

Model Constitution approved by Minnesota North District Board of Directors on 9-23-19
with changes proposed for Concordia Lutheran Church, July 21, 2024
to be considered at the August 4, 2024 voters assembly.

CONSTITUTION

Article 0.0 PREAMBLE

The Word of God requires that a Christian congregation shall conform to this Divine Word in doctrine and practice (Ps. 119:105; Matt. 28:18-20; Gal. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 4:1-5) and that all things be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40). Therefore we, the members of The Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of Fair Haven, Minnesota, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and Bylaws, in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation shall be governed.

Article 1.0 NAME

The name of this congregation shall be The ~~[Name]~~Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of Fair Haven, Minnesota~~[City,][County,][State]~~.

Article 2.0 MISSION

~~The purpose of this congregation shall be to give honor and glory to the Triune God, to carry out His will, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world, to nurture the faith of its members, to manifest the unity of our faith in Jesus Christ as God and Savior, to foster Christian fellowship and love, to extend a helping hand to human need, and to achieve its objectives by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the sacraments, and by the religious instruction of all its members according to the confessional standard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.~~ Since Christ is the Head of His Body, the Church (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:12 & 15; Col. 1:18 & 24), He is also the Head of this congregation, and His will must be done, according to His Word in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Therefore, the purpose of this congregation is: a) to reach out with the Gospel of redemption to all people everywhere; b) to keep its members with Christ by the preaching and teaching of the Word of God and by the administration of the Sacraments; and c) to provide a program of Christian education for youth and adults to train them for service to Jesus Christ in His Church.

Article 3.0 CONFESSIONAL STANDARD

This congregation accepts without reservation that:

- 3.1 The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the revealed, inspired, inerrant, infallible, and written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice.
- 3.2 All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church are a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord.
- 3.3 Any doctrine or practice in conflict or inconsistent with this confessional standard shall not be taught or tolerated in this congregation.
- 3.4 Only hymns, prayers, liturgies, and other worship forms shall be used in the public services and activities of this congregation and in all ministerial acts as conform to these confessional standards.

Article 4.0 SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

This congregation shall be a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as long as the Synod conforms to the congregation's confessional standards as set forth in this constitution.

- 4.1 A two-thirds vote of the voters present at a properly called voters assembly shall be required to withdraw from membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- 4.2 Any reference herein to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, its Minnesota North District or the President thereof shall be deemed to refer to any other synod or church body to which the congregation may belong from time to time.

Article 5.0 MEMBERSHIP

This congregation distinguishes among three types of congregational membership.

- 5.1 The membership of this congregation includes the following:
 - 5.1.1 Baptized members are all who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God and who are under the spiritual care of the pastor of this congregation, including the children who have not yet been ~~confirmed~~received into communicant membership.
 - 5.1.2 Communicant members are those baptized members who have been instructed and are familiar with the contents of *Luther's Small Catechism* and, have been confirmed in the Lutheran faith ~~or received by the rite of First Communion prior to Confirmation,~~ and accept the confessional standard of this constitution.

- 5.1.3 Voting members are communicant members who have reached the age of ~~[insert the age required to be a voting member]~~ eighteen years, have been accepted by the voters assembly, and have read and signed the constitution and bylaws of the congregation.
- 5.2 The members of this congregation are received in the following manner:
- 5.2.1 Baptized members are received through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism or through the consent of one or both parents in the case of children who have been baptized in another Christian congregation.
- 5.2.2 ~~Adult~~ **Communicant** members are received through the rite of confirmation or first communion and Sacrament of Holy Baptism as appropriate, through transfer from a sister congregation, or through profession of faith or reaffirmation of faith.
- 5.2.3 **Voting members are received as follows:**
- 5.2.3.1 ~~Eligible communicant members may be received as voting members upon application for such privilege and upon approval of the voters assembly. They shall also have read the constitution and signed a copy thereof. They shall have the right to vote at the voters assembly following the one at which they become a voting member.~~ **An applicant for voting membership shall give notice of their intention to the pastor or one of the elders and shall read a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the congregation, which shall be furnished them.**
- 5.2.3.2 **At a subsequent constitutional meeting of the voters assembly and in the presence of the applicant, the pastor shall present such application.**
- 5.2.3.3 **Upon majority vote of the voting members present, they shall sign the constitution and bylaws of the congregation, be installed, and be declared a voting member. They shall have the right to vote at the voters assembly following the one at which they become a voting member.**
- 5.3 Members of this congregation shall conform their entire lives to the authority of God's Word and to that end shall make diligent use of the means of grace, exercise faithful stewardship of God's many gifts and talents, impart and accept fraternal admonition as the need of such admonition becomes apparent, and be readily available for service in the kingdom of Christ within and beyond the congregation.— Membership in organizations whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God is prohibited.
- 5.4 Membership in this congregation shall be terminated as follows:
- 5.4.1 Membership shall be terminated by transfer to a sister congregation, by joining a congregation outside the fellowship of this congregation, by excommunication, by ~~absence from the divine services~~ **self-exclusion**, or by death. **A person whose membership has been terminated has forfeited all rights of a member of this congregation and all claims upon the property of the congregation as such, or upon any part thereof, so long as they are not reinstated into membership.**
- 5.4.2 ~~Communicant~~ **Any** members who conducts ~~themselves~~ **himself** in an un-Christian manner shall be admonished according to Matthew 18:15-20, the goal of which shall be to call ~~them~~ **him** to repentance.— If ~~they~~ **he** remain ~~impenitent~~ **refuses to amend his sinful life** after proper admonition, ~~they~~ **he** shall be excommunicated.— Each case of excommunication or ~~self-exclusion~~ shall be presented to the voters assembly for a decision. A ~~two-thirds majority~~ **unanimous** vote of the voters present at a properly called voters assembly shall be required. **The member in question may not vote on the resolution. Such a resolution shall be made at one voters assembly and tabled for a vote at the next voters assembly.**
- 5.4.3 **Any member who is absent from the divine service for 12 months forfeits his membership. Such a member shall be notified and urged to repent of neglecting God's Word and Sacrament. Homebound members and members whose absence is not due to neglect shall be exempt from this forfeiture as determined by the pastor in consultation with the elders.**
- 5.4.4 **Voting members who are absent from the meetings of the voters assembly for one calendar year without offering a valid excuse shall have their names removed from the roster of voting members; however, they may be reinstated by re-applying for voting membership. It is not necessary to sign the constitution a second time.**
- 5.5 ~~Requests for change~~ **Changes** in membership shall be processed by the pastor in conjunction with the board of elders and ~~reported~~ **approved by the church council or to the voters assembly.** —All changes in membership shall be reported in ~~church publications such as the Sunday bulletin, newsletter,~~ **the annual report.**

Article 6.0 CALLED CHURCH WORKERS

The voters assembly of this congregation shall have the exclusive right to call ordained or commissioned ministers.— This responsibility shall not be delegated to a smaller body and never to an individual.

- 6.1 The pastoral office shall be conferred only upon ordained ministers who **adhere to the confessional standard set forth in this constitution and who** are members of The Lutheran

- Church—Missouri Synod, candidates for the pastoral ministry who have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls by Synod, or ordained ministers who are members in good standing of church bodies that have been formally recognized to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod when agreements for such calls are in place.
- 6.2 Only those commissioned ministers shall receive a call who adhere to the confessional standard set forth in this constitution, who are qualified for the work of the ministry to which they are called, and who have been endorsed by and are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or are candidates of LCMS colleges and universities who have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls, or are commissioned ministers in good standing from church bodies that are in altar and pulpit fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- ~~6.3 The right of calling ordained or commissioned ministers shall be vested in the voters assembly and shall not be delegated otherwise.~~
- 6.43 Called ordained or commissioned ministers may be removed from office in Christian and lawful order by a two-thirds majority ballot vote of the voters present at a properly called voters assembly for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of the duties of office, **or** the inability to perform those duties, ~~or domineering in office.~~— This shall be done only in consultation with the President of the Minnesota North District **or his delegate**.
- 6.54 When a vacancy occurs in an office of an ordained or commissioned minister, the congregation shall notify the President of the Minnesota North District **or his delegate** to receive assistance in temporarily filling the vacancy and to receive his counsel in calling a new pastor, teacher, or other church worker.

Article 7.0 AUTHORITY OF AND WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

- The voters assembly shall be the governing body of this congregation and shall be empowered to administer and manage all its affairs.
- 7.1 The establishment and conduct of all organizations and societies within the congregation or related directly to the congregation shall be subject to the overall authority and general oversight of the voters assembly.
- 7.2 All matters before the voters assembly shall be decided by a majority vote unless otherwise specified by this constitution or bylaws.— Matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided only on the basis of the Word of God.
- 7.3 Officers, boards ~~members~~, and committees ~~members~~ shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them.— Whatever power may have been delegated to them shall at all times be subject to change or revision by the voters assembly.
- 7.4 This congregation may receive, acquire, hold title to, and manage real estate and other property in order to accomplish its purpose.— It may also sell or dispose of such real estate and other property or any part thereof, remodel existing facilities, or build new facilities in order to accomplish its purpose.— A two-thirds majority vote of the voters present at a properly called voters assembly is required for such action.
- 7.5 The ~~[insert the correct officer(s) or board]~~ **board of trustees** shall serve as the legal representative of the congregation.

Article 8.0 VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

- Meetings of the voters assembly shall be held as determined in the bylaws.
- 8.1 Announcements of regular meetings shall be made in the services of the two previous Sundays or printed in the Sunday bulletin for the two previous Sundays.
- 8.2 Announcements of special meetings shall be made in the services of the two previous Sundays or in the services of the previous Sunday when accompanied by notification by mail unless deemed an emergency meeting.— Such special meetings may be called at the request of the pastor, chairman, church council, or five (5) ~~for insert an appropriate number~~ voting members.— The business at a special voters assembly shall be limited to the reason for which it was called.
- 8.3 All voting members present at a properly called meeting shall constitute a quorum **unless otherwise stated in this constitution or the by-laws.**— ~~[If a definitive number of voting members is required to transact business and the required number does not attend, then a method for transacting business without that number must be defined.]~~
- 8.4 It shall be the obligation of every voting member to attend all meetings of the voters assembly.— By being absent a voter waives the right to vote in that meeting.— **He shall accept nomination for office, committee appointments, etc., if possible, even if absent, and generally participate in the business activities of the voters assembly.** Absentee ballots or voting by proxy shall not be allowed.
- 8.5 The attendance or absence of each voter shall be recorded by the secretary.

Article 9.0 OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

This congregation shall have the following officers, boards, and committees in addition to any which the congregation shall establish from time to time.

- 9.1 The officers of this congregation shall be:
 - 9.1.1 A chairman, who shall conduct the meetings of the voters assembly, church council, and congregation.
 - 9.1.2 A vice-chairman, who shall serve in the chairman's absence or inability to act.
 - 9.1.3 A secretary, who shall keep the minutes of the voters assembly and the church council.
 - 9.1.4 A treasurer, who shall be responsible for the financial records of the congregation.
 - 9.1.5 A financial secretary, who shall be responsible for the receipt of all contributions and who shall deposit the same in an account established in the name of the congregation.
- 9.2 The boards of this congregation shall be:
 - 9.2.1 A board of elders, consisting of **at least** three members ~~[or as otherwise defined]~~, which shall assist the pastor in the spiritual life of the congregation.
 - 9.2.2 A board of trustees, consisting of **at least** three members ~~[or as otherwise defined]~~, which shall be responsible for the physical properties of the congregation.
 - 9.2.3 **Other boards as defined in the addendum to the constitution and bylaws.** ~~A board for Christian education, consisting of three members [or as otherwise defined], which shall be responsible for the nurture and Christian growth of the members of the congregation.~~
 - 9.2.4 ~~A board for evangelism, consisting of three members [or as otherwise defined], which shall lead the members of the congregation into community outreach.~~
 - 9.2.5 ~~A board for stewardship, consisting of three members [or as otherwise defined], which shall be charged with teaching and promoting proper stewardship of time, talents, and treasures.~~
 - 9.2.6 ~~A board for youth, consisting of three members [or as otherwise defined], which shall be charged with coordinating the youth program of the congregation.~~
 - 9.2.7 ~~[insert other boards of the congregation]~~
- 9.3 The committees of this congregation shall be:
 - 9.3.1 An audit committee, consisting of **the chairman, treasurer, financial secretary, chairman of the board of elders, and chairman of the board of trustees** ~~three members [or as otherwise defined]~~, which shall audit the ~~books~~ **records** of the ~~treasurer and financial secretary~~ annually.
 - 9.3.2 A nominating committee, ~~consisting of three members [or as otherwise defined], which shall be responsible for nominations and elections to office~~ **appointed by the chairman.**
 - 9.3.3 **A finance committee, consisting of the financial secretary and one or more assistants to the financial secretary.**
 - 9.3.4 **Other committees as defined in the addendum to the constitution and bylaws.** ~~[insert other standing committees of the congregation]~~
- 9.4 Any officer, board member, or committee member who fails to carry out his or her duties of office or who fails to perform the responsibilities of confirmed membership may be removed from office by the voters assembly by a two-thirds majority ballot vote, in Christian and lawful order.— Reasons for such removal shall normally include persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of the duties of the office, or inability to perform the duties of the office.— Matthew 18 should be followed under such circumstances.
- 9.5 The pastor, by virtue of his office, shall be an advisory member of all boards and committees.
- 9.6 **Women may not serve in any role which exercises the specific functions of the pastoral office (e.g. preaching, the public administration of the sacraments, church discipline) or exercises authority over men (1 Cor. 14:34-36, 1 Tim. 2:11-12). Accordingly, they shall not serve as pastor, as a member of the board of elders, as chairman or vice chairman of the congregation, or in other roles as specified in the addendum to the constitution and bylaws.— [If “ex-officio” is used rather than advisory, then “voting privileges” or “non-voting privileges” of the pastor must be stated]**

Article 10.0 DIVISION

If at any time a division of the congregation should take place for any reason, the following principles will govern.

- 10.1 The President of the Minnesota North District shall be contacted for his counsel before any final decision is made regarding a division.
- 10.2 The property of the congregation and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with those communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to the confessional standards set forth in this constitution.
- 10.3 If a division takes place for reasons other than doctrinal reasons, the property of the congregation shall remain with the majority of the communicant members.

- 10.4 In the event that the congregation dissolves, all property shall be disposed of by the final voters assembly for the payment of debts and all just claims against the congregation. —Any and all surplus and all rights connected therewith shall be conveyed to and become the property of the Minnesota North District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Article 11.0 AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended in a properly convened meeting of the voters assembly.

- 11.1 Amendments to articles other than article 3 may be adopted at a regular or special voters assembly meeting provided that:
- 11.1.1 They do not conflict with the provisions of article 3 or with any other article that pertains to scriptural doctrine and practice.
 - 11.1.2 The proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting of the voters assembly and published in the Sunday bulletin at least one Sunday prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be acted upon.
 - 11.1.3 A two-thirds affirmative vote of the voters present at a properly called meeting shall be required for adoption.
- 11.2 Amendments to article 3 ~~(and any additional articles as necessary)~~ shall follow the above procedures.— Any changes to this article shall not destroy the essential meaning of the same.
- 11.3 The revised constitution shall, as a condition of continued membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, be submitted to the President of the Minnesota North District for review by the Constitution Committee for the Minnesota North District and favorable action by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota North District before being implemented by the congregation.

BYLAWS

Section 1.0 PROCEDURES FOR CALLING MINISTERS OF RELIGION

When this congregation calls a minister of religion, ordained or commissioned, the following procedure shall be followed:

- 1.1 When a pastor or commissioned minister is to be called, ~~every member of the congregation shall be provided opportunity to suggest one or more names for consideration~~ **a call committee shall be appointed by the church council to serve as a screening committee.**
- 1.2 **Every member of the congregation shall be provided opportunity to suggest one or more names for consideration.** ~~A The call committee shall be appointed by the church council for as otherwise defined] to serve as a screening committee and shall submit all suggested names to the District President for information and evaluation.— The District President may add additional names as necessary.~~
- 1.3 **The committee shall review and screen the list of candidates to affirm each candidate to be considered adheres to the congregation's confessional standard (constitution article 3.0).**
- 1.4 **The committee shall then present its approved list of candidates to be considered to the board of elders committee shall publish then present** to the congregation by public announcement its proposed list of candidates and their biographical sketches.
- 1.35 **The final list of candidates** ~~After the final list of candidates is received from the District President, the information shall be made available to the congregation for at least two Sundays [or another number of Sundays] prior to a voters assembly called for the purpose of calling a pastor or commissioned minister.— All congregation members shall be allowed to attend this meeting.— However, only eligible voters may cast a vote.~~
- 1.46 **Ballot voting, in such manner as determined by the chairman at the meeting,** ~~shall continue until a majority [or another appropriate percentage] vote determines the disposition of the call.~~
- 1.57 **If at all possible, a unanimous voice vote by registered voters shall be the last vote for the candidate who was elected.**

Section 2.0 CHURCH COUNCIL

The church council shall provide direction to the congregation on behalf of the voters assembly.

- 2.1 The church council shall consist of the congregation's chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, **the board of elders, the chairman of the board of trustees,** and the chairman ~~of each of its other boards defined in the addendum to the constitution and bylaws.— The pastor shall be an advisory member of the church council.— [If "ex officio" is used rather than advisory, then "voting privileges" or "non-voting privileges" of the pastor must be stated]~~— The chairman and secretary of the congregation shall also serve as the chairman and secretary of the church council.
- 2.2 The church council shall meet a minimum of four times a year ~~[or an appropriate number such as "during the months when the voters assembly does not meet"]~~.— Special meetings of the church council may be called by the chairman, the pastor, or any three members ~~[or insert an appropriate number]~~ of the church council by providing notice at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- 2.3 The church council members present at a properly called meeting shall constitute a quorum. ~~— [If a definitive number of church council members is required to transact business and the required number does not attend, then a method for transacting business without that number must be defined.]~~
- 2.4 The principal duty of the church council shall be to coordinate the program and activities of the various boards of the congregation.— It shall also have the power to act on behalf of the congregation between meetings of the voters assembly within limitations established by the voters assembly and the constitution and bylaws.— Actions of the church council shall be reported to the next meeting of the voters assembly.

Section 3.0 NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND TERMS OF OFFICE

The procedure for the nomination and election of officers and board members, appointment of committees, and appointment to vacant offices shall be as follows.

- 3.1 A nominating committee appointed by the ~~church council chairman [or congregation chairman]~~ shall present a slate of candidates for each elected office.— The slate shall normally provide two names for each office.— Additional nominations may be made from the floor.— No person shall be nominated without his or her consent. **The slate of candidates shall be published to the congregation at least one week prior to the voters assembly called for the purpose of the election.**
- 3.2 A majority of the votes cast at a properly called voters assembly shall be required for all elections.— Candidates receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated in each succeeding ballot.

- 3.3 Terms of office are as follows:
- 3.3.1 The term of office of chairman, vice chairman, and secretary shall each be one year.
- 3.3.2 The term of office of treasurer shall be two years, beginning service in even-numbered years.
- 3.3.3 The term of office of financial secretary shall be two years, beginning service in odd-numbered years.
- 3.3.4 The term of office for the board of elders shall be two years.
- 3.3.5 The term of office for the board of trustees shall be three years.
- 3.4 Officers and board members shall be permitted to hold the same office for multiple terms. ~~All officers shall be elected for a term of [insert length of term]. Each officer may serve for three [or an appropriate number] consecutive terms in the office to which he or she is elected. Any further election to that office can be done only after an absence of one [or another number] year from that office.~~
- 3.4 ~~Members of each board shall be elected for a term of [insert length of term]. Each board member may serve for three [or another number] consecutive terms in the office to which he or she is elected. Any further election to that office can be done only after an absence of one [or another number] year from that office.~~
- 3.5 ~~An individual may only hold one elective office at a time. Elected individuals may serve on appointed committees at the same time as serving in an elected office.~~
- 3.6 ~~The chairman of the congregation [or church council or voters assembly] shall appoint all committee members. Appointed committee members shall serve for a term of one year [or another number]. Appointed committee members may serve for an unlimited number of terms [or an appropriate number].~~
- 3.75 Officers, board members, and committee members shall assume office on January 1. ~~[or another date]. They shall be inducted into office in a public service of the congregation.~~
- 3.86 In case of a vacancy in an elective office, the **Council shall appoint a successor to serve until the next annual election.** ~~voters assembly shall elect [or the church council shall appoint or the congregation chairman shall appoint] a successor to fill the unexpired term from a list of candidates provided by the nominating committee [or by some other method]. Service for more than one half of a term shall constitute a full term.~~
- 3.97 **Officers and board members must be voting members of the congregation.** ~~The following restrictions shall prevail:~~
- 3.9.1 ~~All elective offices of the congregation shall be reserved to members of the voters assembly who have been voting members for at least one year [or another criteria] and are at least twenty-one (21) years of age [or another criteria].~~
- 3.9.2 ~~Members of the board of elders shall be reserved to male members of the congregation [other restrictions regarding this may be added such as age].~~
- 3.9.3 ~~Appointed offices may be filled by any communicant member of the congregation who is at least eighteen (18) years of age [other criteria for age can be used].~~

Section 4.0 OFFICIAL DUTIES

Officers and members of boards and committees shall perform the duties as provided in the constitution, **bylaws, and addendum.**

- 4.1 Each board shall elect its chairman annually.
- 4.2 The congregation shall have the right to detail and expand upon those responsibilities by job descriptions developed by the church council and approved by the voters assembly.

Section 5.0 MEETINGS OF THE VOTERS ASSEMBLY

5.1 The voters assembly shall meet **quarterly. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January. Annual elections will be held the first Sunday in December.** ~~in January, April, July, and October [or other months]. The October [or another month] voters assembly shall be designated as the annual meeting during which elections and approval of the budget shall take place. The voters assembly shall normally meet on the second Monday of the month [or another month and day or eliminate this sentence and allow the chairman to schedule the meeting dates]. However, the chairman shall have the authority to schedule the meetings for any day of the month.~~

5.2 Every meeting of the voters assembly shall be announced orally or in the bulletin at a Sunday service prior to it. Whenever a meeting has been thus announced, it shall be considered a properly convened and legal meeting capable of transacting business. However, for amending the Articles of Incorporation, the constitution, and bylaws, the erection of buildings, the purchase or sale of real property, or the calling or removal of a pastor, commissioned minister, or some other member from office, a quorum of one third of the voting members is necessary, and a two-thirds majority shall be required for the adoption of a resolution, unless otherwise provided by state law.

Section 6.0 RULES OF ORDER

In addition to principles laid down in Scripture and in the constitution and bylaws of this congregation, accepted parliamentary procedures such as *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be followed.

Section 7.0 PRIORITY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Should there be a conflict between the constitution and the bylaws or the addendum or between the bylaws and the addendum, the following procedures shall prevail:

- 7.1 If there is a conflict between the constitution and the bylaws, the pertinent portion of the constitution will take precedence.
- 7.2 If there is a conflict between the constitution and the addendum to the constitution, the pertinent portion of the constitution will take precedence.
- 7.3 If there is a conflict between the bylaws and the addendum, the pertinent portion of the bylaws will take precedence.

Section 8.0 AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended in a properly convened meeting of the voters assembly.

- 8.1 Amendments shall be adopted by a majority of all votes cast, provided the proposed change has been submitted in writing in a previous meeting or has been provided in writing to all voting members at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- 8.2 The revised bylaws shall, as a condition of continued membership in The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, be submitted to the President of the Minnesota North District for review by the Constitution Committee of the MNN District and favorable action by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota North District before being placed into practice by the congregation.