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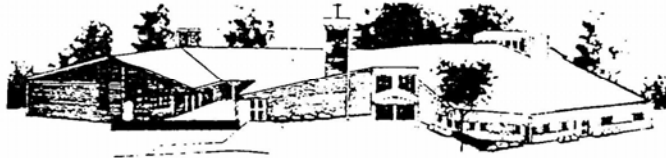
Charter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is a community of people called together by God's Holy Spirit who confess Christ as Lord.

We wish to be a church whose door is open to all people. And with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will strive to educate, comfort, aid and spread the word of love in Christ's name.

We believe worship is of most importance in our life together as we receive God's love through Word and Sacrament.

We will be involved with seeking justice in our community, state, nation and world. We hold high the dignity and worth of every human being as created in God's image and forgiven in Christ. We hope to be a serving church, in the name of Him who came as Servant of all.



**AMENDED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAPLE GROVE, MINNESOTA**

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

1.01 The name of this congregation shall be Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Maple Grove.

1.02 For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the Lord of Life Lutheran Church congregation is hereinafter designated "this congregation".

1.03 This congregation is incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

Chapter 2

CONFESSION OF FAITH

2.01 This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2.02 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..

2.03. 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.

2.04 This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.

2.05 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.

2.06 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.

2.07. This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures 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

3.01 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.

3.02 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.

Chapter 4

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

4.01 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.

4.02 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, and 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.

4.03 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 the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the church wide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with church wide policy.

4.04 This congregation shall develop an organizational structure as described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational groups and shall review their actions.

4.05 This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

Chapter 5

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

5.01 The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.

5.02 The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.

5.03 Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in the congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The 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. appoint or terminate the appointment of associates in ministry in conformity with the applicable policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- d. approve the annual budget;
- e. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- f. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- g. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- h. elect its officers, Congregation Council, boards, and committees, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution and bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
- i. terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Chapter 6.

Chapter 6

CHURCH AFFILIATION

6.01 This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

6.02 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.

6.03 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 clergy roster 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.
- d. This congregation agrees to consider associates in ministry for appointment to other staff positions in the 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 or with the constitution of the synod.

6.04 Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be 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.

d. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in 6.05.

6.05 This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:

a. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.

c. The bishop of the synod shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least 90 days.

d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.

e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop. The relationship between this congregation and ELCA shall not be terminated until it receives synodical approval for termination, and shall be terminated when synodical approval for termination is received.

f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.

h. If this congregation is considering relocation, it shall confer with the bishops of the synod in which it is territorially located before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before such action is effected.

6.06 If this congregation is considering relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod before any steps are taken leading to such action.

The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

Chapter 7

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

7.01. If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.02 If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.

7.03 If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a regularly 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. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

7.04 If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a regularly called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body, 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 the congregation by the established synodical process, 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 the 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.

Chapter 8

MEMBERSHIP

8.01 Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of the 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.

8.02 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 shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.
- d. Associate members are persons holding membership in other Lutheran (Christian) congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.

8.03 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 and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

8.04 Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action by the Congregation Council; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws by action of the Congregation Council.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the church has a continuing pastoral concern.

Chapter 9

THE PASTOR

9.01 Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a meeting regularly called for that purpose. Voting shall be by written ballot. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by this congregation to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.

9.02 Only a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or who has been recommended for it by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

9.03 Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every pastor shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship, provide pastoral care, and shall speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation, offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead; supervise all schools and organizations of the congregation; shall install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council, and with the council administer discipline. Every pastor shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; shall impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and shall endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA.

9.04 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.

9.05

a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:

1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term of years;

2) resignation of the pastor (Unless otherwise agreed, the resignation shall normally become effective two months after the date on which it is submitted.);

3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;

4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;

5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty; or

6) the dissolution of the congregation.

b. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office, it shall be the responsibility of the bishop of the synod, when such difficulties are personally known or 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 the congregation, to investigate such conditions personally in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.

c. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of the synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of the synod shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.

d. In the case of alleged local difficulties which imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the synod together with the committee described in 9.05b shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a regularly called meeting after consultation with the bishop.

e. The foregoing procedure shall never be invoked when questions of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty are involved, all such cases being treated as disciplinary matters.

f. If in the course of the proceedings, it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint church wide/synod fund and with housing provided by the congregation.

9.06 At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor may be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.

9.07 During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties 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 ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor.

9.08 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.

9.09 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.

9.10 With the approval of the bishop of the synod the congregation may depart from 9.05a. and call a pastor for a specific term of years. 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 the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of 9.05a.

9.11 The pastor shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, and shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the synod.

9.12 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.

9.13 The pastor(s) shall be a member of the congregation that has extended the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor(s) shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

Chapter 10

CONGREGATION MEETING

10.1 The annual meetings of this congregation shall be held at the times specified in Part II of the bylaws.

10.02 A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called at the written request of ten percent (10%) of the voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.

10.03 Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays or by mail to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such member shall be sufficient.

10.04 Five percent (5%) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

10.05 All actions by the congregation shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided in this constitution.

10.06 Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

Chapter 11

OFFICERS

11.01 At its first meeting in each programmatic year, the Congregation Council shall elect a president, vice-president, and secretary, who will serve both the Council and the congregation in their several capacities.

- a. Duties of the officers are specified in Part V of the bylaws.
- b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- c. The president, vice-president, and secretary shall be chosen from the membership of the Congregation Council.

11.02 The Congregation Council's officers shall also be the officers of the congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the meeting at which they are elected.

Chapter 12

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

12.01 The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and not more than nine (9) other members of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. 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 three (3) successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause or
- c) resigns from the Congregation Council.

12.02 The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for 3 years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual programmatic meeting at which they are elected.

12.03 Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.

12.04 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 pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, 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(s).
- h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and church wide units 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.

12.05 The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

- a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of trustees 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 Minnesota, 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 the congregation.
- c. The Congregation Council may incur additional obligations totaling not more than 10% of the previous financial year's "current" receipts without approval by a congregational meeting.
- d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur additional obligations totaling not more than 10% of the previous financial year's "current" receipts without approval by a congregational meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and church wide 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 benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.

f. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

12.06 The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws and the continuing resolutions are carried out.

12.07 The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the appointment and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this congregation.

12.08 The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at its meetings in January and May.

12.09 The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by a pastor or the president and shall be called 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.

12.10 A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastors or interim pastor, except when such person requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to an agenda of routine matters which shall be the only business of the meeting.

Chapter 13

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

13.01 There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the president, vice-president, and secretary of the Congregation Council and pastor(s). The purpose of this committee is to work on long-range planning, conduct an annual performance appraisal of the pastor(s), prepare the salary budget for all pastoral and lay employees, serve as a resource committee for specific congregational and Council concerns, and establish an agenda for Council meetings.

13.02 There shall be a Nominating Committee of six members, as set forth in Part IV of the Bylaws.

13.03 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 will be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for reelection.

13.04 A Staff Support Committee of voting members shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two years. Committee members shall hold no other office in the congregation during their term. In the absence of a Staff Support Committee, their duties shall be fulfilled by the Executive Committee.

13.05 When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate at installation of the newly-called pastor. It is suggested but not required that the Committee consist of six members.

13.06 Other congregational committees may be formed as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.

13.07 Duties of the congregation standing committees shall be specified in the bylaws.

Chapter 14

ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

14.01 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 over-sight and direction. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.

14.02 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.

Chapter 15

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

15.01. Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15—17, proceeding through these successive steps:

- a) private admonition by the pastor
- b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and
- c) citation to appear before the Congregation Council.

15.02 A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregation Council having received a written notice, specifying the exact charges that have been made against the member, at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

15.03 Should the allegations be sustained by a two—thirds majority vote of the Congregation Council and renewed admonition prove ineffectual, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. censure before the council or congregation;
- b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
- c. Exclusion from membership in this congregation. Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.

15.04 The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Congregation Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final.

15.05 Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of a) evidence that injustice has been done or b) evidence of repentance and amendment.

Chapter 16

BYLAWS

16.01 This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

16.02 Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.

16.03 Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, 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 and then the Congregation Council notify the members of the proposal with its recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.

16.04 Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent to the synod.

Chapter 17

AMENDMENTS

17.01 Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least ten percent (10%) 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 its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the members of the proposal with their recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

17.02 A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. be approved at a properly called meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting;
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.
- d. be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod immediately after the first meeting at which it is approved.

17.03 Any amendments to this constitution shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The amendment shall become effective within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the synod unless the synod informs this congregation that the amendment is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or the constitution of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Chapter 18

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

18.01 The Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions which describe the function of the various committees or organizations of this congregation.

18.02 Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

Bylaws to the Constitution of Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Last Amended 4/20/2005

Part I — Statement of Mission

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is a community of people called together by God's Holy Spirit who confess Christ as Lord. We wish to be a church whose door is open to all people. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will strive to educate, comfort, aid and spread the word of love in Christ's name. We believe worship is of most importance in our life together as we receive God's love through Word and Sacrament. We will be involved with seeking justice in our community, state, nation and world. We hold high the dignity and worth of every human being as created in God's image and forgiven in Christ. We hope to be a serving church, in the name of Him who came as Servant of all.

Part II — Congregational Meetings

1a. The annual fiscal congregational meeting including a review of the annual financial condition shall be held during the month of January on any date between and including the third and fourth Sunday.

1b. The annual programmatic and election congregational meeting shall be held during the month of May.

2. The date, time, and place of the congregational meetings shall be determined and promulgated by the Congregation Council.

3. The current roster of voting members shall be available at each meeting of the congregation.

4. The annual programmatic and election meeting of the congregation shall receive reports from all the organizations of the congregation. Such reports shall be submitted in writing to the congregation's president not less than ten days before such meeting.

Part III Congregational Council Organization

The Congregational Council shall be divided into three groups: the Executive Group, the Resource Group, and the Ministry Group. The Council shall annually elect members to the Executive Group and allocate the remaining Council Members to the Resource Group and the Ministry Group. These groups will provide ideas, feedback, and oversight to staff to help them achieve their goals.

The Executive group shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Council representative to the Strategic Planning Committee, and Senior Pastor. The group will be chaired by the President. This group shall provide and be responsible for the guidance and leadership necessary in the development of the Strategic Plan priorities for the year. They shall make sure that fiduciary alignment of the goals occurs and that the Strategic Plan is communicated to the congregation. They will oversee Human Resources and all Legal/Risk Management for the Church. They will be empowered to make decisions between regularly scheduled meetings of the Congregational Council.

The Resource Group will select its chair. Its members will determine what resources are available for the Strategic Plan's priorities. They will oversee, but not be limited to, such areas as: General Finance, Audit, Financial Development, Stewardship, Marketing, and Property Development.

The Ministry Group will select its chair. The group will allocate the use of resources for the prioritized areas in the Strategic Plan. Subgroups may be formed and would include, but not be limited to, such areas as: Youth Education, Adult Education, Greater Outreach, Worship, Music, Youth and Family Ministry, and Volunteers. This group shall support and encourage the staff and the volunteers who implement the Strategic Plan.

Part IV — Nominating Committee

1. A nominating committee composed of the pastor and five members shall be established annually. Two members shall be elected by the church council from its own membership and three members shall be elected from the congregation at the annual fiscal congregational meeting.

2. The pastor shall be the convenor.

3. The members of the nominating committee shall serve for the year following their election. They shall nominate one or more candidates for each office to be filled and shall secure the consent of each candidate to be placed in nomination and to serve if elected.

4. The nominating committee shall encourage voting members to consider self—nomination as well as to suggest other names for nomination. The candidates of the nominating committee shall be made known to the congregation in conjunction with the announcements of the meeting at which the election is to take place.

5. In addition to the candidates submitted by the nominating committee, additional nominations may be made from the floor.

6. A vacancy in the congregationally elected membership of the nominating committee shall be filled by an alternate who shall also be elected at the annual meeting. (The three persons receiving the highest number of votes shall serve on the nominating committee. The other nominees shall be designated alternates in order of votes received).

Part V — Officers

1. The President shall preside at the meetings of the congregation, the Executive Committee, and the Congregation Council.
- 2- The Vice President shall preside if the President is unable to serve. In addition, the Vice President shall serve as the liaison to the Human Resources Committee.
- 3- The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the congregation and of the Council in a volume provided by the congregation, which shall be permanently preserved in its archives.
- 4- The Treasurer and the Resource Group shall be responsible for keeping the books of account of the congregation, shall be responsible for receiving all funds and disbursing them on proper orders, and shall be responsible for making a monthly remittance of benevolence receipts to the treasurer of the synod.
- 5-The Treasurer and the Resource Group shall present a monthly written report of all financial transactions to the Congregational Council. It shall present a written financial report along with the results of an independent audit to the congregation at its annual meeting.
- 6- Corporate surety will be provided to all individuals authorized to handle money for the church. Liability coverage will be provided to directors, officers, and council members. The limits of this coverage will be determined by the Congregational Council. Premiums will be paid by the congregation.