

CONSTITUTION

of

Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church Inc. (LCMC)

Saint Joe, Indiana (DeKalb County)

Preamble

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We, baptized members of the Body of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, cognizant of our spiritual needs, and mindful of our Christian duties to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and be disciples in God's mission, do hereby adopt this Constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions.

Article 1 - NAME AND INCORPORATION

- 1.01. The name of this Congregation shall be Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inc.
- 1.02. For the purpose of this Constitution and the accompanying Bylaws, the Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inc. congregation is hereinafter designated as "this Church."
- 1.03. This Church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana.

Article 2 - CONFESSION OF FAITH

- 2.01. This Church confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – three distinct persons in one Godhead.
- 2.02. This Church confesses Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe in him.
 - a. Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is the Word of God incarnate through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection alone God delivers from sin, death, and the devil and inaugurates a new creation. (Rom. 4:25, John 1:29, Isa. 53:6)
 - b. The oral proclamation of God's message to us as both law and gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy in the person and work of Jesus Christ through whom God by his grace alone was pleased to reconcile the world and all things to himself. (Rom. 3:23-25)
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God. Inspired by the Holy Spirit speaking through their authors, they record God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them the Holy Spirit speaks to us creating and sustaining Christian faith and fellowship.

Therefore:

- 2.03. This Church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the sole authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life.
- 2.04. This Church accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of

the scriptural faith of this congregation.

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2.05. This Church accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and the Small Catechism as true witnesses to the Word of God, normative for our teaching and practice. This Church acknowledges as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and the Small Catechism.

2.06. This Church accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord as further valid expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

2.07. This Church confesses the Gospel that we are justified by grace alone, that is, by faith alone through Christ alone as the heart and center of the Holy Scriptures, the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings. This Gospel is the sole criterion against which all teaching, practice, structure, and community must be judged. It is the power of God for salvation, and creates and sustains a holy Christian people and priesthood of all believers for God's mission in the world.

2.08. "This Church believes and teaches that marriage is between one man and one woman."

- **Genesis 2:18, 21-22, 24** ¹⁸"Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ²¹⁻²²"So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man." ²⁴"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
- **Matthew 19:4-6** ⁴ He (Jesus) answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." ESV

2.09. "This Church believes and teaches that life begins at conception."

- **Jeremiah 1:5** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet over the nations." (ESV)
- **Galatians 1:15** "But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace. (ESV)

Article 3 - NATURE OF THE CHURCH

3.01. All power in this Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, at its head. All actions of this church are to be carried out under his rule and authority.

3.02. The holy Christian church is Christ's body on earth living under God's Word as law and gospel; it exists to serve and glorify Christ until he comes again. In this church sins are forgiven and believers, simultaneously justified and, raised up to lead new lives, using their various gifts to serve their neighbors and creation to the glory of God.

3.03. The holy Christian church is unequivocally revealed solely by the proclamation of the holy Word of God, that is, the preaching of the Gospel in its purity and the distribution of the Sacraments according to the Gospel. Thus, while Christ's Spirit may shape his

church in a variety of forms for differing times and places, it is not necessary that church structure, worship, and community be the same everywhere.

Article 4 - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- 4.01. The mission of Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church is to bear witness to the good news that sinners are put right with God by faith alone in Jesus Christ and resist any corruption of this gospel. Looking only to the cross of Christ, we proclaim God's Word as law and gospel for the redemption of his people today. May God help us to the glory of his name. We are to seek to know Christ and make Christ known.
- 4.02. Called and sent to be disciples in God's mission, this Church as part of the Body of Christ 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 through witness and service, to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with an 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 the peace of God to be known among nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, 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 Church shall with the help of God:
- a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments 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 this Church.
 - 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. Inspire its members to provide financial support for the Church's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the church.
- h. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships with other congregations.

Article 5 - POWERS OF THIS CHURCH

- 5.01. The powers of this Church are those necessary to fulfill its purpose as described in (Article 4) the Statement of Purpose of this Constitution.
- 5.02. The powers of this Church 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 Council or other organizational units in this Church's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the Church. The Church is authorized to:
 - a. call a pastor;
 - b. terminate the call of a pastor by two thirds majority vote;
 - c. appoint or terminate the appointment of associates in ministry;
 - 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 the Council and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions;
 - i. terminate its relationship with any other ecclesial entities;
 - j. take any other lawful action consistent with the purpose set out above, as determined by the Church or its approved agents.
 - k. Adopt amendments to the constitution and amendments to the bylaws.

Article 6 - ECCLESIAL AFFILIATIONS

- 6.01. Ecclesial affiliations may be entered into or dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of this Church as determined necessary for the order and welfare of the Church.
- 6.02. Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church is congregationally based and affiliated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. (LCMC)

Article 7 - PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- 7.01. The property of St Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church belongs to the members of the congregation. If this Church ceases to exist, title to its undisposed property shall pass to one or more non-profit entities organized and operated exclusively for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. The manner in which the property is to be distributed shall be determined at the meeting at which the dissolution of this Church is decided and included in the resolution for dissolution. Priority is to be given to those to whom indebtedness is due.
- 7.02. If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this Church present at a properly called and conducted meeting of this Church vote to transfer to another Lutheran church affiliation, title to the property shall continue to reside in the two-thirds majority.

Article 8 - MEMBERSHIP

8.01 Members of this Church shall be those baptized persons who include their names in the Covenant Signing at the time that this Constitution is adopted, and those who are admitted thereafter who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and its Bylaws. All new members will enter through an adult inquiry class on the history of this church, the Small Catechism, and other appropriate Lutheran teachings as led by the Pastor.

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 Church, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran churches or by affirmation of faith and have been accepted by action of the Council of this Church.
- b. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this Church, and those who have been accepted by action of the Council of this Church who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran churches, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
- c. Voting Members (Partners in Ministry) are confirmed members, 18 years of age or older who have attended at least twenty-five percent (25%) of any regularly offered worship services on a weekly basis during the previous 12 Months. Previous members can reactivate membership by approval of the council at a regularly scheduled meeting.
A Voting Member who due to prolonged illness or injury (greater than 3 weeks in succession, who is declared a Shut-In by the majority of the Church Council, who is incapable of attending worship services, but receives Pastoral care is exempted from the above attendance requirements, but is still required to be in attendance at the meeting of the vote.
- d. Associate Members (Friends of the Congregation) are persons who desire to participate in the life and mission of this Church. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Council of this Church.

8.03 It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this Church to:

- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and Sacrament
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Confessions; and
- c. support the work of this Church through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

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

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action by the Pastor and Congregational Council hereto referred to as the "Council";
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity, as defined by Article 8.02c.

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

Article 9 - THE PASTOR

- 9.01. This Church may call any person who has completed the education and training to be a pastor, subscribes to the Confession of Faith and the Statement of Purpose of this Church, subscribes to the unaltered Augsburg Confessions, and is certified for ordination or ordained to the public ministry, to serve as the pastor of this Church. The Council shall recommend a candidate to the Congregation as pastor.
- 9.02. In this Church, authority to call a pastor shall be by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of the members present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose.
- 9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Church, every ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship, provide pastoral care, declare the gospel of justification by faith alone to the world, and proclaim God's love for the world. The pastor of this Church will offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead; supervise all schools and organizations of this Church; install regularly elected members of the Council, and with the Council, administer discipline.
- 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. The call of this Church, 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 for the following reasons:
- a. mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term of years;
 - b. resignation of the pastor;
 - c. 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.
 - d. the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - e. disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, physical or mental abuse, or continued neglect of duty (see 9.06); or
 - f. the dissolution of this Church.
- 9.06. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of the pastor, ineffective conduct of the pastoral office, questions of morality, abuse, or ongoing neglect of duty the Council of this Church shall:
- a. determine if the allegations warrant an investigation. If the Council determines that the allegations do not warrant an investigation, no further action will be taken.
 - b. If the Council determines that an investigation is warranted, it shall appoint a committee of three lay members and one ordained pastor to investigate the allegations against the pastor.
 - c. The special committee will conduct an investigation and report its findings and recommended action(s) to the Council.
 - d. The Council shall determine the merits of the findings and vote on the implementation of the recommended action(s).
 - e. The recommended action(s) approved by the Council shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the Church at a special meeting called for that purpose.

The foregoing procedure shall not be invoked for questions of doctrine; questions of doctrine shall be treated as disciplinary matters in accord with the Bylaws of this Constitution.

- 9.07. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim or supply pastor may be appointed to perform the duties of pastor of this Church by the Council. The interim or supply pastor(s) shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor.
- 9.08. This Church 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 Church before beginning service in a call to another congregation. Failure to make satisfactory settlement will result in disciplinary action by the Council according to Article 15 of this Constitution.
- 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, and the Council. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.
- 9.10. The Church may depart from Article 9.05, and call a pastor for a specific term of years, e.g., an interim pastor for six months. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the pastor shall meet with representatives of the Church for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of Article 9.05.
- 9.11. The pastor shall be responsible for 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 at the Church Meeting.

Article 10 - CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- 10.01. The Annual Meeting of this Congregation and the Annual General Business Meeting shall be held at a time specified in the Bylaws.
- 10.02. A special Congregational Meeting may be called by the pastor or the Council or the written request of one-third 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 Church shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and/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, bulk or First Class, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.
- 10.04. 20% of the eligible voting members shall constitute a quorum (see Article 8.02.c.).
- 10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- 10.06. All actions by this Church shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

10.07 Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this Church

Article 11 - OFFICERS

11.01. The officers of this Church shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and financial secretary.

- a. The president, vice-president, and secretary shall serve on the Council as council members while performing the duties of these offices.
- b. The offices of treasurer and financial secretary can also serve on the Council as council members while also performing the duties of these offices.
- c. If the treasurer or financial secretary are not members of the Council, they will have a voice but not a vote at council meetings.
- d. All officers shall be voting members of this Church..
- e. The officers of the Council will be elected by council at the first regularly scheduled council meeting of the new year.
- f. The offices of treasurer and financial secretary shall be elected to serve a one year term at the annual General Business meeting, by the congregation of the church.

11.02. The pastor shall be an ex officio member of the Council. The pastor shall not preside over Council meetings. The pastor shall not hold any office of Council either by design or by default. The Pastor shall abstain on voting on any financial issues. The Council shall elect by written ballot the officers of the Church who shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin upon being elected.

11.03. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer, except the Treasurer and Financial Secretary, shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Article 12 - CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

12.01. The voting membership of the Council shall consist of up to but not more than nine members of the Church. Any voting member of the Church may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this Church or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Council without cause. The number of Council Members shall be set by the Voting Members at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation within the limitations expressed above.

12.02. The members of the Council shall be elected by written ballot to serve for three years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively or a maximum of eight years consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

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

12.04. The Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this Church, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the Confession of Faith as stated in Article 2. The duties of the Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this Church 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 Church in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this Church 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.
- h. To encourage cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources that are faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confession of Faith (see Article 2).

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

- a. The Council shall be the board of directors of this Church, 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 Indiana, except as otherwise provided herein.
- b. The Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so at a properly called meeting of the Church.
- c. The Council shall oversee the preparation of an annual budget for adoption by this Church, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations more than \$3,000.00 in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this Church's intended benevolence gifts for the year.
- d. The Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this Church are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies.
- e. The Council shall be responsible for this Church's financial holdings, investments and its total insurances program.

12.06. The Council shall see that the provisions of this Constitution and its Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions are carried out.

12.07. The Council shall provide for an annual review of the list of Voting Members and the membership roster.

12.08. The Council shall be responsible for the appointment and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this Church.

12.09. The Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this Church at the annual meeting.

12.10. The Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called at the request of at least one-half of its voting

members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

- 12.11.** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Council, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when such person requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to an agenda of routine matters.

Article 13 - CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

- 13.01. The officers of this Church, president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, and the pastor shall constitute the Executive Committee.
- 13.02. A Nominating Committee of three voting members of this Church, one of whom shall be a member of the Council, shall be appointed by the Council for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive re-appointment or to be listed on the ballot they are preparing.
- 13.03. An Audit Committee of three voting members shall be appointed by the Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Council and serve for a term of one year.
- 13.04. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee consisting of six voting members shall be appointed by the Council. Term of office will terminate at installation of the newly-called pastor.
- 13.05. Other congregational committees may be formed as the need arises, by the decision of the Council.
- 13.06. Duties of the Congregational Committees shall be specified by the Council.

Article 14 - ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH

- 14.01. All organizations within this Church shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this Church and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this Church's life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. The Church Council at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.
- 14.02. Special interest groups may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Council and specified in a continuing resolution.

Article 15 - DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS (or paid staff)

- 15.01. Denial of the Christian faith as described in this Constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Body of Christ, physical or mental abuse, or persistent trouble-making in this Church are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted according to Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through the 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 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 Council, 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;
 - c. exclusion from membership in this Church; or
 - d. termination of paid staff; or
 - e. withhold final settlement
- Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.
- 15.04. The member (excluding non-member paid staff) against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Executive Committee of the Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.
- 15.05. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Council upon receipt of a) evidence that injustice has been done or b) evidence of repentance and amendment.

Article 16 - BYLAWS

- 16.01. This Church may adopt Bylaws. No Bylaw may conflict with this Constitution.
- 16.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any properly called meeting of this Church 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 Council at least 30 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Council notify the members of the proposal with its recommendations at least 10 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.
- 16.04. Approved changes to the Bylaws shall be sent to every voting member.

Article 17 - AMENDMENTS

- 17.01. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by at least ten percent (10%) voting members or by the Council. Such proposals must be filed in writing with the Council at least 30 days before formal consideration by this Church at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Council shall notify the members of the proposal with their recommendations at least 10 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 two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting;
 - b. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the Constitution.
- 17.03. Amendments to this Constitution shall become effective immediately unless otherwise stated.

END

Revision History:
January 2013
April 2015