

**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA  
CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**



**Approved by this Congregation at Annual Meeting-6-5-22**

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## *Explanation of Document Structure:*

*The Constitution is organized into chapters by general subject matter and codified as (a) constitutional provisions, (b) bylaws, and (c) continuing resolutions.*

- A. Section numbers preceded by an asterisk (\*), i.e. \*C2.01, are required by the ELCA and not subject to change by the congregation.*
- B. Constitutional provisions are codified with two (2) sets of numbers, preceded by a “C” the chapter number, followed by a period and a two–digit number and a period. Example C1.01.*
- C. Bylaw provisions follow constitutional provisions to which they apply. Bylaws are codified with three (3) sets of numbers separated by periods: the chapter number, constitutional provision number, and a two (2) digit number. For Example C8.05.01.*
- D. Continuing resolutions are intended to provide descriptions of operational patterns and practices or of the ongoing responsibilities of committees or other units within the organizational structure of the congregation. They follow the relevant constitutional provision or bylaw to which they refer. Continuing resolutions also are codified with three sets of numbers except the third set is preceded by a capital letter: the chapter number, constitutional provision number and a two (2) digit number preceded by a capital letter. For Example C13.07A13. The last number indicates the year the continuing resolution was approved.*
- E. Numbers missing in the numbering sequence are reserved by the ELCA for possible use in the future.*

## **\*PREAMBLE**

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

## **Chapter 1.**

### **NAME AND INCORPORATION**

- C1.01.** The name of this congregation shall be St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Whittier, California
- C1.02.** For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Whittier, California is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."
- C1.11.** This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

## **Chapter 2.**

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

- \*C2.01.** This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- \*C2.02.** This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
  - 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 through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
  - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written 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.
- \*C2.03.** This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- \*C2.04.** This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.
- \*C2.05.** This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- \*C2.06.** This congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- \*C2.07.** This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scripture and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

## **Chapter 3.**

### **NATURE OF THE CHURCH**

- \*C3.01.** All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- \*C3.02.** This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.
- \*C3.03.** The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations

and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

- \*C3.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.
- \*C3.05. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or "this church") as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.

#### **Chapter 4.**

#### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- \*C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- \*C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
  - a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
  - b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
  - c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
  - d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
  - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
  - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.
- \*C4.03. 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 to 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. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
  - g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for this congregation's ministry and the ministry of the other expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy.
- \*C4.04. This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational group and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions in the section on the Congregation Committees.
- \*C4.05. This congregation shall adopt and periodically review a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

- \*C4.06. References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God’s mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

## **Chapter 5. POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

- \*C5.01. The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.
- \*C5.02. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.
- \*C5.03. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation’s governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by this congregation. This congregation is authorized to:
- a. call a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
  - b. terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
  - c. call a minister of Word and Service;
  - d. terminate the call of a minister of Word and Service in conformity with the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
  - e. adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter 16, amendments to the bylaws, as specified in Chapter 17, and continuing resolutions, as provided in Chapter 18;
  - f. approve the annual budget;
  - g. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
  - h. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
  - i. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
  - j. elect its officers and Congregation Council and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
  - k. terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Chapter 6.
- \*C5.04. This congregation shall elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### **St. Andrew Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund**

- C5.05. This congregation shall have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in this congregation’s continuing resolution(s).

#### C5.05.A22 Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Fund) is to support and further the mission of St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Whittier, California beyond the operational budget. Funds received by the Fund shall be kept separate from other funds of St. Andrew Lutheran Church and shall not be borrowed or used for regularly budgeted operating expenses.

#### C5.05.B22 Nature of the Fund

- a. The Fund will serve as a repository to receive financial gifts for lasting mission stewardship. The Fund shall be invested and annual distributions of up to 3% of the balance in the Fund on December 31 of the previous year are available for the following mission activities: youth and family, education scholarships, local and global mission, and hunger and justice advocacy
- b. Specific ministries/programs/projects to receive distributions from the Fund, which are identified by the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Endowment Committee), shall be forwarded to the Congregation Council.
- c. Unless otherwise designated, all Planned Gifts given to St. Andrew Lutheran Church, such as bequests in wills, assignment of life insurance, assignment of IRA’s & other retirement plans, charitable gift annuities, memorial gifts specified for the endowment fund, charitable remainder trusts, assignment of certificates of deposit, transfers of property such as cash, stocks, bonds, and

real estate, etc. will be added to the Fund.

C5.05.C22 Fund Custodian and Operating Procedures

- a. The Endowment-Committee shall be the custodian of the Fund.
- b. The Endowment Committee membership shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members, four of whom shall be voting members of St. Andrew who are not serving on the Congregation Council and the senior pastor. The Endowment Committee membership will be elected for a two (2) year term at the annual congregational meeting with one-half of the members terms expiring each year. The Church Treasurer shall serve as a non-voting, ex officio member of the Committee.
- c. In the event of a vacancy on the Endowment Committee, the Congregation Council shall appoint a congregation member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Congregation meeting where the congregation will fill the vacancy through the election process.
- d. The Endowment Committee shall meet at least once a quarter at a time fixed by the Endowment Committee. A quorum consisting of a majority of Endowment Committee members shall be present to transact business.
- e. An Endowment Committee Chair and Secretary shall be elected annually by the Endowment Committee members.
- f. The Chair shall preside at all Endowment Committee meetings. If the Chair is temporarily unable to serve at a scheduled meeting, the Chair shall designate another Endowment Committee member to preside.
- g. The Secretary shall maintain complete and accurate minutes of each meeting and shall supply a copy thereof to each Endowment Committee member. The Secretary shall maintain a permanent record of Endowment Committee activities.
- h. The Church Treasurer shall maintain complete, accurate and permanent financial records for the Fund. The financial records for the Fund shall be separately maintained from the general operating accounts of the congregation. Fund accounts shall be audited annually.
- i. The Endowment Committee shall report on a quarterly basis to the Congregation Council. A report of the Fund activity for the year shall be presented to the congregation at the **Annual Congregation Meeting**.
- j. The Endowment Committee may request other members of the congregation to serve as Advisory members and may obtain outside professional advice and counseling on investments or legal matters in the best interest of the Mission Endowment Fund. Any financial expense for obtaining advice and counsel shall be borne by the Fund.
- k. Endowment Committee members shall not be liable for losses resulting from the investment of Fund assets, except losses caused by bad faith, gross negligence or criminal conduct. Each Endowment Committee member's financial liability shall be limited to those losses caused by his or her individual bad faith, gross negligence, or criminal conduct. No Endowment Committee member shall engage in any self-dealing or similar transactions with Fund assets. Members shall at all times avoid creating a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest with regard to any asset, individual, corporation or other business entity associated with the Fund.

C5.05.D09 Mission Endowment Fund Management

- a. As a general rule property gifts will be sold immediately, but upon initial receipt of a donation, the decision whether to hold, sell, exchange, rent, lease, transfer, convert, reinvest or in some other prudent and wise manner manage and control the donation should be determined at the discretion of the Endowment Committee consistent with the stated purpose of the Fund.
- b. The donation will be promptly deposited in the Fund if at least \$100.00. If less than \$100.00, it will remain in the general fund until at least \$100.00 has been received.
- c. The Endowment Committee shall employ professional investment management as the Endowment Committee deems appropriate and in the best interest of the Fund.
- d. All investment action will require two (2) Endowment Committee member signatures. The Endowment Committee shall annually elect three (3) of its members as signatories.

C5.05.E14 Distribution or Transfer of Endowment Fund Principal

In the event St. Andrew Lutheran Church ceases to exist through dissolution, the Fund shall be transferred to the Pacifica Synod of the ELCA or its successor, with the express goal of continuing the mission objectives of the Fund.

## Chapter 6.

### CHURCH AFFILIATION

- \*C6.01. This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- \*C6.02. This congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.
- \*C6.03. This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in which:
  - a. This congregation agrees to be responsible for its life as a Christian community.
  - b. This congregation pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - c. This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod. These special circumstances are limited either to calling a candidate approved for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or to contracting for pastoral services with a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion.
  - d. This congregation agrees to consider ministers of Word and Service for call to other staff positions in this congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - e. This congregation agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the constitution of the synod.
- \*C6.04. Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is terminated as follows:
  - a. This congregation takes action to dissolve.
  - b. This congregation ceases to exist.
  - c. This congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures for discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or in accordance with provision 9.23. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - d. The Pacifica Synod takes charge and control of the property of this congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the synod pursuant to S13.24. of the synod constitution. This congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the next Synod Assembly.
  - e. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in \*C6.05.
- \*C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:
  - a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at two legally called and conducted special meetings of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at each meeting. The first such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod, during which time this congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council. Unless he or she is a voting member of this congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the first meeting.
  - b. Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon at the first meeting, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall send copies of the resolution and certification to voting members of this congregation.
  - c. If the resolution was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the first meeting, the bishop of the synod and this congregation shall continue in consultation, as specified in paragraph a. above, during a period of at least 90 days after receipt by the bishop of the attestation and certification as specified in paragraph b. above.
  - d. If this congregation, after such consultation, is still considering termination of its relationship with this church, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Notice of the second meeting shall be sent to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is a voting

member of this congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the second meeting.

- e. Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the second special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall send copies of the resolution and certification to the voting members of the congregation. If the resolution was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the second meeting, the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to Synod Council approval as required by paragraphs f. and g. below.
- f. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that this congregation has voted to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, this congregation shall be deemed an independent or non-Lutheran church, in which case \*C7.04. shall apply.
- g. This congregation shall abide by these covenants by and among the three expressions of this church:
  - 1) Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in \*C6.05. shall be required to receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
  - 2) Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in \*C6.05., to receive synod approval before terminating their membership in this church.
  - 3) Congregations established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in \*C6.05., to satisfy all financial obligations to this church and receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- h. If this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at this congregation's first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above, or fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at this congregation's second meeting as specified in paragraph d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow all requirements of \*C6.05. and may begin no sooner than six months after the meeting at which the two-thirds vote was not achieved.

**\*C6.06.** If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is taken.

**\*C6.07.** If this congregation considers developing an additional site to be used regularly for worship, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

## **Chapter 7. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP**

**\*C7.01.** If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**\*C7.02.** If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline, or pursuant to 9.23. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.

**\*C7.03.** If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in \*C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Pacifica Synod.

**\*C7.04.** If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body and have followed the process for termination of relationship in \*C6.05., title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the process established by the synod, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain



with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In neither case does title to this congregation's property transfer to the synod.

- \*C7.05.** Notwithstanding the provisions of \*C7.02. and \*C.7.03. above, where this congregation has received property from the synod pursuant to a deed or other instrument containing restrictions under provision 9.71.a. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, this congregation accepts such restrictions and:
- a. Shall not transfer, encumber, mortgage, or in any way burden or impair any right, title, or interest in the property without prior approval of the Synod Council.
  - b. Shall—upon written demand by the Synod Council, pursuant to †S13.23. of the constitution of the Pacifica Synod—reconvey and transfer all right, title, and interest in the property to the synod.

## **Chapter 8. MEMBERSHIP**

- \*C8.01.** Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this 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.
- \*C8.02.** Members shall be classified as follows:
- a. **Baptized** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
  - b. **Confirmed** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
  - c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.
  - d. **Associate** members are persons holding membership in other ELCA congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. These individuals have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights or other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
  - e. **Seasonal** members are voting members of other congregations of this church who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:
    - 1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or for membership on the Congregation Council or on a call committee of, this congregation;
    - 2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;
    - 3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with this church;
    - 4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly;
    - 5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and
    - 6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members.
- \*C8.03.** All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Congregation Council.

- \*C8.04.** It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:
- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
  - b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
  - c. support the work of this congregation, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.
- \*C8.05.** Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:
- a. death;
  - b. resignation;
  - c. transfer or release;
  - d. disciplinary action in accordance with bylaws; Chapter 20 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
  - e. removal from the roll due to inactivity in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
- Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.
- C8.05.01** Annually, the Congregation Council shall vote to remove inactive members from the congregation roster. A confirmed member who does not partake of Holy Communion, support the church with offerings in the current or preceding calendar year or indicates they do not wish to participate in the life and worship of the congregation shall be contacted by letter or visit and encouraged to participate as a member. At the annual review of members, if this member has not indicated a desire to remain active, the person will be removed from membership.

## **Chapter 9. ROSTERED MINISTER**

- \*C9.01.** Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by the Congregation Council to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.
- \*C9.02.** Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.
- \*C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
    - 1) preach the Word;
    - 2) administer the sacraments;
    - 3) conduct public worship;
    - 4) provide pastoral care;
    - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
    - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through available channels of effective communication;
    - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and
    - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
  - b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
    - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
    - 2) relate to all schools and organizations of this congregation;
    - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
    - 4) with the council, administer discipline;
    - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization and of the Pacifica Synod; and

- 6.) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

**\*C9.04.** The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.

**\*C9.05.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop for the following reasons:
  - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
  - 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
  - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in this congregation in view of local conditions;
  - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor;
  - 5) suspension of the pastor through discipline for more than three months;
  - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
  - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;
  - 8) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
  - 9) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
  - 1.) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
  - 2.) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of this congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and the restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of this congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to this congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by this congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, this congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions.

- \*C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor shall be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.
- \*C9.07. During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in this congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any rostered minister providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served.
- \*C9.08. This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting.
- \*C9.09. When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.
- \*C9.11. With the approval of the bishop of the synod, this congregation may depart from \*C9.05.a. and call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of this congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of \*C9.05.a.
- \*C9.12. The pastor of this congregation:
  - a. shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from this congregation;
  - b. shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the synod; and
  - c. shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- \*C9.13. The pastor(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- \*C9.14. The parochial records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of this congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another call or approval of a request for change in roster status.
- \*C9.15. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synod bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between this congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synod bishop and approved by this congregation.
- \*C9.21. Authority to call a deacon shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by the Congregation Council to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.
- \*C9.22. Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop may be called as a deacon of this congregation.
- \*C9.23. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
  - a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
  - b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
  - c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation and abroad;
  - d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
  - e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's

- mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
  - g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
  - h. Share knowledge of this church and its wider ministry of the gospel and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
  - i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.
- \*C9.24.** The specific duties of the deacon, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the deacon shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.
- \*C9.25.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a deacon, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for the following reasons:
    - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
    - 2) resignation of the deacon, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
    - 3) inability to conduct the ministry of Word and Service effectively in this congregation in view of local conditions;
    - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon;
    - 5) suspension of the deacon through discipline for more than three months;
    - 6) resignation or removal of the deacon from the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church;
    - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;
    - 8) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
    - 9) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.
  - b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office of minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
    - 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
    - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of this congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
  - c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the deacon's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and the restoration of the deacon to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
  - d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of this congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the deacon and then to this congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the deacon's call should come to an end and if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by this congregation and by the deacon, if appropriate. If the deacon and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
  - e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the deacon's call, this congregation may dismiss the deacon only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- \*C9.26.** This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former deacon before calling a successor. A deacon shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting.
- \*C9.27.** When a deacon is called to serve in company with another rostered minister or other rostered ministers, the privileges and responsibilities of each rostered minister shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the rostered ministers, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.
- \*C9.28.** With the approval of the bishop of the synod, this congregation may depart from \*C9.25.a. and call a deacon for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the deacon and representatives of this congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of \*C9.25.a.
- \*C9.29.** The deacon shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the deacon shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- \*C9.31.** The deacon(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

## **Chapter 10.**

### **CONGREGATION MEETING**

- C10.01.** This congregation shall have at least two congregation meetings per year **at** a time specified in the bylaws. Consistent with the laws of the State of California, the bylaws shall designate one meeting per year as the Annual Congregation Meeting of this congregation and the second as the budget meeting.
  - C10.01.01 There shall be two regular Congregation Meetings yearly.
    - a. An Annual Congregation meeting will be held in May or June. The agenda will include the reports from committees and commissions as well as elections for the following positions: President and Treasurer in even numbered years, Vice President and Secretary in odd numbered years, and Congregation Council members with one-half of terms expiring each year. Members of the Nominating and Endowment Committees will be elected as well as other committee members as needed. The slate of candidates and the annual report will be available at weekly worship services at least 14 days before this meeting.
    - b. A congregation meeting will be held in November or December for the purpose of receiving congregational approval of the budget for the next calendar year and electing voting members of the Synod assembly (as called for in \*C5.04) and other required delegates. The proposed budget will be made available at weekly worship services at least 14 days before this meeting.
- C10.02.** A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the (senior) pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation and shall be called by the president of this congregation upon the written request of five (5%) percent of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synod bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held, and no other business shall be transacted.
- C10.03.** Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given as described in the bylaws.
  - C10.03.01 Notice of all congregational meetings shall be announced at two (2) Sunday worship services preceding the meeting. Notice to all voting members shall be given by mail at least (2) weeks prior to the meeting.
  - C10.03.02 Mail notification of meetings may be by U.S. Postal Service delivered letter or newsletter to the latest known mail address, or email to those who have agreed to accept electronic notification.
- C10.04.** Ten (10) percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum. A membership roster will be available at every congregation meeting.
- C10.05.** Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- C10.06.** All actions approved by this congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and

voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.

- C10.07.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.
- C10.08** This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

## **Chapter 11. OFFICERS**

- C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a 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 this congregation.
  - c. The officers of this congregation serve the same office on the Congregation Council and are voting members of the Congregation Council.
- C11.01.01 Each officer shall serve for a term of two years in such a manner that one-half of the elected officers' terms shall expire each year. Officers will assume office at the close of the congregation meeting in May or June at which they are elected.
- C11.01.02 Should an officer's position become vacant for any reason, the Congregation Council shall elect by majority vote, a successor to complete the unexpired term at its next regular meeting, or at an earlier meeting called for that purpose.
- C11.01.03 The President shall preside at all Congregation, Executive, and Congregation Council meetings. In the event the President is unable to preside, the Vice President shall preside.
- C11.01.04 The Vice President shall convene and chair the nominating committee, and preside at meetings of the Congregation, Executive Committee or Congregation Council in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall have other duties as assigned by the President.
- C11.01.05 The Secretary shall keep correct and complete minutes of the proceedings of all Congregation, Executive, and Congregation Council meetings. A summary of all major actions approved by the Congregation Council will be posted within a week following the Congregation Council meeting in a place accessible to the congregation. Formal minutes of each Congregation Council meeting shall be available following approval by the Congregation Council. The Secretary is also responsible for keeping copies of all Congregation Council correspondence and maintaining the archives of this Congregation.
- C11.01.06 The Treasurer is the custodian of all moneys of this congregation, and monitors the cash position of the congregation and invests available funds as directed by the Congregation Council. The Treasurer is responsible for paying all bills, invoices, and charges and performs or oversees all of the bookkeeping functions. The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of monthly financial reports to the Congregation Council, provides this congregation with any requested financial information, files all required Federal and State tax forms and assists in the preparation of the annual budget. The Treasurer shall see that the offerings are properly received, counted, and deposited in the church's bank account on a timely basis, and that each receipt is properly credited to the contributor. The Treasurer will ensure that quarterly or annual records are sent to donors.
- C11.01.A.09 The Treasurer may pay recurring utility and insurance bills by electronic payment up to \$2,000.00 per bill.
- C11.01.B.22 The Financial Secretary shall be appointed by the Congregation Council annually upon recommendation from the Treasurer. This shall be a volunteer, non-officer position for a member of the congregation and will report to the Treasurer. Responsibilities of the Financial Secretary include:
- a. Overseeing the counting of offerings and donations.
  - b. Overseeing depositing of receipts.
  - c. Training individuals involved in counting the offerings.
  - d. Reporting to the Treasurer the total offerings each week, and any special-purpose breakdowns.
  - e. Overseeing recording of contributions to the individual contribution records.
  - f. Reporting on levels of giving to the Church Council.
  - g. Providing periodic and annual statements to the contributors for tax reporting.
  - h. Ensuring that cash transactions are handled per the existing policy of St. Andrew.

**C11.02.** The congregation shall elect its officers and they shall serve for the term as described in the bylaws.

**C11.03.** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.

## **Chapter 12.**

### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

**C12.01.** The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), Director of Youth and Family Ministries, the officers of this congregation and all elected council members as described in the bylaws. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected. 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 four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause or c) chooses to resign from the position. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

**C12.02.** The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) and Director of Youth and Family Ministries shall be elected to fill positions as named in the bylaws.

C12.02.01 Members of the Congregation Council shall be elected at the Annual Congregation Meeting held in May or June for a two-year term and assume office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. Each Congregation Council member (with the exception of officers) represents one of the commissions. Each commission shall have one person with voting rights on the Congregation Council.

C12.02.02 The responsibilities of the Commissions flow from the priorities established by the Congregation Council.

C12.02.03 The Hospitality Commission shall be responsible for making all feel welcome. They shall provide refreshments and coordinate fellowship events for the congregation and the community.

C12.02.04 The Youth Commission shall be responsible for providing education and ministry to children, youth and their families. With the guidance of the Director of Youth and Family Ministries, they are to develop, plan and implement educational opportunities and fellowship activities for youth and children.

C12.02.05 The Evangelism Commission shall be responsible for keeping the congregation focused on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. They will develop, plan, and implement evangelism strategies that help congregational members share the good news with their friends, families, neighbors, co-workers and fellow students in the neighborhood around and near St. Andrew, and to invite them into a relationship with Jesus Christ through the church.

C12.02.06 The Mission and Service Commission shall be responsible for providing the congregation with opportunities to help those in need. The Commission will develop, plan and implement activities that strive to address poverty, hunger, health, education, aging and homelessness in our community and globally as well as work with the national church in these efforts. It will facilitate the relationship between the congregation and global ministries it supports. Based on church-wide statements on advocacy, the commission will also inform the congregation of issues related to peace and justice on the local, national and worldwide levels.

C12.02.07 The Property Commission shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the church buildings and property. They will plan, develop, and implement strategies to ensure the safety of all who work, worship, meet, and play on the campus. The Commission serves as a liaison with community groups using the facilities.

C12.02.08 The Stewardship Commission shall be responsible for planning and implementing strategies that reveal how God's people can use their talents and monetary treasures to enhance the mission of the congregation.

C.12.02.09 The Worship and Music Commission shall be responsible for the worship life of the congregation. Along with the Pastor and the music ministers, the commission will develop strategies to enhance regular Sunday worship and special services. They will also plan and coordinate special musical events with internal and outside groups.

C12.02.10 The Congregational Care Commission shall be responsible for the spiritual care and service for the congregation when support is needed especially in challenging situations. It coordinates visitation of the elderly, ill and homebound as an extension of the pastoral office. The commission supports communication and prayer within the congregation.

C12.02.11 The Adult Commission shall be responsible for encouraging the spiritual development and fellowship



- of adults in the congregation through education and social activities. The commission will develop, plan, promote, support and implement classes, programs, groups and special events.
- C12.03.** Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor to complete the unexpired term.
- C12.04.** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:
- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
  - b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
  - c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
  - d. To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
  - e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
  - f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
  - g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
  - h. To emphasize support of the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

#### **Organizational Structure**

C12.04.A09 All paid staff members report to the Senior Pastor.

C12.04.B14 Review of paid staff shall be the responsibility of the Pastor(s) with input from the staff and commission chair working in partnership with the paid staff person.

- C12.05.** The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.
- a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of directors of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of California, except as otherwise provided herein.
  - b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of this congregation.
  - c. The Congregation Council may enter into ongoing contracts for items not included in the budget. The total of such contracts may not exceed ten (10) percent of the anticipated receipts for the fiscal year.
  - d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation and shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption. A contingency fund shall be established to be used for unexpected non-budgeted expenses. Obligations that cannot be covered by the contingency fund and that exceed 20% of the anticipated receipts must be approved by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in collaboration with the synod and churchwide organization.
  - e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of mission support monies to the synod treasurer.
  - f. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

C12.05.01 No member of the Congregation Council shall vote on a matter which directly affects the personal financial interest of the member or of any one of the member's family.

#### **Usage of St. Andrew Campus**

C12.05.A09 Usage of any part of the St. Andrew campus for non-church activities must be approved in advance by

the Property Commission. Such usage is limited to non-profit activities. All individuals, associations, and community groups shall submit an application for usage along with a certificate of insurance for at least \$1 million and list St. Andrew Lutheran Church as an additional insured on their liability insurance policy.

- C12.05.B20 Usage of alcohol on the St. Andrew campus (for other than communion) is limited to beer and wine and must be approved by the Congregation Council for each event. As the circumstances of each event will differ, our insurance agent must be contacted prior to any event where alcohol will be served to discuss specific requirements and/or additional coverage needed.

#### **Donation Acceptance Guidelines**

- C12.05.C09 St. Andrew Lutheran Church will not accept any gifts that are restricted to or designated for the use or benefit of specific individuals or families.
- C12.05.D09 Restricted gifts must fall within the parameters established by the Congregation Council. Restricted gifts that do not meet the goals of the Congregation Council will be returned to the donor if the donor does not wish to remove such restriction.
- C12.05.E09 St. Andrew Lutheran Church will not accept gifts of depreciable assets such as vehicles or boats.
- C12.05.F09 Gifts of real estate assets that will not be used by the congregation must be appraised and listed as available for sale by a licensed real estate agent in the geographic region of the asset within three months of receipt.
- C12.05.G09 Congregation Council will be advised at the first Congregation Council meeting after the receipt of securities as unrestricted gifts. The Congregation Council will decide whether the securities are to be held as an investment or liquidated.

#### **Fundraising**

- C12.05.H09 Fundraising must fall within the guidelines established. "Games of chance have no place in the life of a congregation. Congregations, like governmental entities, may see such games as a quick easy means of raising funds. These games send adverse messages regarding the value of giving and financial stewardship. Games are based on the principle of receiving a high return for a low investment. Luck, instead of thankfulness, need, compassion, or commitment is the guiding principle." ELCA Financial Stewardship Strategy Report, August 1993 Fundraising guidelines are as follows:
- a. All fundraising projects should reflect our commitment to the dignity of the participants, good environmental stewardship principles, and be consistent with the mission statement of our church.
  - b. All fundraising activities and advertising must have prior approval by the Congregation Council.
  - c. All fundraising conducted on the property of St. Andrew Lutheran Church must be an activity of an organization, ministry, or commission of the church. Community groups may not conduct fundraising activities on the property.
- C12.06.** The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution, its bylaws, and the continuing resolutions are carried out.
- C12.07.** The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.
- C12.08.** The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the staff of this congregation and has authority to delegate such supervision. Nothing in this provision shall be deemed to affect this congregation's responsibility for the call, terms of call, or termination of call of any employees who are on a roster of this church.
- C12.09.** The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.
- C12.09.01 The Congregation Council's annual report on the past year shall contain:
- a. Major Congregation Council issues and actions
  - b. All commission and organization reports
  - c. Congregation Council members: names, positions, and resignations/appointments
  - d. Financial statements
  - e. Membership statistics
- C12.11.** The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.
- C12.11.01 Meetings of the Congregation Council are open to members of the Congregation with the exception of meetings defined as executive sessions.
- C12.12.** A quorum for the transaction of business consists of the majority of current Congregation Council members, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when the pastor or interim pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only

business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council, following consultation with the synod bishop.

**C12.12.A14** Each Commission may elect a Vice Chairperson to assist the Chairperson.

**C12.12.B14** A Commission Chair may temporarily delegate duties to the Vice Chairperson or another commission member when the Chair is unable to attend a Congregation Council meeting as a voting member or conduct business as necessary. Such delegation of authority will be submitted to the council secretary in advance. If the chair is unable to submit such delegation of authority, the Council President may do so as needed.

## **Chapter 13.**

### **CONGREGATION COMMITTEES**

**C13.01.** The officers of this congregation and the pastor shall constitute the Executive Committee.

**C13.01.01** The Executive Committee shall function to help prepare items for the Congregation Council agenda and to confer on other items to facilitate the meeting of the Congregation Council. The Executive Committee has no authority other than directed by the Congregation Council.

**C13.02.** A Nominating Committee shall consist of the Vice President or another officer designated by the council and two voting members of this congregation as well as the Pastor. The two congregation members shall be elected at the Annual Congregation Meeting and shall serve for a term of one year. In the event a member cannot fulfill their duties, the Council may appoint replacement congregational members.

**C13.02.01** The Congregation Council will instruct the Nominating Committee as to open positions within the Congregation Council for the coming term.

**C13.02.02** The Vice President or other officer designated by the Council shall serve as chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

**C13.02.03** The duties of the Nominating Committee are:

- a. Nomination of at least one candidate for each open Congregation Council position. Each candidate must be a voting member of this congregation.
- b. Provide the potential candidate with a job description.
- c. Secure prior approval from the candidate to be placed on the election ballot.

#### **Financial Committees**

**C13.03.** An Audit Committee of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office shall be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for reelection.

**C13.03.01** The audit committee will review the Treasurer's reports at least annually and submit a written report of its findings to the Congregation Council at its meeting prior to the annual meeting.

**C13.03.A09** The Audit Committee will assist the Budget and Finance Committee and the Congregation Council in fulfilling oversight of the Congregation's accounting, financial reporting, and internal control systems. The audit function will be consistent with its responsibilities as specified in the audit guide as approved by the Budget and Finance Committee and Congregation Council. The Chair of the Audit Committee shall be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. No council person shall serve on the Audit Committee performing an audit of a period when that council person served on the Congregation Council.

**C13.03.B09.** A Budget and Finance Committee shall be composed of at least three members of the congregation one of which may be a Congregation Council member and appointed annually by the same. The Treasurer of this church is an ex officio member of the committee. The committee shall prepare and present a comprehensive budget to the Congregation Council for its consideration and presentation at the yearly congregation budget meeting.

#### **Other Committees**

**C13.04.** A Mutual Ministry Committee(s) consisting of four non-Congregation Council members shall be appointed jointly by the president and the rostered minister. Term of office shall be two years, with two members to be appointed each successive year. In the absence of a Mutual Ministry Committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the Executive Committee.

**C13.04.A22.** The purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee is to serve as a confidential bridge and sounding board between the pastor(s) and the congregation. The Mutual Ministry Committee will meet with the pastor(s) at least quarterly. Specific functions of the Mutual Ministry Committee shall include:

1. Allow the pastor(s) to discuss new ideas and directions for the congregation, providing thoughtful

- reflection and advice in keeping with the vision and values of the congregation.
2. Provide feedback on behalf of the congregation to the pastor(s) regarding congregational concerns, criticisms, and affirmations.
  3. Confidentially discuss situations about members that may assist the pastor(s) in providing appropriate care for the members.
  4. Work with the pastor(s) to resolve claims of inappropriate behavior or unhealthy relationships or practices that have been raised about the pastor(s). If these efforts are unsuccessful or when such behavior is egregious, the Mutual Ministry Committee may inform the congregation president so that appropriate steps may be taken as outlined within “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline: Rostered Ministers, Congregations, and Members of Congregations, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”
- C13.05.** When a vacancy occurs in a position for which this congregation calls a rostered minister, a Call Committee of at least six voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called rostered minister.
- C13.06.** Other committees of this congregation may be formed, as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.
- C13.06.A22 A Legal and Constitutional Review Committee shall be composed of four members of the Congregation Council appointed annually by the same, and shall include the secretary of the Congregation Council as an ex officio member of the committee. This committee shall provide ongoing review of legal and constitutional matters. It shall review all proposed amendments to the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- C13.07.** Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in the continuing resolutions.
- C13.07.B09 The Senior Pastor and Coordinators for special services such as weddings and funerals are responsible for developing and implementing policies concerning these events. Such policies and fee schedules will be reviewed for approval by the Congregation Council on an annual basis.
- C13.08.** The pastor(s) of this congregation shall be an ex officio member with voting rights of all committees and boards of this congregation. The president of this congregation shall be ex officio, a member with voting rights, on all committees and boards of this Congregation except the Call Committee and the Nominating Committee.

## **Chapter 14.**

### **ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THIS CONGREGATION**

- C14.01.** 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. In order to insure compliance with section \*C4.04 of this document, the council shall annually review their policies, and activities. These organizations will provide reports concerning their membership, work, and finances at its annual meeting.
- C14.02.** Special interest groups, other than those of the official organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregation Council and specified in a continuing resolution.

## **Chapter 15.**

### **DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION**

- \*C15.01.** Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of this congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of this congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary: a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor, b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, c) written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and d) written referral of the matter by the consultations panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by paragraphs a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the

Congregation Council.

- \*C15.02. The process for discipline of a member of this congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If the counseling, censure, and admonitions pursuant to C15.01 do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three lay persons and two ministers of Word and Sacrament). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to the consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate. The panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it.
- \*C15.03. If the consultation panel fails to resolve the matter, that panel shall refer the case in writing, including the written charges and the accused member's reply, to the Committee on Discipline of the synod for a hearing. A copy of the panel's written referral shall be delivered to the vice president of the synod, the Congregation Council, and the accused member(s) at the same time it is sent to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall then select six members from the Committee on Discipline to decide the case, and shall appoint a member of the Synod Council to preside as nonvoting chair. Those six members plus the nonvoting chair comprise the discipline hearing panel for deciding the case. The Congregation Council and the accused member(s) are the parties to the case.
- \*C15.04. The discipline hearing panel shall commence and conduct the disciplinary hearing in accordance with the provisions governing discipline of congregation members prescribed in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- \*C15.05. By the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the discipline hearing panel who are present and voting, one of the following disciplinary sanctions can be imposed:
  - a. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership for a designated period of time;
  - b. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership until the pastor and Congregation Council receive evidence, satisfactory to them, of repentance and amendment of life;
  - c. termination of membership in this congregation; or
  - d. termination of membership in this congregation and exclusion from the church property and from all congregation activities.
- \*C15.06. The written decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be sent to the vice president of the synod, the accused member(s), and the Congregation Council as required by the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be implemented by the Congregation Council and recorded in the minutes of the next council meeting.
- \*C15.07. No member of this congregation shall be subject to discipline a second time for offenses that a discipline hearing panel has heard previously and decided pursuant to this chapter.
- \*C15.10. **Adjudication**
- \*C15.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in S14.18d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. IF the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

## **Chapter 16.**

### **AMENDMENTS**

- \*C16.01. Unless provision \*C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least five (5) percent 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 a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

- \*C16.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under \*C16.01. shall:
  - a. be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting;
  - b. be ratified without change at the next regular meeting of this congregation meeting held pursuant to C10.01. by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting; and
  - c. have the effective date included in the resolution<sup>1</sup> and noted in the constitution.
- \*C16.03. Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in \*C16.01. and \*C16.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The synod shall notify this congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.
- \*C16.04. This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of this congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of this congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to this congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of this congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

## **Chapter 17.**

### **BYLAWS**

- \*C17.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.
- \*C17.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.
- \*C17.03. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided 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. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.
- \*C17.04. The adopted or amended bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

## **Chapter 18.**

### **CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**

- \*C18.01. This congregation in a legally called meeting or the Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.
- \*C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of a meeting of this congregation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.
- \*C18.03. Adopted or amended continuing resolutions shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

## **Chapter 19. INDEMNIFICATION**

- \*C19.01. Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this congregation is incorporated, 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 be made a party to any threatened, pending, or

completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.

<sup>1</sup> Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of \*C16.03. to allow time for the synod's review of the amendment.