

**CONSTITUTION OF
CONCORDIA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS
ROUTT COUNTY
COLORADO**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

God requires that a Christian congregation shall conform to His divine Word in doctrine and practice (Ps 119:105; Matt 28:18-20; Gal 1:6-8; II Tim 4:1-5) and that all things be done decently in order (1 Cor 14:40). Therefore, we the members of Concordia Lutheran Church, located in Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Colorado accept and subscribe to the following Constitution, in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation shall be governed.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Concordia Lutheran Congregation.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this congregation shall be to establish and maintain the ministry of public preaching and teaching the Word of God centered in the Gospel message of Christ as recorded in the Bible and set forth in the Lutheran Confessions. Furthermore, by means of the Word and Sacraments, we shall help each other to observe all things that God has commanded; we shall endeavor to equip one another for our ministry to others; we shall encourage and strengthen each other in the Christian faith and life; and we shall sustain each other's hope for the life to come.
- B. We believe that the Holy Spirit gives to the church, through the people of God gathered together in a particular place and time, a variety of gifts for accomplishment of Christ's mission. In order to stir and build one another up to carry out Christ's mission, certain boards (elders, trustees, etc.) will be set up in the congregation and members called to serve in the areas of their special gifts and abilities.

ARTICLE III: DOCTRINAL STANDARD

- A. This congregation acknowledges and accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed and inerrant Word of God, verbally inspired, and submits to them as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.
- B. This congregation acknowledges and accepts all the confessional writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as true and genuine expositions of the doctrines of the Bible. These confessional writings are:
 - 1. the three Ecumenical Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian
 - 2. the Unaltered Augsburg Confession
 - 3. the Apology of the Augsburg Confession
 - 4. the Smalcad Articles
 - 5. Luther's Large Catechism
 - 6. Luther's Small Catechism
 - 7. the Formula of Concord

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this congregation includes the following:

A. Baptized Membership

1. Definition-Baptized members are all members who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God and who are under the spiritual care of this congregation, including the children who have not yet confirmed their baptismal vow.
2. Reception-Baptized members are received through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, through transfer, or with consent of one or both parents or guardians in the case of children who have been baptized in another Christian congregation.
3. Duties-Baptized members shall conform their lives to their baptismal vow.
4. Termination-Baptized members who have not been received as communicant members shall have their membership terminated for the same reasons that communicant membership is terminated insofar as these reasons are applicable.

B. Communicant Membership

1. Definition-Communicant members are those baptized members who have been confirmed in the Lutheran faith, accept the doctrinal standards of Article III of this constitution, are familiar with the contents of Luther's Small Catechism, and who are not members of organizations whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God.
2. Reception-Communicant members are received through rite of Confirmation, by transfer from a sister congregation, upon profession of faith, or by reaffirmation of faith, provided they conform to the requirements for membership in this congregation. Their reception shall be approved by the Board of Elders and subsequently by the Voter's Assembly.
3. Duties-Communicant members shall conform their lives to the rule of God's Word and to that end make diligent use of the means of grace, exercise faithful stewardship of God's gifts, and impart and accept fraternal admonition as the need for such admonition becomes apparent.
4. Termination
 - a. Communicant members in good standing may be transferred by the pastor to a sister congregation immediately upon their request. Such transfer shall be reported to the Voter's Assembly for approval at its next meeting. Members who move out of the community and thereby become inactive shall be encouraged to transfer their membership to the sister congregation nearest them.
 - b. Communicant members who join congregations outside of our fellowship thereby terminate their membership. Their names shall be removed from the membership list by resolution of the Voter's Assembly.
 - c. Communicant members whose whereabouts are unknown and whose addresses cannot be established shall have their names removed by resolution of the Voter's Assembly.

- d. Communicant members who conduct themselves in an unchristian-like manner shall be admonished according to Matthew 18:15-20; if they remain impenitent after proper admonition, they shall be excommunicated. Each case shall be presented individually to the Voter's Assembly for action. A unanimous vote by the voters present shall be required for excommunication. If such member deliberately absents himself from the meetings at which his case is to be discussed, or in some other manner makes it impossible to deal with him, he thereby excommunicates himself.
- e. A member shall be released from the church membership immediately upon his or her verbal or written request to the Pastor or Elders. The elders shall report such action at the next meeting of the Voter's Assembly.

C. Voting Membership

- 1. Definition-Voting members are communicant members who have reached the age of 18 years.
- 2. Duties- Voting members shall attend the meetings of the Voter's Assembly regularly, participate in the work of the congregation, and willingly accept responsibility according to ability.
- 3. Termination-Termination of communicant membership automatically terminates voting membership.

ARTICLE V: SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

This congregation shall belong to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as long as in doctrine and practice this Synod adheres to the Sacred Scriptures and to the Lutheran Confessions named in Article III of this Constitution.

- A. Should this congregation desire to relocate or merge with another congregation, it shall seek the advice and approval of the District before any commitments to that end are entered into.
- B. In case of strife or division, if any part of this congregation rejects the faith set forth in Article III, that part of the congregation, whether a majority or a minority of its membership, which continues in agreement with the Confession of Faith set forth in Article III, shall be recognized as the lawful congregation and shall continue in possession of all the property of the congregation.
- C. If this congregation disbands, ceases or fails to maintain religious worship services, or so decreases in numbers or financial strength as to render it impracticable for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or to protect its assets from waste or deterioration, the Rocky Mountain District shall have the right to take charge and to control all property of the congregation and thereafter hold, manage, and convey the same at the discretion of the District.

ARTICLE VI: AUTHORITY OF THE CONGREGATION

A. General

- 1. The Voter's Assembly shall be the governing body of this congregation and shall be empowered to administer and manage all its affairs. The establishment and conduct of all organizations and societies within the congregation shall be subject to the approval and supervision of the Voter's Assembly.
- 2. The Officers and various councils, committees, and ministry teams of the congregation are defined in the By-Laws
- 3. Special Meetings of the Voter's Assembly may be called by written petition requesting a meeting and signed by ten voters. Such meetings must be announced in the regular monthly church bulletin if time permits. The voters

assembled shall have the right to dispose of any items of business presented at such meetings.

4. A minimum of 15 voting members shall constitute a quorum.

B. Calling of pastors and teachers

1. The right of calling pastors or teachers shall be vested in the Voter's Assembly and shall never be delegated to a smaller group or individual.
2. This congregation shall establish the pastoral office, which shall be conferred only on such a pastor or candidate who professes and adheres to the confessional standard as set forth in Article III of this Constitution, who is qualified for his work, who has been endorsed by the Synod, and who is a member of the Synod. The same shall apply to called teachers in the parochial school.

C. Decisions-All matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided only by the Word of God. All other matters shall be decided by a majority vote of the Voter's Assembly unless otherwise specified by the Constitution.

D. Removal from office

1. Any pastor, teacher or officer may be removed from office by the Voter's Assembly by a two-thirds majority ballot vote, in Christian and lawful order, for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, or willful neglect of duties. Consideration of any such action shall require public announcement two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.
2. The congregation may request the resignation of any pastor, teacher, or officer from his or her position in the congregation in the case of prolonged incapacity or general incompetence.

E. Removal from Membership-The Voter's Assembly shall have the authority to exclude any communicant member according to Matthew 18:15-20. The person so excluded (excommunicated) shall forfeit all rights of a member (see Article IV-B-4-d).

ARTICLE VII: CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

A. Unalterable Articles

Articles III, V, and VII of this Constitution shall not be subject to change or repeal.

B. Amendments to Other Articles

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted at a regular Voter's Assembly meeting, provided;
 - a. that they do not conflict with the provisions laid down in Article III, or with any other Article that pertains to a Scriptural doctrine and practice;
 - b. that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting of the voters and published prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be acted upon;
 - c. that an affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the voters present is secured.
2. Any amendment to the Constitution passed by the Voter's Assembly must be recorded and dated on the original document by the Secretary before the next Voter's Assembly.

Approved by the Voter's Assembly on May 19, 2013

Approved by The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors- January 5, 2015

Signed by Congregation President: _____

Mike Illenberger, January 15, 2015