



CONSTITUTION
of
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Belgrade, Montana



Adopted February 20, 2011



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Constitution

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PREAMBLE

As baptized members of the priesthood of all believers, called by the Holy Spirit to confess the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in its purity, we give thanks for God's continual faithfulness and, by adopting this constitution, join this fellowship and association of congregations, uniting to carry out God's mission in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Article 1

NAME AND INCORPORATION

A1.01 The name of this congregation shall be Peace Lutheran Church.

A1.02 For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as "this congregation".

A1.03 This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Montana.

Article 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH

A2.01. We believe, teach, and confess the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A2.02. We believe, teach, and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe in him.

- a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
- b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both law and gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy in the person and work of Jesus Christ through whom God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself.
- c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

A2.03. We believe, teach, and accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the sole authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life.

A2.04. We believe, teach, and confess the gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures. ..And we confessed in the ecumenical creeds, the Lutheran confessional writings (see Bylaws 1), and the Common Confession as the power of God to create and sustain the priesthood of all believers for God's mission in the world.

Article 3

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A3.01 The holy catholic and apostolic church (the Church) is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to the good news that sinners are put right with God by faith alone in Jesus Christ, to resist any corruption of this gospel, and to serve and

support fellow congregations who seek to do likewise. Looking only to the cross of Christ, we proclaim God's word as law and gospel for the redemption of his people today.

A3.02 To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:

- a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.
- b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members that participate in this ministry.
- c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.
- d. Teach the Word of God.
- e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.
- f. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs.

A3.03 This congregation shall function within the organizational structure described in this constitution and the accompanying bylaws.

A3.04 This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

Article 4. CHURCH AFFILIATION

A4.01 This congregation shall be an associate congregation of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

Article 5. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

A5.01 If this congregation chooses or votes to ceases to exist the congregational council in consultation with the active membership, will decide how and to whom the title of the property is to be transferred. If there are any capital proceeds gained in this process they will be distributed to congregational council designated Christian charities.

Article 6. MEMBERSHIP

A6.01 Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of the congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Article 7 PASTOR

A7.01 Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. A pastoral call will be contingent upon Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ certification.

Article 8 CONGREGATION MEETING

A8.01 The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held in January or otherwise determined by the church council.

A8.02 A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called at the written request of ten percent of the 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.

A8.03 Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and delivered in writing to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice by e-mail or in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the to the last known e-mail or regular mail address of such members shall be sufficient.

A8.04 Ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

A8.05 Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

A8.06 All actions by the congregation shall be by a simple majority vote except as otherwise provided in this constitution.

A8.07 Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

A8.08 The current roster of voting members shall be available at each meeting of the congregation.

Article 9 OFFICERS

A9.01 The officers of this congregation shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
- b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- c. Officers of this congregation shall serve similar offices of the Congregation Council, and shall be voting members of the Congregation Council, except the treasurer if elected from the congregation at large.
- d. If the Congregational Council elects its officers, the president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council.

A9.02 The Congregation Council shall elect its officers at its first meeting after the annual meeting of the congregation and they shall be the officers of the congregation. The officers shall be elected and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. The treasurer may be elected from the congregation at large at the annual meeting.

A9.03 No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. The president, vice-president, or secretary shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. The treasurer may serve any number of consecutive terms.

Article 10. CONGREGATION COUNCIL

A10.01. The Congregation Council shall consist of not more than twelve voting members of the congregation, and one baptized high school youth non-voting member appointed by the church council. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from three successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Every pastor called by this congregation shall be a non-voting member of the Congregation Council. Consistent with the laws of the State of Montana, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

A10.02 The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected at the annual meeting by written ballot to serve for three years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

A10.03 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. Should the unexpired term be one year or less it shall not be considered in determining eligibility for succession.






A10.04 The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. The duties of the Congregation Council are specified in the By-Laws.

A10.05 The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called at the written request of ten percent of the voting members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given not less than ten days prior to the meeting and shall be announced at every public service during that period.

A10.06 A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Congregation Council.

Article 11 CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

A11.01 This congregation shall have the following committees:

-  Executive Committee
-  Nominating Committee
-  Audit Committee
-  Call Committee
-  Other Committees may be formed as the need by decision of the Congregational Council.

The duties of all Committees shall be specified in the Bylaws. The Pastor of this congregation shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees and boards of this congregation.

Article 12 ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

A12.01 All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation's life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meetings shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.

Article 13. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

A13.01 Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation to its detriment are sufficient cause for discipline of a member as specified in the Bylaws.

Article 14 BYLAWS

A14.01 This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

A14.02 Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.

A14.03 Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Congregation Council notify the congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting by e-mail or in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, and sent to the to the last known e-mail or regular mail address of such members shall be sufficient.

Article 15 AMENDMENTS

A15.01 All sections of this constitution may be amended in the following manner. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least ten percent (10%) 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 its regular or special Congregational meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members by e-mail or regular mail of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. The posting of such notice by e-mail or in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the to the last known e-mail or regular mail address of such members shall be sufficient.

A15.02 An amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. be approved at a legally called Congregational meeting according to this constitution with a quorum and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting.
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and
- c. the effective date shall be the date of ratification or as other wise specified and that date shall be noted in the constitution.

Article 16. CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

A16.01 The Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.

A16.02 Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

Article 17 INDEMNIFICATION

A17.01 Consistent with the provisions of the laws of the State of Montana, this congregation may adopt provisions providing indemnification for each person who, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Congregation Council member, officer, employee, agent, or other member of any committee of this congregation, was or is threatened to made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.



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