

THE CONSTITUTION OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

PREAMBLE

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

It is the loving will of our heavenly Father and of our Lord Jesus Christ that His disciples should carry the Gospel to the whole world. Therefore, we, a number of Lutheran Christians living in and near Lethbridge, Alberta, have gathered together as the church of God to carry out His purpose. Furthermore, we accept and subscribe to the following constitution and bylaws, in accordance with which all spiritual and material matters of our congregation shall be governed.

1. 1ARTICLE NAME

- 1.1. The name of this congregation shall be Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lethbridge, Alberta.

2. 2ARTICLE MISSION

- 2.1. The purpose of this congregation shall be to give honor and glory to God, to carry out His will, to assist in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world, to manifest the unity of our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, to unite in worship, to foster Christian fellowship and love, to extend a helping hand in human need, and to achieve our objectives by the preaching of the Word of God, by the proper administration of the sacraments, by religious instruction and by a Christ-like witness.

3. 2ARTICLE CONFESSION OF FAITH

- 3.1. This congregation confesses the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit as the one true God. We further proclaim the Father as the One Who has created and still preserves life; the Son as the One Who has come into our world to redeem us and become our Lord; and the Holy Spirit as the One Who has called and sanctified us in the new life in Christ Jesus.
- 3.2. This congregation confesses the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written and inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks. This word of God is the only source of the church's teachings of faith, is the standard by which all of God's children live and is the cradle in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ— the pinnacle of God's saving grace— is contained.
- 3.3. Furthermore we subscribe to the all the Symbolic Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as a correct presentation and exposition of Christian Doctrine as drawn from the Holy Scriptures, to wit:
 - 3.3.1..1 The three ecumenical creeds (The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed)
 - 3.3.2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession
 - 3.3.3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
 - 3.3.4. The Smalcald Articles
 - 3.3.5. Luther's Large Catechism
 - 3.3.6. Luther's Small Catechism
 - 3.3.7. The Formula of Concord

4. ARTICLE MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Baptized membership in this congregation is held by all those who are baptized in the Name of the Triune God and are under our pastoral care. Such members shall live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Word of God and in communion with the Church.
- 4.2. 2 Communicant membership in this congregation may be held only by those who are baptized members and who have been instructed in preparation for the reception of the Lord's Supper and have declared their acceptance of the confession of faith of this congregation.
- 4.3. Voting membership may be held by communicant members who have been instructed according to the Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther, have attained the age of 18, have declared their acceptance of the constitution and bylaws of this congregation.

5. **ARTICLE AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION**

- 5.1. The Voters' Assembly shall be the governing body of this congregation and shall be empowered to administer and manage all its affairs. The establishment and conduct of all officers, boards and committees as well as all organizations and societies within the congregation or related directly to it shall be subject to the approval and supervision of the Voters' Assembly.
- 5.2. The right of calling Ministers of Religion, both ordained and commissioned, shall be vested in the Voters' Assembly and shall not be delegated otherwise.
- 5.3. An affirmative ~~three-fourth~~ ~~two-third~~ majority vote of the voters present at a properly convened Voters' Assembly shall be required to erect buildings, purchase and/or sell property.

6. **ARTICLE OFFICES OF MINISTERS OF RELIGION**

- 6.1. This congregation shall have the power to establish, as it deems necessary, various offices of Ministers of Religion, either ordained or commissioned, which shall be conferred only on such candidates who profess and adhere to the confessional standard set forth in Section III of this constitution, who are qualified for their work, who have been endorsed by the Synod and are members of the same.
- 6.2. Any Minister of Religion may be removed from office by the Voters' Assembly by a three-fourths majority ballot vote, in Christian and lawful order, for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, wilful neglect or inability to perform the duties of the office.

7. **ARTICLE OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

- 7.1. The officers of this congregation shall be such as the bylaws of this congregation may prescribe.

8. **ARTICLE SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP**

- 8.1. This congregation shall be a member of Lutheran Church - Canada as long as Lutheran Church - Canada conforms to the congregation's confessional standards as set forth in Article 3 of this constitution as determined by a three-quarters majority vote of the congregation at a meeting called for that purpose.

9. **ARTICLE DIVISION**

- 9.1. If at any time a division should take place on account of doctrine, the property of the congregation and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with those communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article 3 of this constitution, as determined by the adjudication procedure of Lutheran Church - Canada.

- 9.2. If division takes place for any other reason, the property shall remain with the majority of the communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article 3 of this constitution, as determined by the adjudication procedures of Lutheran Church - Canada.
- 9.3. In the event the congregation should dissolve, the property and all rights therewith shall be transferred to that District of Lutheran Church - Canada in which the congregation held membership at the time of dissolution.

10. ARTICLE MEETINGS

- 10.1. Voters' Assembly meetings of the congregation shall be held as determined in the bylaws.

11. ARTICLE QUORUM

- 11.1. A quorum shall be ~~twenty-five~~ thirty-five eligible voting members of the congregation.

12. ARTICLE VALIDITY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 12.1. All congregational matters shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the qualified voting members present at a properly convened meeting of the Voters' Assembly unless otherwise specified by this constitution and its associated bylaws. Matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided only on the basis of the Word of God.

13. ARTICLE BYLAWS

- 13.1. This congregation may adopt such bylaws as may be required for the accomplishment of its mission as outlined in Article 2 of this constitution.

14. ARTICLE AMENDMENTS

- 14.1. Amendments to provisions of this constitution may be adopted at a properly convened Voters' Assembly as hereinafter provided:
 - 14.1.1. That the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting of the Voters' Assembly and published by posting in a conspicuous place in the church or by mail prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be acted upon.
 - 14.1.2. That an affirmative vote of a three-fourths majority of the voters present is secured.
 - 14.1.3. That any changes in these articles shall not destroy the essential meaning of the same. Whether or not this has occurred shall be decided, if challenged, by a decision of the Commission on Adjudication of the District of Lutheran Church - Canada in which the congregation holds its membership.
 - 14.1.4. Amendments to provisions of the bylaws of this constitution may be adopted at a properly convened Voters' Assembly as hereinafter provided:
 - 14.1.5. That the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting of the Voters' Assembly and published by posting in a conspicuous place in the church or by mail prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be acted upon.
 - 14.1.6. That an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the voters present is secured except for Article 4 2 "Membership" of the bylaws which requires a three-fourths majority.