

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
for
THE CONGREGATION
of
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH CAMP HILL, PENNSYLVANIA

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Chapter 3. NATURE OF THE CHURCH

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***C3.02.** This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian ~~Unity~~ unity throughout the world.

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Chapter 5. POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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***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 this congregation. This 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~~ a minister of Word and Service;
- ~~d.~~ d. terminate the call of a minister of Word and Service in conformity with the ~~applicable policy~~ constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- ~~d.~~ e. adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter 16, amendments to the bylaws, as specified in Chapter 17, and continuing resolutions, as provided in Chapter 18.
- ~~e.~~ f. approve the annual budget;
- ~~f.~~ g. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- ~~g.~~ h. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- ~~h.~~ i. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- ~~i.~~ j. elect its Congregation Council, and require the members of the Council to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
- ~~j.~~ k. terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Chapter 6.

***C5.04.** This congregation shall elect 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 this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Chapter 6. CHURCH AFFILIATION

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- *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 ~~ministers~~ the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament ~~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. These special circumstances are limited either to calling a candidate approved for the roster of ~~ministers~~ Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or to contracting for pastoral services with ~~an ordained~~ a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion.
 - d. This congregation agrees to consider ministers of Word and Service for call to other staff positions in this congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - e. This congregation agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the constitution of the synod.

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- *C6.05.** A congregation may terminate its relationship with this church by the following procedure:

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- g. This Congregation shall abide by these covenants by and among the three expressions of this church:
 - 1) Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in *C6.05. shall be required to receive synod council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - 2) Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America ~~it~~ shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to receive synod approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - 3) Congregations established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to satisfy all financial obligations to this church and receive synod council approval before terminating their membership in this church.

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Chapter 8. MEMBERSHIP

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*C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

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- 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 this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.

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Chapter 9. ~~THE PASTOR~~ ROSTERED MINISTER

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*C9.02. Only a member of the ~~ministers~~ roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament ~~roster~~ of the Evangelical Lutheran- Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ~~ministers~~ Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

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*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 this 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.

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*C9.23. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

- a. Be rooted in the Word of God for proclamation and service;
- b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
- ~~e. Speak publicly to the world;~~
- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
- h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

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Chapter 16. AMENDMENTS

- *C16.01. Unless provision *C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least twenty percent of the voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members by mail or electronic notice of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.
- *C16.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:
- a. be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting;
 - b. be ratified without change at the next regular meeting of this congregation held pursuant to C10.01 by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting; and
 - c. have the effective date included in the resolution¹ and noted in the constitution.
- *C16.03. Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in *C16.01. and *C16.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The synod shall notify this congregation of the decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.

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²¹ *Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of *C16.03. to allow time for ~~synodical~~ synod review of the amendment.*