposal with their recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

C9.02. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. Be approved at a properly called meeting according to this constitution by two-thirds majority vote of those present or by absentee ballot;
- b. Have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.