

**CONSTITUTION
OF
CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
CANTON, MICHIGAN**

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

PREAMBLE

It is the will of our Lord Jesus Christ that His disciples should preach the Gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:18). In order 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 2:42), witness to all men (Acts 1:8), help each other grow in the Word (Ephesians 4:11-14), serve the needs of all mankind in Christian love (Ephesians 4:7-16, Mark 10:42-44, John 13:35, Galatians 6:10), administer the Office of the Keys as His Church (John 20:21-23, Matthew 18:15-20), and maintain decency and order (I Corinthians 14:40) in the Church.

Therefore, we, as members of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Canton, Michigan, adopt and subscribe to the following Constitution in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our Congregation shall be conducted.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this Congregation shall be Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Canton, Michigan (hereinafter the "Congregation").

ARTICLE 2: CONFESSION OF FAITH

This Congregation accepts in all its parts the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired, revealed and inerrant Word of God, and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as the correct presentation and true exposition of Christian Doctrine drawn from the Holy Scriptures, namely:

1. The Three Ecumenical Creeds. (The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian);
2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession;
3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession;
4. The Smalcald Articles;
5. Luther's Large Catechism;
6. Luther's Small Catechism; and
7. The Formula of Concord.

No doctrine or practice in conflict, or inconsistent with, the above norms of our faith and life shall be taught or tolerated in this Congregation.

ARTICLE 3: SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

This Congregation shall be affiliated with The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as long as the confessions and constitution of said Synod are in accord with the confession and the Constitution of this Congregation as set forth in Article 2.

This Congregation shall, to the best of its ability, collaborate with said Synod and assist it in effecting all sound measures intended for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Baptized membership in this Congregation is held by all those who are baptized in the Name of the Triune God with water and are under our pastoral care.
- B. Communicant membership in this Congregation may be held only by those who:
 - 1. Are baptized in the Name of the Triune God;
 - 2. Have declared their acceptance of the confessions of this Congregation as contained in Article 2 of this Constitution;
 - 3. Have been accepted into communicant membership in accordance with the By-Laws of this Congregation and shall remain faithful to the responsibilities of membership as contained in such By-Laws;
 - 4. Do not live in manifest works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), but lead a Christian life; and
 - 5. Are not members of a secret society or of any other organization conflicting with the Word of God and the conduct of a Christian (II Corinthians 6:14-18)
- C. The membership, and membership privileges, of each communicant member shall remain in force so long as each member shall maintain his or her eligibility according to the five points in Section B of this Article and shall meet the requirements stated or implied in the disciplinary or other provisions, of the By - Laws. A member who voluntarily severs his or her connection with this Congregation, or who has been released or transferred, or who has been excommunicated or excludes himself or herself according to the provisions of the By-Laws, shall be deemed to have terminated his or her membership in this Congregation along with all rights and privileges of such membership.

ARTICLE 5: ORGANIZATION

- A. The Congregation. The Congregation is organized as a religious corporation. The Congregation shall have power to manage and administer its internal and external affairs.

The Congregation hereby delegates its power to the Lay Leadership Board (the “LLB”), except in the following designated areas:

1. The calling and removal of a pastor or of a Called Worker;
2. The purchase, lease, mortgage, sale or other disposition of real estate, except the acquisition or disposal of real estate with a value of \$100,000 or less;
3. The incurrance of indebtedness secured by real estate or personal property or indebtedness with a term of more than one year;
4. The election or removal of the members of the LLB and the Officers of the Congregation;
5. The Annual Review and approval of the Desired Outcomes as recommended by the LLB;
6. The excommunication of a member of the Congregation;
7. The merger or dissolution of the Church; and
8. The amendment of this Constitution and the By-Laws.

Any right or power delegated to the LLB shall be subject to review, revision or revocation by the Congregation.

- B. The Lay Leadership Board. The LLB shall exercise all powers delegated to it by the Congregation. The LLB may delegate its powers to such officers, boards and committees, including standing boards and committees, in such manner as it shall deem fit and proper. Such officers, boards and committees, however, shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them, and such conferred power may be altered or revoked by the LLB.
- C. Officers. The officers of the Congregation shall consist of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Secretary. Such officers shall be elected in accordance with the By-Laws.
- D. Scriptural Authority. All activities of the Congregation shall be regulated and all controversies, doctrinal or otherwise, which may arise within the Congregation shall be resolved on the basis of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Any decision made to the contrary shall be null and void.

ARTICLE 6: PASTORS AND CALLED WORKERS

Only such candidates shall be called and elected to serve as Pastor(s) or as Called Worker(s) who profess acceptance of, and pledge faithful adherence to, the confessions of this Congregation as set forth in Article 2 of this Constitution.

In the absence of adequate cause for dismissal, as defined in the By-Laws of the Congregation, the tenure of office of a called or elected Pastor or Called Worker shall be the remainder of his active life, or until the Lord calls the individual into another field of service within or without the Ministry.

ARTICLE 7: PROPERTY RIGHTS

- A. In Case of Separation. If, at any time, a separation should take place within this Congregation, which God may graciously prevent, the advice of the officers of District and Synod shall be sought. If, despite all efforts to resolve differences in peace and love, a division into factions of the Congregation shall occur, the property of the Congregation and all benefits therewith connected shall remain with those members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Articles 2, 3, 4 and 6 of this Constitution.

- B. In Case of Disbandment, Disposition of Property. In the event the Congregation shall totally disband, the property and all rights connected herewith shall be transferred to The Michigan District of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod after any and all debts are paid and upon acceptance of the District.

ARTICLE 8: INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Congregation shall indemnify any individual who was or is a party, or threatened to be made a party, to any proceeding other than a proceeding by or in the right of the Congregation, because he or she was a director, officer, called worker or employee of the Congregation, against liability and/or expenses incurred in the proceeding if: (a) he or she conducted himself or herself in good faith; (b) he or she reasonably believed (i) in the case of conduct in his or her official capacity, that his or her conduct was in the best interests of the Congregation, and (ii) in all other cases, that his or her conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the Congregation; and (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, he or she had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

ARTICLE 9: REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT

The street address of the Congregation's registered office shall be 42690 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, Michigan 48187. The Congregation's registered agent at such office shall be the Business Manager.

The Business Manager's objectives is the proper maintenance and repair of church property, the representation of the congregation in all legal matters, and the general protection of the congregation against loss or damage of whatever nature.

ARTICLE 10: BY-LAWS

The Congregation shall adopt such By-Laws as may be required for the accomplishment of its Christian mission as stated in the Preamble. The By-Laws may be amended as provided therein.

ARTICLE 11: AMENDMENTS

- A. This Constitution may be amended, with the exception of the Articles listed in Section B of this Article, by the members of the Congregation at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, by two-thirds of the votes cast, provided that the intention to amend the Constitution, and the wording of the amendments proposed, shall be read to the Congregation assembled for worship for two (2) consecutive weeks prior to the date upon which the amendment is presented for action.

- B. Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 11.B are hereby made irrevocable and unalterable.

This Constitution was approved and ratified by the Voters Assembly of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Canton, Michigan, on October 17th, 2004.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2008.

Eric I. Ekong, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ruth Germeroth, Secretary