

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Constitution and Bylaws

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Note: For ease of use, Bylaws may contain more detailed info for each article listed above.

PREAMBLE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Created in God's image, redeemed by His Son, empowered by His Holy Spirit, this congregation is called to:

- † Preach the Gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:18-20)
- † Unite in worship as commanded by Christ (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- † Practice fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42)
- † Witness to all people (Acts 1:8)
- † Help each other grow in the Word (Ephesians 4:11-14)
- † Serve the needs of all in Christian love (Ephesians 4:7-16, Mark 10:42-44, John 13:35, Galatians 6:10)
- † Administer the Sacraments (Mark 14:22-25)
- † Instruct the youth and provide for their spiritual welfare (Matthew 19:13-14)

Therefore we, a group of Lutheran Christians, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and Bylaws in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation shall be governed.

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND INCORPORATION

- A1.01 The name of this congregation shall be: Faith Lutheran Church.
- A1.02 For the purpose of this constitution and accompanying By-laws, the Faith Lutheran Church congregation is herein after designated as "This Congregation".
- A1.03 This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa as Spencer Faith Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE 2. CONFESSION OF FAITH

- A2.01 This congregation confesses faith in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- A2.02 In the Father, the creator and sustainer of the universe;
- A2.03 In the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior who died and rose again for the redemption of a fallen humanity; and
- A2.04 In the Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the Christian Church and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the faith.
- A2.05 This congregation further accepts that the Old and New Testaments are the divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God and the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life. As a brief and true statement of the doctrine of the Word of God, this congregation accepts the following: The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Luther's Small Catechism, Luther's Large Catechism, and the Book of Concord of 1580.

ARTICLE 3. CHURCH AFFILIATION

A3.01 This congregation shall be affiliated with the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).

ARTICLE 4. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A4.01 The Church is a group of 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.

ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP

A5.01 Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintained their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

ARTICLE 6. POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

A6.01 The power and authority of this congregation has its source in the Word of God and shall be exercised through congregational meetings. These meetings shall be called and conducted in conformity with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this congregation.

A6.02 Only such authority as is delegated to the Church Council of this congregation or to other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by this congregation which is authorized to:

- a. Call a pastor(s) as provided in Article 9 or Bylaws for Article 9.
- b. Terminate the call of a pastor(s) refer to Bylaws for Article 9.
- c. Approve the annual budget.
- d. Acquire real and personal property by gifting, creating, purchasing, or other lawful means.
- e. Hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose.
- f. Sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means.
- g. Elect its officers, Church Council, the Call Team, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE 7. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

A7.01 All property that is acquired by this congregation shall be held, owned, and titled in the name of this congregation.

ARTICLE 8. THE CALL TEAM

A8.01 When a pastoral vacancy occurs, there shall be a Call Team elected from the voting members from this congregation.

A8.02 The Call Team shall consist of no less than 9 and no more than 15 voting members from this congregation.

- a. The Call Team shall include one Church Council member with the remainder being voting members, representing a cross-section of the current congregation such as a diversity of ages, male and female, married and single from this congregation.
- b. The President of the Church Council shall be a non-voting member (participant) who provides guidance as needed to the Call Team.
- c. Upon the need for additional pastor(s), the current pastor(s) shall be non-voting member(s) who provides guidance as needed to the Call Team.

ARTICLE 9. THE PASTOR

A9.01 Only individuals who accept and pledge faithful adherence to the confessions of this congregation as set forth in the Preamble and Article 2 of this Constitution and are clergy of, and/or recommended for consideration by the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, can be called to serve as pastors of this congregation.

A9.02 Authority to call a pastor for this congregation shall be by at least a two-thirds majority paper ballot of a quorum of the voting members present and voting at a congregational meeting called for that purpose.

A9.03 The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in the letter of call.

ARTICLE 10. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A10.01 The annual congregational meeting shall be held the fourth Sunday in January.

A10.01.01 The financial books of this congregation shall be closed on December 31st of each year.

A10.02 At the annual meeting, membership of this congregation shall receive reports from all the officers, boards, teams, and organizations of the church. Such reports, including a financial statement, shall be submitted in writing to the church office 10 days prior to the annual meeting.

A10.03 One-fourth (1/4) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum. 2/3 Majority paper ballot of the quorum for congregational vote to pass.

A10.04 Voting by proxy or absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE 11. THE NOMINATING TEAM

A11.01 The nominating team shall be formed to fill openings/vacancies as they occur on leadership council according to the by laws.

ARTICLE 12. CHURCH COUNCIL

A12.01 The Church Council consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Council Secretary, and the Pastors, along with team leaders. The Church Council shall conduct monthly meetings plus additional meetings as needed.

ARTICLE 13. THE CHURCH TEAMS

1. Finance*

- a. Handle all matters of finance for the congregation, working with congregational treasurer and financial secretary

2. Stewardship

- a. Promote Biblical vision of stewardship within the congregation

3. Evangelism

- a. Lift up the opening phrase of Faith's mission statement, "Inviting all to Faith . . ." so that the congregation's members learn this as our central purpose as followers of Jesus

4. Caring Ministry*

- a. Develop a comprehensive strategy for loving and caring for each of our members

5. Worship

- a. Comprehensive overview of all of Faith's worship life, working with Pastor to plan worship true to our Lutheran identity, Biblical, sacramental, and offering a variety of styles

6. Music and Creative Arts*

- a. Comprehensive overview of all music for Faith's worship life, striving to offer God our best; seeking for thematic, Biblical worship services which honor God and engage people

7. Children's Ministry

- a. Comprehensive overview of all children's ministries at Faith, such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Early Communion, and the Nursery.

8. Youth Ministry

- a. Comprehensive overview of all aspects of ministry to youth [6th grade through 12th grade]

9. Discipleship [Adult Education]

- a. Comprehensive overview of all aspects of learning and growing in our faith, the knowledge of God’s Word, and all aspects of merging faith and life

10. Fellowship

- a. Cultivate friendship and deepening of relationships each time the congregation gathers for worship or other events through sharing of food, coffee, and other refreshments

11. Property

- a. Development of our facility for all aspects of our congregational life

12. Missions

- a. Oversee and plan all congregational mission service trips nationally and internationally
- b. Annually select and recommend a list of “mission partners” for council’s approval [who and how much], and then the congregation’s approval intrinsic in our annual fiscal budget

Standing Task Teams functioning as appointed task team leaders; as appointed by the council.

1. Technology

- a. Oversee the operation and acquisition of all technology, sound, computer, office, camera, video equipment. Maintain same equipment.

2. Communication

- a. Orchestrate a comprehensive strategy for communication within the congregation, to the community, and beyond our walls.

3. Leadership Support

- a. Support, encourage, and sustain all paid staff, council, and other volunteer leaders of the congregation

ARTICLE 14. FINANCIAL REVIEW

A14.01 An official review of the financial books of the church shall be done by an accounting firm annually. This official review shall be completed prior to the annual meeting.

ARTICLE 15. BYLAWS

A15.01 This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by one third (1/3) of the voting membership or by the Church Council. The proposed bylaws must be filed in writing with the Church Council at least 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a

regular or special congregational meeting called for that purpose. The Church Council shall notify the congregation's voting members of the proposal with the council recommendations at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Bylaws proposed may be adopted or amended at a legally called meeting of this congregation for this purpose by a majority paper ballot of a quorum of the voting members present and voting. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be officially recorded by the secretary of this congregation.

ARTICLE 16. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

A16.01 Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by at least one-third (1/3) of the voting membership or by the Church Council. The proposed amendments must be filed in writing with the Church Council at least 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special congregational meeting called for that purpose. The Church Council shall notify the congregation's voting membership of the proposal with the council recommendations at least 30 days prior to the meeting. An amendment to this constitution shall be approved at a legally called congregational meeting according to this constitution by a two-thirds majority paper ballot of a quorum of the voting membership present and voting. The passed amendment shall then be read at the next annual meeting and voted on by the two-thirds majority paper ballot of a quorum of the voting membership present and voting at the annual congregational meeting. If the amendment is passed, the effective date shall be included in the amendment and noted in the constitution.

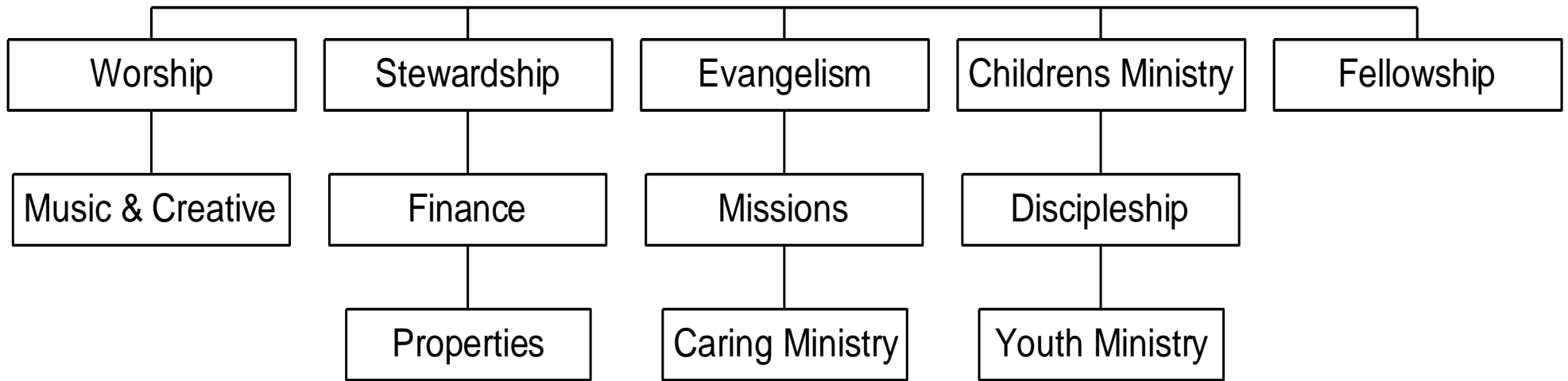
ARTICLE 17. LIMITS OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

A17.01 This congregation will purchase general liability insurance, professional liability insurance, and directors and officers insurance. These liability policies may provide coverage for all persons who may serve or have served at any time as senior pastor or associate pastor or in an executive level, staff position in the church, or as a church officer, or member of a board or team, or as a leader elected or appointed by the church or a volunteer while acting under the scope of the church or congregation.

Faith Lutheran Church – Spencer, Iowa
The Congregation, Elected Leaders, and Appointed Positions

Faith Lutheran Church Congregation

Planning Council Teams



**Congregation
President ^a**

Communication

Pastor(s) ^b

**Leadership
support**

Treasurer ^c

**Council
Secretary ^c**

Technology

Vice President ^d

a – advances from Vice President
 b – call process
 c – appointed by Church Council
 d – elected from Church Council