

RESURRECTION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Revised October 2017

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. It is the will of our Lord Jesus that his disciples should preach the gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). That Christ's mission for his Church might be carried out according to his will; he has commanded that Christians unite in worship (Hebrews 10:24-25), practice fellowship with one another (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20), and service the needs of all people in Christian love (Ephesians 4:7-16; Mark 10:42-44; John 13:35; Galatians 6:10). Since Christians are also to administer the Office of the Keys as his Church (John 20:21-23; Matthew 18:15-20), and to maintain decency and order (1 Corinthians 14:40) in the church, we Lutheran Christians, mindful of our Christian duties, in Jesus' name, and with the promise of his blessing, accept and subscribe to the following constitution and by-laws, in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation shall be governed.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Congregation shall be Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, located in Lucas County, Ohio.

ARTICLE II: ARTICLES OF FAITH

SECTION A

This congregation accepts and confesses all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God and submits to his Word as the only infallible authority of all matters of faith and life (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

SECTION B

This congregation accepts and confesses all the symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as true statements of scriptural doctrine. They are:

1. The three ecumenical Creeds:
 - a. The Apostles'
 - b. The Nicene
 - c. The Athanasian
2. The six Lutheran Confessions:
 - a. Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism

- b. Dr. Martin Luther's Large Catechism
- c. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession
- d. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
- e. The Smalcald Articles
- f. The Formula of Concord

SECTION C

This Congregation accepts and confesses these symbolical books without reservation, not insofar as, but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith held by the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

SECTION D

Hence, no doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation, which is in any way at variance with the Holy Scripture and these symbolic books.

SECTION E

Likewise, all controversies, which may arise in this Congregation, shall be decided and adjusted according to this norm of doctrine and practice.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION A

The continuing purpose of this Congregation, as a gathering of Christians, is to serve all people in God's world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures (Matthew 28:18-20).

SECTION B

The primary objectives of this Congregation shall be:

1. To proclaim the Law and the Gospel, to lead sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ for life and salvation (2 Timothy 4:2; and Luke 24:46-48).
2. To strengthen believers in faith and sanctification through the means of grace (Romans 10:17).
3. To equip believers as disciples, stewards, and witnesses for sharing the Gospel of Jesus with our fellowmen (Ephesians 4:11-12).

ARTICLE IV: SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

SECTION A

This Congregation shall affiliate itself only with a church body that holds to all the truths of God's Word in doctrine and practice and is bound to the confession of faith as set forth in Article II, as long as such a church body exists.

ARTICLE V: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A: CLASSIFICATION

1. Baptized members of the congregation are those who have been baptized into the Christian faith in the name of the Triune God (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16).
2. Communicant members are those baptized souls who confess Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior and have stated their adherence to all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament, without qualification, as the only rule and norm of faith and life, and have declared their agreement with the chief parts of Christian doctrine as written in Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism..
3. Voting members are those male communicant members (1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:12) who have declared their agreement with this Constitution by their signatures and who have been accepted by the voters' assembly of the congregation.

SECTION B: PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

"God is love" (1 John 4:8), and his love ever moves him to bless the members of His church with physical and spiritual gifts (1 John 3:1; James 1:17). In return for all of these undeserved blessings, we ought to love him with all our heart (1 John 4:19) and to show that love with the works that we do. The exercise of such love we acknowledge as both a privilege and responsibility. Some of the privileges and responsibilities to be noted are the following:

1. Our God has given us his Word, the one thing needful (Luke 10:42), which alone can save our souls and tell us how to live a God pleasing life (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Consequently, members of his church will consider it a distinct privilege and a responsibility to:

- a. Hear and receive the Word of God diligently.
 - b. Provide and promote opportunities for Christian education.
 - c. Bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)
2. Our God has given us two sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, which are means that our Lord uses to bring his grace to us. Consequently, members of the church will:
 - a. Have their children baptized early in life, for “Baptism now saves you also” (1 Peter 3:21).
 - b. Frequently partake of Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-26), if they are recognized as such who can properly examine themselves (1 Corinthians 11:28). Only those in the confessional fellowship of faith are permitted to commune at our altar. (Close Communion – 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; Romans 16:17).
3. Our God has given us the privilege and responsibility of being managers over a certain portion of his estate and assures us he will graciously bless such faithful management (2 Corinthians 9:6). Therefore, members of his Church will under grace:
 - a. Continually remember that all their possessions, time and abilities are really a trust from God.
 - b. Cheerfully decide in their heart (Corinthians 9:7) the portion of their possessions, time and abilities which they will regularly devote to the Lord for use in carrying out that which the congregation has made its concern, not omitting the work of the synod (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 9:14; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; 1 Peter 4:10).
 - c. If eligible, become voting members and regularly attend the voter’s meeting and lend the congregation their counsel and aid.
4. Our God has implanted within us who are Christians the new man, who desires to live righteously (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24). Consequently, members of his Church will:
 - a. Not live in obvious acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21), but lead a Christian life (Galatians 5:22-25).

- b. When they have erred, permit themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected according to Matthew 18:15-18.
- c. Refuse to hold membership in any organization whose teachings and practices conflict with the Word of God (e.g. lodges). (John 5:23; 8:31,32; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

SECTION C: CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND EXCOMMUNICATION

Christian discipline shall be exercised in this congregation according to Matthew 18:15-18 toward those who err from the faith or who in others ways have given offense. At all times this shall be done in the spirit of the gospel, namely, to regain the erring as brothers. Those members who become evident as impenitent sinners themselves from the congregation by evading Matthew 18:15-18 lose all their rights in the congregation and in its property. For excommunication a unanimous vote of the voters' assembly is required.

SECTION D: TERMINATION OF FELLOWSHIP

Members who persist in error that in itself does not make the presence of saving faith impossible and who otherwise are not under church discipline (cf. Article V, Section B, 4, and Section C) may be excluded from the fellowship of this congregation

1. after they have been evangelically admonished by their fellow Christians in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-16; and
2. when their adherence to error becomes public and a matter of divisiveness (Titus 3:10) and thus an offense and obstacle to the truth of God's Word (Romans 16:17).

Those who have been excommunicated or excluded from the fellowship of this congregation lose all rights and privileges in the congregation and its property. This action shall not be used for removing inactive members or as a substitute for the loving act of excommunication when impenitence is clearly evident.

SECTION E: REINSTATEMENT

When an excommunicated member by the grace of God repents of his sin, he is to be reinstated with all former rights and privileges of this congregation (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

ARTICLE VI: POWERS AND RIGHTS OF THE CONGREGATION

SECTION A

In all matters of Christian faith and life the Word of God is supreme (Psalm 119:105).

SECTION B

In all matters not decided by the Word of God the congregation represented by the voters' assembly shall have the right of decision (Romans 12:10; 14:19; Ephesians 5:21).

SECTION C

The church council, any other elected committee or organization within the congregation, and any of its elected or appointed officers shall have no power or authority beyond that conferred upon them by the congregation. However, the church council in an emergency may act in the name and for the welfare of the congregation. Such action must be submitted for approval at the next voters' assembly.

SECTION D

No group or society may be organized within the congregation without the approval of the congregation. The congregation shall be assured that the aims of such a group are in complete harmony with the congregation's aims before it grants its approval (1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25).

ARTICLE VII: THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

SECTION A

The congregation, represented by the voters' assembly, has the exclusive right to call pastors, teachers, and staff ministers.

SECTION B

The pastorate of this congregation shall be conferred only upon such men who are qualified for this ministry and publicly and without reservation profess their acceptance of and adherence to Article II of this constitution, and such acceptance and adherence shall be required of them in the call of vocation extended by the congregation (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; Colossians 4:5-6).

SECTION C

The teachers called by the congregation shall be such as are in accord with the confessional standard of the congregation (Article II) and are qualified for this field of work (Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 14:40).

SECTION D

In the case of a vacancy in the office of pastor, teacher, or staff minister the congregation shall notify the President of the District that he may assist in temporarily filling the vacancy, and in giving his good counsel in the calling of a new pastor or teacher.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

SECTION A

The first New Testament congregation at Jerusalem chose men “full of the Spirit and wisdom” (Acts 6:1-6) to aid the apostles in the administration of its affairs. This congregation shall elect or appoint officers and committee members with like qualifications to aid the pastor in administering the congregation’s spiritual affairs and to administer its temporal affairs. They shall conduct themselves in a manner befitting their office (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

SECTION B

The listing of the officers and their duties is given in the by-laws.

SECTION C

The respect and esteem of the congregation are due those officers in the performance of their duties, and they shall be given its co-operation.

ARTICLE IX: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

SECTION A: OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

If anyone who holds an office in the congregation willfully neglects his duty and upon due admonition does not amend, the congregation has the right and eventually the duty to remove him from office and to elect another in his place (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

SECTION B: PASTORS, TEACHERS AND STAFF MINISTERS

Sufficient and urgent causes for removing a pastor or a teacher or a staff minister are persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of duty, or established inability to perform the duties of his office (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9). In such case, the counsel of an official of the District will be sought.

ARTICLE X: MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

Meetings of this congregation shall be held at such times and in such manner as stated in the Bylaws. The meetings shall give the voters of this congregation the opportunity to hear, discuss, and take necessary action in matters pertaining to the welfare of this congregation and of the church at large.

ARTICLE XI: SEPARATION OR DISSOLUTION

SECTION A: SEPARATION

If at any time a separation should occur in this congregation – may God graciously prevent it – the property and all equipment of this congregation shall remain with that portion of the membership, which adheres to this constitution, regardless of number.

SECTION B: DISSOLUTION

In the event of termination or dissolution of the congregation, the church council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the congregation, dispose of its remaining assets, if any, exclusively for the purposes of the congregation, by distributing, at the directions of the voters' assembly, the remaining assets to one or more organizations with which the congregation is in fellowship, which shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations (under section 501 (C) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1994 or the corresponding provision of any future United State Internal Revenue Code).

ARTICLE XII: REPEALS AND ALTERATIONS

SECTION A

Articles II; III; IV; V; VI, Sections A & B; VII, Sections A, B, & C; IX; and XII, Section A; of this constitution shall be and remain unalterable and irrevocably, in as much as they express clear, scriptural teachings.

SECTION B

Proposals to alter or repeal any article of this Constitution, with the exceptions of the Articles listed in Section A of this article, or to add an article shall be submitted in writing to the church council, and shall be publicly announced on two Sundays immediately preceding a regular business meeting of the voter's assembly and either be posted in the church during that period or mailed to each communicant member.

SECTION C

Such a proposal shall be discussed in the meeting in which it is presented and voted on in the next regular meeting of the voters' assembly. A three-fourths vote of the voting members present shall be required to alter or repeal any article of this constitution or add an article thereto.

SECTION D

Any and all by-laws may be repealed or amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any quarterly meeting provided that public notice of this proposed action shall have been given the congregation on at least two Sundays prior to the time of the meeting and provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the church council, in writing, for its study and recommendation.

BYLAWS
FOR
RESURRECTION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MAUMEE, OHIO

10-21-12

Revised October 2017

ARTICLE I: MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

SECTION A

Congregational meetings shall be held quarterly in the months of January, April, July and October. The voters' meeting in October shall be designated as the annual meeting of the congregation. The Council of Ministry shall set the date, time, and place of the meetings. Announcement of the meetings shall be given in print and/or orally on at least two different Sundays prior to the time of the meeting.

SECTION B

Special meetings of the congregation, and/or special voters', meetings may be called by the Council of Ministry, or the pastor, or upon written request of three voting members. Such meetings must be announced according to the general rule in Article I.1 with the purposes(s) clearly stated, or as stated in Article VII when applicable.

SECTION C

The order of business for the regular meetings may be as follows:

- A. Opening with devotion/prayer
- B. Approval of minutes, including attendance record, of the previous regular and special meetings
- C. Reception of new members; transfer, release or removal from membership (only at voters' meetings)
- D. Unfinished business
- E. Call for new business
- F. Financial reports
- G. Ministry reports (pastor, evangelism, etc.)
- H. Recommendations of the Council of Ministry and New Business
- I. Elections (only at voters' meetings)
- J. Adjournment with prayer

SECTION D

The meetings shall be conducted according to good, Christian order. Robert's Rules of Order may be followed for parliamentary procedure.

SECTION E

No one shall bring a charge or complaint against any member or against a pastor, teacher, or staff minister, at any meeting, unless he has first admonished him in a Christian manner in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-20.

SECTION F

Only voting members present at a voters' assembly shall have the right to vote.

SECTION G

All male communicant members of Resurrection Lutheran church, age 18 and above, who have signed and received a copy of our church Constitution and By-Laws will be considered voting members.

ARTICLE II: QUORUM

The voting members present at a properly announced meeting of the congregation shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE III: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTRY

SECTION A STRUCTURE AND POWERS

1. Whenever an expiration of term makes it necessary, the voters' assembly shall elect by ballot at its annual meeting (cf. Article I.1) the following congregational officers: president, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary and elder. A Council of Ministry shall be composed of at least the following congregational officers: president, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary and head elder. The elders and pastor shall elect the head elder at the November elder's meeting to serve for a term of one year. The voters' assembly shall also elect as many other members as it by resolution shall determine.
2. The Council of Ministry shall control the corporate property of the congregation according to the direction given to it by the voters' assembly. The Council of Ministry is hereby empowered to borrow money, pledge assets of the congregation, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the real and personal property of the congregation, all at the direction of the voters' assembly. It shall also have the right to acquire property by any legal means as directed by the voters' assembly. Any two of the following are hereby designated as the persons who shall sign all documents on behalf of the congregation: president, secretary, or treasurer.

3. The term of one third of the members, if possible, shall expire each year, with such expired terms to be filled by election at the annual meeting of the voters' assembly. Each member shall serve until his successor is installed.
4. The pastor shall be an ex-officio of the Council of Ministry

SECTION B TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for each Council of Ministry member shall be three years.

SECTION C ORGANIZATION

Not later than ten days following the annual meeting of the voters' assembly, the Council of Ministry shall meet to designate any/all coordinators from its midst for various areas of ministry. Council of Ministry members may hold more than one office provided, however, that the office of financial secretary and treasurer shall not be held by the same person.

SECTION D INSTALLATION

As soon as possible after the election and organization, the new members of the Council of Ministry shall be installed in the office at a regular service and shall thus be presented to the congregation.

SECTION E MEETINGS

The Council of Ministry shall meet at regular intervals as determined by the Council of Ministry. The pastor or the president may call special meetings. The Council of Ministry shall not convene or transact business without knowledge of the pastor. The Council of Ministry members present at a properly announced special (Article I 1.2) or regularly scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION F RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the Council of Ministry shall adorn their high office with a godly way of life and be good examples to the congregation. (1 Timothy 3:8-12). They shall be responsible for the spiritual and material affairs of the congregation under guidance of the pastor. They shall be accountable for good order in the services. They shall particularly care in love for their fellow members who have special needs (Galatians 6:9-10). The members of the Council of Ministry shall consult together concerning the total spiritual and physical well-being of the congregation giving due attention also to the work of the Lord in the church-at-large. The Council of Ministry shall implement resolutions of the voters' assembly and carry out such assignments as are directed to it by the voters' assembly. It shall recommend to the voters' assembly, at its annual meeting, the annual plan of ministry and budget of the congregation.

SECTION G COUNCIL OF MINISTRY VACANCIES

A vacancy on the Council of Ministry shall be filled by appointment of the president, with approval of the Council of Ministry, with such an appointment being effective until that term expires.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTRY MEMBERS

SECTION A

The president, with the direction of the Council of Ministry, shall appoint the nominating committee. The pastor is an ex-officio member of the nominating committee.

SECTION B

The nominating committee shall select from the voting membership candidates for vacancies.

SECTION C

The voters' assembly, at its annual meeting, shall hear the recommendations of the nominating committee. No additional nominations are open to the floor. The assembly shall then elect by ballot all Council of Ministry positions (cf. Article III.1.1). A majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election.

ARTICLE V: RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A

Persons who wish to be received into membership in this congregation (other than through the sacrament of Holy Baptism or Rite of Confirmation) shall bring their request to the attention of the pastor or the Council of Ministry. The Council of Ministry shall honor the request when accompanied by a letter of transfer, a recommendation from a sister congregation, or a profession of faith, provided that qualifications for membership, as specified in Article V of the Constitution, have been met. Such action of the Council of Ministry shall be reported to the congregation at the next voters' meeting.

SECTION B

Reception into membership signifies acceptance of and submission to the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: TRANSFER, RELEASE, OR REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A

A person/family desiring a transfer or release from membership shall bring such request to the attention of the pastor or the Council of Ministry. The Council of Ministry shall act upon such request in accordance with Article VI.2 of these Bylaws. Such action shall be reported to the congregation at the next voters' meeting.

SECTION B

Transfer of membership shall apply only to those who desire membership in a congregation that is in agreement with this congregation in doctrine and practice. Release from membership shall apply when affiliation is sought with those denominations not in agreement with this congregation in doctrine and practice.

SECTION C

Members with whom the congregation has been unable to communicate, despite diligent efforts to do so, may be removed from the membership list.

SECTION D

Members released, transferred, or removed have no further rights in this congregation and its property.

SECTION E

Any person excommunicated, or whose fellowship with the congregation has been terminated, shall be notified in writing by the congregation of the right of appeal. This notification shall occur within 30 days of the completion of the disciplinary action. The appeal must be filed with the district president in writing, with a copy to the congregation, within 60 days of the disciplinary action. The letter to the excommunicated person shall specify the dates involved, give the name and address of the district president, and include a copy of Article XXIV ("Appeal by Laypersons") of the district constitution.

ARTICLE VII: REPEAL AND AMENDMENTS OF THE BYLAWS

Any and all Bylaws may be repealed or amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any voters' meeting, provided that: 1) public notice of this proposed action and a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been distributed to every member family at least two weeks prior to the time of the meeting via their church mailbox, and 2) the proposed amendment

shall have been submitted in writing to the Council of Ministry for its study and recommendation at least three weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

President

Date

Secretary

Date

Treasurer

Date
