

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Flower Mound, Texas

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE:

Whereas, according to the Word of God, it is the privilege and duty of Christians who are blessed by God in order to be a blessing to others:

1. to build and extend the Church of Jesus Christ (Matthew 9:38; Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22);
2. to establish and maintain in their midst the ministerial office of Word and Sacraments (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14);
3. to endeavor to keep the unity of faith (Ephesians 4:3-6; Romans 1:12; Jude 20-21);
4. to administer the Office the Keys and to exercise Christian concern and discipline (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13);
5. to do all things decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40) and to strengthen the members of the Congregation (1 Corinthians 14:26); and
6. to practice fellowship with those who profess the true faith (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Hebrews 10:23-25).

Therefore, we, the members of Lamb of God Lutheran Church of Flower Mound, Texas (hereinafter referred to as "the Congregation"), a member of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as the "LCMS" or "Synod"), hereby adopt this Constitution and Bylaws, and pledge to govern all spiritual and material affairs of the Congregation by their provisions.

This Congregation shall, to the best of its ability, collaborate as a member in good standing with said Synod, abide by its rulings, and assist it in effecting all sound measures intended for the building up of the Kingdom of God. In this regard, this Congregation recognizes the Texas District of the LCMS, located in Austin, Texas, as the authorized entity representing said Synod.

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

- A. The name of this Congregation shall be Lamb of God Lutheran Church of Flower Mound, Texas.
- B. This Congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE TWO: MISSION

The purpose of this Congregation shall be that of a religious organization; more specifically, that of a Christian congregation, established and maintained to carry out the mission of disseminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the purpose of making disciples of all people (Matthew 28:19) by teaching God's Word and administering the Sacraments (Matthew 28:20) according to the confessional standards of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as stated in Article III below.

ARTICLE THREE: CONFESSION OF FAITH

- A. This Congregation acknowledges and accepts all of the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed verbally inspired Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice; and acknowledges and holds all the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, to be the true exposition of the doctrines of the Holy Bible. These Confessions are:

The Three Chief Symbols
the Apostles Creed,
the Nicene Creed, and
the Athanasian Creed,

The Unaltered Augsburg Confession of 1530,
The Apology of the Augsburg Confession of 1531,
The Smalcald Articles of 1537, including the Treatise on the Authority and Primacy of the Pope,
The Large and Small Catechisms of Doctor Martin Luther of 1529, and
The Formula of Concord of 1577.

- B. All doctrines shall be taught and examined to these Scriptural and Confessional norms and all doctrinal controversies which arise in this Congregation shall be decided and adjudicated on the basis of them.
- C. This Article stands inviolate, and no alterations or amendments may be made to it.

ARTICLE FOUR: CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

A. Categories and Requirements for Membership

1. This Congregation distinguishes three types of members: Baptized, Communicant, and Voting. Those who may become or remain members of this Congregation and enjoy and exercise the rights and privileges of membership are distinguished as those who are:
 - a) Baptized
 - i. are baptized in the name of the Triune God (Matthew 28:19); and,
 - ii. are under the spiritual care of the pastor of this Congregation, including children who have not yet been confirmed.
 - b) Communicant
 - i. are baptized in the name of the Triune God (Matthew 28:19); and
 - ii. declare their acceptance of and adherence to the Bible as God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16); and
 - iii. are familiar with the teachings of Doctor Martin Luther's Small Catechism and have declared in the rite of Confirmation their acceptance of the doctrines contained in the Lutheran Confessions mentioned in Article Three.
 - c) Voting
 - i. a Communicant member may become a Voting member once he or she has attained the age of 18 years,
 - ii. has been received by the Voting Assembly, and
 - iii. has signed the Constitution.
2. Accordingly, young children may be admitted to membership in the Congregation through the Sacrament of Baptism or by transfer with their parents; and adults admitted by transfer from a sister congregation in altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS, by profession of the Christian faith and Lutheran doctrine, or by rite of Confirmation (with Baptism, if necessary). The reception of all new members shall be approved by the Voting Assembly (*ref. Bylaws, Members*).

B. General Duties of Members

Members of the Congregation shall:

1. Demonstrate the presence of Christ in their lifestyle (John 13:35);
2. Attend public worship of the Congregation regularly and, if confirmed, partake of the Lord's Supper frequently (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26);
3. Foster Christian fellowship in the Congregation;
4. Declare themselves willing to support the policies of the Congregation provided these are not contrary to the Word of God (James 1:22);

5. Permit themselves to be fraternally admonished when they have erred (Matthew 18:15-20);
6. Not be members of any organization in conflict with the Confession of Faith laid down in Article III (Matthew 12:30);
7. Give time, talents and treasures to serve the Lord through the Congregation and support its growth (Ephesians 4:15-16); and
8. Bring, if responsible for parental care, children to Holy Baptism at an early age, and provide every possible manner for their proper training in the Confession of Faith, including Sunday School and Confirmation classes. (Ephesians 6:4)
9. Grow in the knowledge and understanding of Lutheran doctrine (*ref. Article Three*), and as responsible members of this congregation, assure that all of its officers and workers remain faithful to the profession of Christian faith and practice of Lutheran doctrine.

C. Specific Duties of Voting Members

1. The Voting Membership of the Congregation, when acting as a group on affairs of the Congregation, shall be known as the Voting Assembly.
2. Only Voting Members shall be allowed to vote at a Voting Assembly, in accordance with the procedure set forth in the Bylaws. It shall be the duty of every Voting Member to attend Voting Assemblies, and failure to do so will waive the right of a Member to cast their vote at that meeting.
3. Ten (10) percent of the Voting Members of the Congregation shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at a Voting Assembly session.

D. Church Discipline

1. When the mutual care of the Congregation according to Matthew 18: 15-20 proves ineffectual upon an erring Member, it shall become necessary for this Congregation to show the seriousness of the erring Member's sin by excluding him or her from its fellowship in accordance with the procedure set forth in the Bylaws, (*see Terminations*). Such an excluded person shall have forfeited all rights as a Member of this Congregation and all claims upon the property of the Congregation as such, or upon any part thereof, as long as he or she is not again received into membership by the Congregation. The same shall apply to such Members who refuse to submit themselves to the fraternal discipline of this Congregation and thus exclude themselves, as also do those who sever their connection with the Congregation.
2. When it becomes necessary to exclude a Member from the fellowship of this Congregation, such action is not to be viewed as punishment upon the excluded Member or as a means of freeing the Congregation from a responsibility to that Member. The purpose of such action is to minister to the erring Member and show that person the

seriousness of their actions with the hope of restoring them to wholeness in Jesus Christ and reuniting them to the fellowship of this Congregation (Galatians 6:1-2).

ARTICLE FIVE: ORDAINED and COMMISSIONED WORKERS

- A.** Only such Ordained or Commissioned workers shall serve this Congregation who are in accord with the Confession of Faith set forth in Article III, who have been prepared for this work by education and training, and are certified and approved by Synod on its current active roster. Ordained workers shall be given a Divine Call; a Commissioned worker may be Called. Reasons for dismissing a Called or Commissioned worker shall be persistent adherence to false teaching, leading an ungodly life, unfaithfulness, or unwillingness or inability to perform their duties.
- B.** All Ordained or Called Commissioned workers shall be elected (or removed) by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Voting Assembly. The right of Calling Ordained or Commissioned workers shall ever be vested in the Voting Assembly of the Congregation and shall never be delegated to a smaller body or an individual. The procedures for calling and dismissing Ordained or Commissioned workers are set forth in the Bylaws.
- C.** The Congregation will notify the President of the Texas District of the LCMS in the event of a vacancy, whenever the Call process has begun, or if a dismissal is being considered, and will work in cooperation with his office.

ARTICLE SIX: AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION

- A.** The Voting Members in Assembly shall be the governing body of this Congregation and shall decide all matters relating to the Congregation brought before them in accordance with this Constitution and the Bylaws. Every Communicant member may appeal to the Voting Assembly in regard to any issue relating to the affairs and government of the Congregation as set forth in the Bylaws. Except where otherwise specified, a simple majority of the Voting Assembly's decision shall be final and binding. However, it is understood that each decision shall always be in accord with the Word of God and the Confession of Faith set forth in Article Three above, and unless it is so, such decision shall be null and void.
- B.** Regular and Special Sessions of the Voting Assembly shall be held as set forth in the Bylaws, (*see Meetings*).
- C.** If at any time, a dispute in the Congregation should take place that ultimately affects the property of the Congregation, all benefits therewith shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Voting Members. In the event the Congregation shall totally disband, the property and all rights connected shall be transferred to the Texas District of the LCMS exempt from taxation under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

- D.** This Congregation may receive, acquire, hold title to, and manage such real estate and other property as it may need to accomplish the mission set forth in Article Two above; and shall have all other rights and powers granted it by the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE SEVEN: GOVERNANCE

- A.** The essential framework of elected officers of this Congregation shall be: President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer, who constitute the Board of Trustees and act in behalf of the Congregation with appropriate signatures on all legal instruments. Other Departments of Ministry, Boards, and Committees that may be elected or appointed to meet the changing needs of the Congregation shall be set forth in the Bylaws. Only those in elected positions shall be Officers of the Congregation and shall comprise the Church Ministry Council (hereinafter referred to as the "CMC").
- B.** This Congregation shall develop an organization structure to be described in the Bylaws. The CMC shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each Department, Board, Committee, or other organizational group and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in the Policies and Practices manual.
- C.** The Bylaws, (*see Governance*), sets forth the minimum requirements for each elected and appointed position, the terms thereof, and when necessary the basis for removal. In addition to the minimum requirements set forth in the Bylaws, candidates for the office of President, Vice-president, and all Elders, shall be drawn only from the male voting Members of the Congregation in accordance with this Constitution in Article Three, Confession of Faith, above.

ARTICLE EIGHT: BYLAWS

This Congregation, through its Voting Assembly, may adopt and modify such Bylaws as the accomplishment of the purpose of this Congregation may demand. In the event of any perceived inconsistency or contradiction between this Constitution and the Bylaws, this Constitution shall prevail.

ARTICLE NINE: AMENDMENTS

- A.** Amendments to this Constitution shall be made in writing and submitted to the CMC with the proposed new language, signed by at least three Voting members in good standing in the Congregation. The CMC shall review and approve it for presentation to the Congregation for consideration.

- B.** If the amendment proposal is rejected by the CMC, the amendment proposal may be submitted to the Congregation by a resubmission of the amendment proposal to the Congregation's President with at least 50 signatures of Voting members in good standing.
- C.** The proposed amendment(s) shall be made available to the Congregation at least two (2) weeks preceding a Regular or Special meeting of the Voting Assembly, at which time the President of the Congregation will present the proposal(s) for discussion. A final vote for resolution of the proposal(s) shall not be made until a second Voting Assembly meeting is established at least two (2) weeks later, at which time the amendment(s) may be part of, or all of, the agenda.
- D.** A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present is required for adoption of the proposed amendment, provided also that it is consistent with Section 2.03 (b) of the Bylaws of Synod. Accordingly, the Congregation shall submit the amendment to the Texas District LCMS Committee on Constitutions for approval, and only after receiving such approval shall it become effective immediately.