

# **CLC Constitution and Bylaws**

(current through 2014 convention)

## **CONSTITUTION of the Church of the Lutheran Confession**

### **ARTICLE I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be: Church of the Lutheran Confession.

### **ARTICLE II: Purpose**

This church body is organized and dedicated to serve the following scriptural purposes:

A. To aid its members so that all things may be done decently and in order. "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:40

B. To afford its membership additional opportunities for the proclamation of the Gospel and for the exercise of Christian stewardship in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ, in accordance with the commands and promises of His Word.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15-16. Cf. Matthew 28:18-20.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2.

"Therefore shall ye lay up these words in your heart and in your soul...And ye shall teach them to your children ..." Deuteronomy 11:18-19

C. To facilitate the exercise of true Christian fellowship and to help maintain the same through mutual strengthening and fraternal vigilance, in keeping with the will of God: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Corinthians 1:10.

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation herewith ye are called; with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3.

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." Hebrews 10:23-24.

D. To protect this fellowship against the encroachment of error and unionism through united testimony and doctrinal discipline, as it is

written: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:2-3a.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." 2 Thessalonians 3:6.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Romans 16:17. Cf. also Titus 3:10; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

### **ARTICLE III: Confession**

The doctrinal position of this body is defined by the following statements:

A. We accept without reservation the canonical Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments as the verbally inspired Word of God ("Verbally" -Corinthians 2:13; cf. also 2 Peter 1:21) and therefore as the sole and only infallible rule of doctrine and life.

B. We confess the Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds and the Particular Symbols of the Lutheran Church as published in the Book of Concord of 1580, because they are a true exposition of the Word of God.

C. We also subscribe to the Brief Statement of 1932.

D. Because of differences that arose within the Synodical Conference we have found it necessary to define our position in a particular statement entitled Concerning Church Fellowship as well as in Theses on the Relation of Synod and Local Congregation to the Holy Christian Church and Theses on the Ministry of the Keys and the Public Ministry.

## **ARTICLE IV: Membership**

A. Membership shall be granted to congregations and called pastors, professors and male teachers who in writing declare their agreement with the doctrinal position set forth in Article III of this constitution and with the order established by this constitution.

B. Congregations seeking membership shall submit their constitutions for review and approval.

C. All applications for membership are to be sent to the President and are to be acted upon in a regular convention.

## **ARTICLE V: Officers and Their Duties**

A. Officers

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Moderator

These officers shall be elected for a term of two years in a regular convention by a majority of the votes cast. The term of any newly elected officer shall begin immediately after the close of the regular convention at which he is elected. If a newly elected officer does not accept, the incumbent shall continue to hold office until

that convention elects or the designated officer appoints a successor. No officer shall hold another elective position.

## B. Duties

### 1. President

a. The President shall submit written reports on the state of the Church of the Lutheran Confession at the regular conventions.

b. The President shall represent the Church of the Lutheran Confession between conventions and shall see to it that all resolutions are carried out.

c. Unless otherwise provided, the President shall fill any vacancy that may occur in the office of the Vice-president, Secretary, Conference Visitor or in any board or committee, according to regulations provided in the bylaws.

d. Authorization for ordinations and installations is to be sought from the President. He is also to receive reports of anniversaries, dedications and similar events, in order to include them in his written reports to the regular conventions.

e. The President shall be available for counseling when called upon as outlined in Article IX. The President is assisted in this work by the Conference Visitor to whom these particular duties have been entrusted on a conference level.

f. The President shall be an ex officio member of all boards and committees. The President may call meetings of officers and chairmen of boards when necessary.

### 2. Vice-president

- a. The Vice-president shall assist the President in the administration of his office.
- b. The Vice-president shall substitute as chairman of the convention at the request of the Moderator.
- c. The Vice-president shall serve as acting President whenever the President is prevented from discharging his duties. In the case of a vacancy in the presidency, he shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
- d. In case of a vacancy in the office of Moderator, the Vice-president shall appoint a successor.

### 3. Secretary

- a. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the conventions and of the meetings of the Coordinating Council.
- b. The Secretary shall send communications from the Church of the Lutheran Confession or the President as directed.
- c. The Secretary shall announce the time, place and agenda of conventions.

### 4. Moderator

- a. The Moderator shall make the necessary preparations for each convention in consultation with the President and shall transmit the program to him.
- b. The Moderator shall appoint the floor committees which shall be ratified by the convention.
- c. The Moderator shall preside at and conduct conventions in an orderly manner. At the request of the Moderator the Vice-president shall preside.

## **ARTICLE VI: Boards, Committees and Commissions**

A. The Church of the Lutheran Confession shall elect or appoint whatever boards, committees and commissions it finds necessary to carry out its purpose in an orderly and efficient manner.

B. The various boards, committees and commissions shall carry out their work according to the directives of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. They shall keep themselves informed on the status of the treasury and conduct their work within the adopted budget.

C. The various boards, committees and commissions are to effect their own organization and may, subject to the ratification of the convention, make their own regulations.

D. Each board shall submit written reports to the regular convention, each committee shall report to the board to which it answers, and committees shall also report to the convention as requested.

## **ARTICLE VII: Conventions**

A. A regular convention of the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall be called by the President each even-numbered year.

B. Special conventions shall be called by the President upon the request of the officers of the Church of the Lutheran Confession or upon the request of the Coordinating Council or upon the written request of twenty-five percent of the member congregations.

C. Voting privileges at conventions shall be granted to two accredited lay delegates of each member congregation and to all

pastors, professors and male teachers who are members. No proxy voting shall be permitted.

D. The interpretation of the constitution and of the resolutions passed by the convention is the responsibility of the President.

E. The President and Secretary shall be responsible for the publication of the proceedings of the conventions.

### **ARTICLE VIII: Area Conferences and Visitors**

A. The Church of the Lutheran Confession shall, according to need, divide itself into geographical conferences, and it shall in its bylaws define the areas so created.

B. The Conference Visitor shall be a pastor elected by his respective delegate conference for a period of two years. The term of this office shall begin immediately after the election has been ratified by the subsequent regular convention.

C. The Conference Visitor shall:

1. Represent the President at his request;
2. Counsel and encourage pastors in the discharge of their official duties and the problems of their personal lives.
3. Counsel and encourage teachers of the Word in the discharge of their official duties and the problems of their personal lives, with the prior knowledge of the teacher's called pastor.
3. Exercise discipline, as outlined in Article IX, where instances of laxity or of doctrinal or moral aberrations on the part of pastors come to his attention.
4. Counsel with the President in matters affecting the common welfare of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

## **ARTICLE IX: Supervision and Discipline**

A. In keeping with the directives of God's Word and in accord with the love and concern they owe one another (1 Corinthians 12:25) all members of congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession are to exercise due brotherly regard for one another that all may be preserved in the Truth and in the sanctification of the Gospel according to the will of God (Matthew 18:15-18; Galatians 6:1-4; Acts 20:28-30; 2 Timothy 4:3-4).

B. Where the office of the public ministry in the congregation(s) has become vacant, the congregation(s) shall, according to decency and order, request counsel of the President, so that he may make recommendations for the proper care of the congregation(s) during the vacancy and propose suitable candidates for consideration by the congregation(s) in filling the vacancy.

C. The office of the President shall be charged with the supervision of the public teaching and preaching of the Word within the membership. When members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession are causing divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which we have learned (Romans 16:17-18), the President, in conjunction with the Vice-president, shall be held to declare a suspension of fellowship. If this should involve the pastor or teacher of a congregation, such a declaration should not be made without first giving full consideration to the rights of the local congregation and specifically the sanctity of the call.

D. The official activities of the President and Conference Visitor shall ordinarily be limited to the members of the preaching ministry, but may also extend to the members of the teaching ministry with the prior knowledge of the teacher's pastor. The President and Conference Visitor may also serve as consultants to a congregation or individual member but only when such a request is

made by the congregation or individual member with the prior knowledge of the pastor and the church council. A congregation or individual member shall first seek the counsel of the Conference Visitor before requesting it of the President. If a congregation or any member of a congregation should be offended by the doctrine or personal life of their pastor, the Conference Visitor or the President shall not be consulted until the congregation or member has admonished the pastor.

E. All members of congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession subjected to disciplinary action shall have the right of appeal as outlined in the by-laws.

## **ARTICLE X: Amendments**

A. Proposals to alter or repeal Article III or X, A of this constitution shall be offered to the President in writing and presented to the membership at least two months preceding any action thereon. A unanimity of votes cast shall be necessary before any alteration or repeal shall go into effect.

B. Proposals to add articles and to alter or repeal any article, except Articles III and X, A of this constitution, shall be offered in writing and presented to the membership at least two months preceding any action thereon. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be necessary before any addition, alteration or repeal shall go into effect. The convention may edit properly submitted additions or amendments provided the intent of the motion is not altered.

## **BYLAWS**

## **Bylaw 1: Board of Doctrine**

### **A. Composition**

The Board of Doctrine shall be composed of seven members, at least one of whom shall be a layman, who shall be appointed by the Presidium and the Conference Visitors at each regular convention. Each appointment shall be subject to ratification by the convention. The members of this board may be members of another board.

### **B. Duties**

1. The Board of Doctrine shall assist in formulating the doctrinal propositions of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.
2. It shall have doctrinal supervision of our publications not subject to the supervision of others.
3. It shall conduct colloquies at the request of the President.
4. It shall, at the request of the President or the convention, represent the Church of the Lutheran Confession in doctrinal discussions with other church groups.

## **Bylaw 2: Board of Missions**

### **A. Composition**

The Board of Missions shall be composed of two called male servants of the Word and two laymen. The term of office shall be four years, one called male servant of the Word and one layman to be elected at each regular convention. The members of this board shall not be members of any other elective board.

## B. Duties

1. The Board of Missions shall explore mission fields and may open missions. If necessary, it may terminate its efforts in any field.
2. It shall supervise the congregations and preaching stations receiving subsidy from the Church of the Lutheran Confession.
3. It shall authorize the acquisition of property in mission fields in conjunction with the Board of Trustees.
4. It shall study the needs and conditions in the mission fields and provide counsel and assistance as required.

## **Bylaw 3: Board of Education and Publications**

### A. Composition

The Board of Education and Publications shall consist of one pastor, one professor, one teacher, and one layman. The term of office shall be four years, the teacher and layman to be elected in even-numbered conventions, pastor and professor in odd-numbered conventions. The members of this board shall not be members of any other elective board.

### B. Duties

1. The Board of Education and Publications shall give assistance in educational matters as requested by congregations, pastoral or teachers' conferences, the Coordinating Council and the Church of the Lutheran Confession.
2. It shall oversee the CLC Book House, the Lutheran Spokesman, the Journal of Theology, and the Ministry by Mail.

3. It shall oversee official CLC websites as well as provide web assistance to CLC congregations.
4. It shall encourage the establishment and expansion of parochial schools.
5. It shall develop new publications and provide technical support for CLC members wishing to produce new materials.

### **Bylaw 4: Board of Regents**

#### A. Composition

Each Board of Regents shall consist of two called male servants of the Word and two laymen. The term of office shall be four years, one called male servant of the Word and one layman to be elected at each regular convention. The members of this board shall not be members of any other elective board. The President of the institution shall be an advisory member of the Board of Regents governing that institution.

#### B. Duties

1. The Board of Regents shall be responsible for the policy and curriculum of the institution under its care.
2. It shall provide for the general welfare of the faculty, the student body, and other staff members under its care.
3. It shall see to the proper maintenance of the physical plant under its care.

### **Bylaw 5: Board of Trustees**

#### A. Composition

The Board of Trustees shall consist of two called male servants of the Word and two laymen. The term of individual members

shall be four years, one called male servant of the Word and one layman to be elected at each regular convention. The members of the Board of Trustees shall not be members of any other elective board.

## B. Duties

1. This board shall administer and invest all the monies and funds of the Church of the Lutheran Confession as the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall direct. Monies of the Church of the Lutheran Confession Foundation shall be invested by the Board of Trustees, but administered by the Board of the Church of the Lutheran Confession Foundation.

2. The administration of the institutions, missions and other departments of the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall be vested in the respective boards and commissions, upon whose instructions the appropriations shall be disbursed by the Board of Trustees unless otherwise directed by the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

3. In the event the monies are not available, the Board of Trustees may borrow the money needed for the adopted budget and for extra-budgetary requests authorized by the President. If the Board of Trustees considers it not feasible to borrow sufficient money to meet all appropriations, the board shall request the President of the Church of the Lutheran Confession to call a meeting of the heads of all boards affected, plus the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. This group shall determine the equitable distribution of available funds.

4. The Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall sign all legal documents of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

5. The Board of Trustees shall keep the Church of the Lutheran Confession informed of the condition of the finances and shall submit a complete biennial report of all their activities to each regular convention.

6. The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Treasurer who need not be a member of said board. He shall not hold any elective office other than the Board of Trustees during his tenure of office. He shall receive and disburse, according to the instructions of the Board of Trustees, all funds for which the Board of Trustees has been made responsible.

## **Bylaw 6: The Right of Appeal**

A. Our scriptural practice accords to the congregation the responsibility for excommunication. An excommunication or termination of membership by a congregation is to be recognized and honored by the entire membership of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

1. Any member of a congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession who has been excommunicated or whose membership has been terminated, and who believes that the action was unscriptural, has the right of appeal to the Church of the Lutheran Confession. Congregations are to inform their members of this right.
2. An individual who wishes to appeal a congregation's action is to contact the conference visitor within six months of the congregation's action. The visitor will attempt a God-

pleasing reconciliation. If the appellant's pastor is the conference visitor, the president of the Church of the Lutheran Confession will appoint a representative to hear the appeal.

3. If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of those involved, a review by the church body may be requested. The request is to be submitted in writing to the conference visitor (or representative) with copies provided to the president and the moderator of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.
4. The moderator is to appoint a commission of review composed of two pastors and two laymen. If the moderator is the appellant's pastor the president of the Church of the Lutheran Confession will appoint a representative.
  - a. The commission of review shall choose a chairman and secretary. Complete and accurate records are to be kept by the secretary. The commission will consider the grievances of the appellant and any minutes of the disciplinary action to determine whether the case has merit.
  - b. If the case does have merit, the commission of review is to attempt a God-pleasing reconciliation. The final decision of the commission of review is to be given in writing to the parties involved, the conference visitor, and the president of the Church of the Lutheran

Confession within six months of the appointment of the commission of review.

B. The termination of a call by a congregation or a suspension by the Presidium of the Church of the Lutheran Confession is to be recognized and honored by the entire membership of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

1. Any called servant of the Word whose call has been terminated, or whose fellowship has been suspended by the Presidium, and who believes that the action was unscriptural has the right of appeal to the Church of the Lutheran Confession.
2. The appeal is to be submitted in writing within six months of the action of the congregation or Presidium to the conference visitor with copies provided to the president and the moderator of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.
3. The moderator is to appoint a commission of review composed of two pastors and two laymen.
  - a. The commission of review shall choose a chairman and secretary. Complete and accurate records are to be kept by the secretary. The commission will consider the grievances of the appellant and any minutes of the disciplinary action to determine whether the case has merit.

- b. If the case does have merit, the commission of review is to attempt a God-pleasing reconciliation. The final decision of the commission of review is to be given in writing to the parties involved, the conference visitor, and the president of the Church of the Lutheran Confession within six months of the appointment of the commission of review.
4. The president of the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall report the disposition of the case to the next regular convention.

### **Bylaw 7: Deficiency or Extra-Budgetary Appropriations**

Requests for deficiency or extra-budgetary appropriations shall be directed to the President. He shall have authority to allow these requests after consultation with the chairman of the Board of Trustees or with the Coordinating Council, if possible.

### **Bylaw 8: Call Committee for Educational Institutions**

A. The committee for calling professors at synodical educational institutions shall be composed of the Board of Regents of the institution with a vacancy together with one representative from each board, (Missions, Trustees, Doctrine, Education). This representative shall not be a professor. The chairman and secretary of the Board of Regents shall be the chairman and secretary respectively of the call committee.

B. A request for candidates shall be sent to all member congregations by the President of the Church of the Lutheran

Confession. All pastors, professors, male teachers and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall be entitled to nominate a candidate or candidates within twenty days from the date of the sending of the request for candidates. The list of candidates shall be submitted to all congregations three weeks prior to the date of the call meeting. The request for candidates and the list of candidates shall also be published in the *Lutheran Spokesman* and on the official website of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

C. The Call Committee for Educational Institutions shall call the President of Immanuel Lutheran College.

## **Bylaw 9: Definitions**

### **A. An Ex Officio Member**

The term ex officio member shall mean that the person so designated has all privileges of membership, including voting. His attendance and participation at meetings, however, shall not be required.

### **B. Presidium**

The Presidium of the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall be composed of the President and Vice-president.

### **C. Advisory Members of Committees**

The function of an advisory member of a board, committee or commission shall be that of bringing needed information. He shall not have the right to vote.

## **Bylaw 10: Statistician**

The Statistician shall be appointed by the Presidium at each regular convention. He shall make a statistical survey of the Church of the Lutheran Confession and report at each regular convention.

## **Bylaw 11: Archivist**

The Archivist shall be appointed by the President at each regular convention. He shall collect and preserve the documents which in his judgment are of doctrinal and historical significance, and shall keep a brief chronological record of events of historical interest.

To this end:

- A. A copy of each essay delivered at conferences shall be sent to the Archivist.
- B. The President, Board of Missions, Board of Trustees and Board of Doctrine shall transfer correspondence, records and other papers to the Archivist when, at their discretion, such material is available for this purpose.
- C. Other boards, committees and commissions shall send any material of possible doctrinal or historical value to the Archivist when it becomes available for this purpose.
- D. All congregations shall send to the Archivist any materials which are of possible historical value.

## **Bylaw 12: Coordinating Council**

The Coordinating Council shall consist of the officers of the Church of the Lutheran Confession, the President of Immanuel

Lutheran College, the Chairman of the Board of Doctrine, and one of the called male servants of the Word and one layman (one of whom is the chairman) from the Board of Missions, Board of Education and Publications, Board of Regents and Board of Trustees. The President of the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall call and preside at meetings of the Coordinating Council. He may call in as advisory members such persons as he deems necessary. The Coordinating Council is designated as the Board of Directors of the Church of the Lutheran Confession and remains advisory except in areas specified by the Convention or Constitution.

The Coordinating Council is obligated to follow the Convention's directions and resolutions in carrying out its duties which include...

- Coordinating the work of the various boards of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
- Hearing the resolutions of the Church of the Lutheran Confession's boards and by consensus coordinating any necessary adjustments based on available financial resources
- Proposing and annual budget
- Setting the budget during non-convention years

**Bylaw 13: Official Roster of the Church of the Lutheran Confession**

The following shall be listed in the roster of the Church of the Lutheran Confession:

A. Pastors --all pastors serving a congregation under a call and whose installations have been authorized by the President of the CLC or who are charter members of the CLC;

B. Professors --all professors serving the educational institutions of the CLC (e.g., ILC) under a call whose installations have been authorized by the President of the CLC or who are charter members of the CLC;

C. Parochial School Teachers --all parochial school teachers serving a congregation under a call and whose installations have been authorized by the President of the CLC or who are charter members of the CLC;

D. Servants Without a Call --all pastors (regular and limited ministry), professors, and parochial school teachers who have retired from serving under a regular call shall be listed as EMERITI in a supplement of the official CLC Roster. All servants who are without a call shall be listed in the supplement as SERVANTS AVAILABLE FOR A CALL if they are currently certified by the President as eligible for the CLC ministry and have declared themselves available for service (full time, part time, and temporary).

### **Bylaw 14: Call Committee on Graduates**

The Call Committee on Graduates shall be composed of the President of the Church of the Lutheran Confession, the Vice-president, the Secretary, and the Chairman of the Board of Missions. The President of the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall serve as the chairman of the committee. Requests for candidates shall be directed to him in writing together with information regarding the needs of the calling congregation(s), board or institution. The President of Immanuel Lutheran College and the deans of the seminary and college of Immanuel Lutheran College shall serve as advisory members of the committee. The extending of calls to graduates shall be made by the committee.

## **Bylaw 15: Adoption and Amendment of By-Laws**

Bylaws to this constitution may be proposed, adopted, amended and/or repealed by any regular or specially called convention. All motions shall be submitted in writing. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to add, alter or repeal by-laws of this constitution.

## **Bylaw 16: Editors of Periodicals**

The editor and staff of our periodicals shall be appointed for a term of two years by the President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Conference Visitors of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. The appointments shall be subject to ratification by the regular convention.

## **Bylaw 17: Eligibility for the Public Ministry**

A. Those coming from outside our fellowship When persons outside our fellowship ask for the privilege of serving in the public teaching or preaching ministry, it shall be the responsibility of the President, in consultation with the Board of Doctrine, to declare the eligibility of such a candidate.

In the case of a colloquy for one who seeks to enter the ministry of teaching in the elementary schools of the CLC, the examining committee shall also include the teacher member of the Board of Education and a representative from the ILC faculty.

B. Graduates of an educational institution of the CLC The president of the educational institution along with the deans of the

seminary and college departments shall make recommendations to the President of the CLC and the Call Committee on Graduates concerning the eligibility of graduates for the public ministry.

C. Persons within our fellowship who desire to enter the limited preaching ministry. When the applicant has completed the preparatory and seminary requirements, his eligibility as a candidate for the limited ministry will be determined by the CLC President in consultation with a committee composed of the ILC President, the Seminary Dean and the pastor who tutored him.

D. Persons within our fellowship who desire to enter the teaching ministry. When public school teachers desire to teach in the parochial schools of the CLC, the eligibility of the candidate shall be declared by the President of the CLC. He shall consult with the Conference Visitor, the local pastor and the Academic Dean of the College Department of ILC. This committee of three shall refer to the guidelines for granting CLC certification to elementary teachers (CLC 22nd Convention Proceedings, p. 94; as amended in the 23rd Convention Proceedings, p. 84-85) to determine an appropriate course of action for the candidate to fulfill before being considered eligible for a place on the roster of teachers of the CLC. This is not intended to restrict a local congregation from calling a teacher from its own midst.

### **Bylaw 18: Division into Conferences**

The Church of the Lutheran Confession shall be divided into conferences according to the following generally defined geographical areas: South-Eastern, Great Lakes, Minnesota, West Central, and Pacific Coast. Outlying congregations may choose the conference to which they wish to belong.

## **Bylaw 19: Auditing Committee**

An auditing committee of two or a certified public accountant shall be appointed by the President of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. The accounts of the Church of the Lutheran Confession shall be audited each year and written reports shall be submitted to each regular convention.

## **Bylaw 20: Memorials to Convention**

Memorials intended to come before the convention should be submitted to the President of the Church of the Lutheran Confession prior to the Coordinating Council's spring meeting before the regular convention.

A question pertaining to doctrine should, whenever possible, be submitted to regular pastoral conferences and/or delegate conferences for consideration prior to the memorial's submission to the convention assembly.

The President may consult with the Vice-president, the Coordinating Council, and/or others regarding the disposition of a memorial.

If the President refuses to submit a memorial, and if the petitioner wishes to appeal the decision, he will approach his Conference Visitor, who will appoint from the conference but not from the congregation of the appellant a commission of memorial review composed of two laymen and one pastor. A report from this commission of memorial review regarding the appeal will be made to the President, who is to submit the report to the convention. In the event the commission of memorial review finds in favor of the appellant, the memorial will come before the convention for action.

## **Bylaw 21: Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the Church of the Lutheran Confession, its assets and all property and interests, of which it shall then be possessed, including any devise or bequeath, gift or grant contained in any will or instrument, in trust or otherwise made before or after such a dissolution, shall be divided in equal portions among the congregations that are members of record of the Church of the Lutheran Confession at the time of the dissolution.

## **Bylaw 22: Committees**

Standing committees shall be appointed at conventions and shall be appointed as the convention directs.

If interim committees are needed, they shall be appointed by the President.

The terms of standing and interim committee members shall terminate at the next regular convention.

Special committees created during the convention shall be chosen as the convention directs and shall serve until their work is complete.

## **Bylaw 23: Standing Constitution Committee**

### **A. Composition**

The Constitution Committee shall consist of three members: one called male servant of the Word and two laymen. The term of each member shall be two years. Each member shall be appointed by

the Conference Visitors and the President and ratified at each regular convention.

## B. Duties

1. The committee shall propose changes or additions to the constitution or bylaws which it feels are warranted.

2. It shall draft changes to the constitution or bylaws at the direction of the CLC President or the Convention.

3. It shall ensure the official copy of the Constitution and bylaws is updated with any changes made by Convention.

## **Bylaw 24: CLC Foundation Board**

### A. Composition

The Foundation Board shall consist of three members either laymen or called workers. The term of each member shall be six years. The terms of service shall be staggered with one member being appointed at each regular convention by the Conference Visitors and the President. Each appointment shall be subject to ratification by the convention. Board members can not serve consecutive terms. The members of this board shall not be members of any elective board nor of the CLC Presidium.

### B. Duties

1. The Board shall make known the existence and purpose of the Foundation to the membership of the CLC.

2. It shall provide direction and assistance to prospective donors for giving donations and bequests according to the regulations established for the Foundation.

3. It shall, after consulting with the CLC President and/or other board chairmen, determine the distribution of the gifts and

accumulated earnings according to the regulations established for the Foundation.

4. It shall provide periodic reports to the CLC regarding the status of the Foundation.