

# **Constitution and By Laws**

## **Constitution**

### **Preamble**

Since it is the will of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ that all things “be done decently and in order” (Cor. 14: 40), we, a Congregation of Christians (Lutheran) worshipping in the area of Inverness, Florida, here set forth the principles and regulations according to which we shall conduct the spiritual and temporal affairs of our congregation.

### **Article I - NAME**

The name of this congregation shall be THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF INVERNESS FLORIDA.

### **Article II**

The purpose of this congregation shall be to worship the Lord God and extend the Kingdom of God in all the world, to provide pastor all care for its members, to teach the Word of God and administer the Sacraments, to preserve purity of doctrine, to exercise Christian love and fellowship, to provide for Christian training of the young, to serve as a healing ministry and the community and word, to service a channel of God’s love and forgiveness as revealed in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Article III (see Article XIII)**

We have, in God’s name, organized an Evangelical Lutheran congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, for a true and sound exhibition of the Christian Doctrine (Lutheran) taken from and in full agreement with the Holy Scriptures. This congregation accepts acknowledges all the canonical books of the Old and New testaments an as the divinely revealed and verbally inspired word of God, and all the

symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as contained in the Book of Concord of 1580. In this congregation no doctrine shall be taught what tolerated which is at variance with the symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, namely:

1. The Three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostolic, Nicene, Athanasian).
2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession.
4. The Smalcald Articles.
5. To Treatise of the Power and Primacy of the Pope.
6. Luther's Small Catechism
7. Luther's Large Catechism.
8. The Formula of Concord

According to this standard of faith and doctrine, all controversies which may arise shall be decided and an adjudicated. All Hymn books and literature use by the congregation shall conform to this confessional standard. All pastors and teachers called into service of this congregation shall be required to vow acceptance of an adherence to the confessional standard set forth in this article.

#### **Article IV - SYNODICAL Affiliation**

This congregation shall be a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The authority of the Synod or the congregation shall not be legislative, but advisory.

#### **Article V - SOVEREIGNTY (see article VIII)**

The Voters Assembly as a body shall have supreme power in the external and internal administration and management of its own ecclesiastical in congregational affairs. It shall at all times have the right to choose and call pastors and to elect officers of the

congregation. This right shall remain with the Voters Assembly, and shall never be delegated to an individual or minor body or circle with the congregation. No decision or enactment of any individual or committee on behalf of the congregation shall be valid unless it shall have been enacted or preformed according to the general or special power conferred by the Voters Assembly. Not even the Voters Assembly shall be empowered to order, enact, or decide anything contrary to the Word of God, any such enactment ordnance shall be null and void.

## **Article VI – PASTOR**

Section 1 The office of the Pastor of this congregation shall be committed only to a person who is in complete accord with the confessional standard of this congregation as set forth herein, to which you must bind himself in accepting the call of Pastor, and who has the necessary qualifications of learning and ability. The Pastor's tenure of office has been a called an ordained servant of the Word is for life, or until a Pastor is called to a new location or retires.

Section 2 The right of calling or disposing shall be vested in the Voter's Assembly and should number be delegated to a small group or an individual.

Section 3 The following are valid in sufficient reasons for the posing a Pastor.

- A. Persistent adherence to false doctrine.
- B. Persistent offense and/or immoral conduct.
- C. Inability to perform official duties.

Section 4 Other in further rules or regulations pertaining to the office of Pastor, insofar as the same are not inconsistent herewith, are set forth in By laws.

## **Article VII - PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THIS CONGREGATION**

Section 1 This congregation may receive, hold title to, acquire and manage such real estate and any other property as it made need and may sell or dispose of such real estate and other property or any part thereof, and this congregation shall have all the rights and powers that are granted by the laws of the State of Florida to religious organizations.

Section 2 Membership, Separation and Dissolution If, at any time, a separation shall take place within this congregation, the officers of the District and Synod shall be consulted in an effort to resolve differences. If, despite all efforts to compose differences in peace and love, a division into factions of the congregation shall occur, the property of this congregation an all benefits therewith shall remain with those members will continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article III and V th of this constitution.

**Article VIII - DUTIES OF MEMBERS** (see but Article VIII)

It shall be the privilege and duty of the members of this congregation to attend divine worship faithfully, to partake of the Sacraments frequently and to contribute according to their means towards the maintenance of the church and in general to assist in bearing the burdens of the congregation, and diligent service to the lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All parents shall provide for proper Christian instruction in training of the children, both at home and in church.

**Article IX – EXCOMMUNICATION**

For sufficient cause an after fruitless admonition according to the various grades prescribed by the Word of God (Matt. 18; 15-20), this congregation may, at any voter's

assembly expel any member by majority vote of all voting members had said meeting. The member proposed for expulsion shall not be allowed to vote. Such an excommunicated member shall lose all rights of a member of this congregation, and all claims upon the property of the congregation or any part thereof. The same rule shall apply also to such members that refused to submit to the discipline and thus excommunicate themselves. Members moving away and severing their connections with the congregation without obtaining release, shall, after a period of one year, be stricken from the list of active local members, but this does not prohibit their receiving a transfer later, or being reinstated on return, nor shall it affect military personnel.

#### **Article X – FINANCES**

In accordance with the stewardship principles of the New Testament, this congregation shall derive its financial support from the freewill offering of its members. Every member is expected to bring his offerings voluntarily, regularly and generously as God has prospered him. This principle also shall be followed by organizations and groups within the congregation.

#### **Article XI – OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES**

The officers of this congregation shall be such Officers, Boards or Committees as the By Laws of the constitution prescribes. There shall be a job description for each Board. This will be subject to review and/or revision annually.

#### **Article XII - STANDARDS FOR PRINT MATERIALS**

Only such hymns, prayers and liturgies shall be used in the public services of the congregation and all ministerial acts, as conform to the confessional standards of Article

III. Likewise, and all classes for instruction in Christian Doctrine, only such book shall be used as conform to the standard.

#### **Article XIII - AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

To alter or amend any alterable or amendable paragraph of this Constitution it shall be necessary that the alteration or amendment be proposed in person at a regular or Special Voters Assembly. Subsequent to approval of the amendment proposal, it will then be announced in the divine service, and resolve upon by two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present at the next regular or special Voters Assembly meeting. Articles III, V, and VIII, of this constitution shall be unalterable.

#### **Article XIV - AMENDING THE BYLAWS**

To alter or amend any alterable or amendable paragraph of these bylaws in shall be necessary that the alteration by amendment be proposed in person any voters or special Voters Assembly. Subsequent to approval of amendment, proposal will then be at announced in a divine service, and resolve upon by two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present at the next Voters or special Assembly meeting. Article I, section I and II of these By Laws shall be unalterable.

#### **Article XV - CONCLUSION**

This is the valid Constitution of this congregation FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, INVERNESS, FLORIDA, to which the congregation shall adhere.

## Bylaws

(like the constitution, the bylaws may be amended and any time as the necessary and approved by the voters a regular or special meeting).

### Article one-membership

Members of this congregation shall be classified as (one) baptized, (two) communiqué and, (3) associate.

#### Section one-baptized members

A baptized member is one who has been baptized with the water in the holy spirit according to the doctrines of the even jelly Co Lutheran church.

#### Section two-communicate member

They communicate member is an individual who has all the rights and privileges of this congregation is not affiliated with any of the congregation. All such are eligible two communicate and membership who:

Are baptizing confirmed

Declare their ascent to the confessional standard as set forth in article three of the constitution and, while they may be deficient in knowledge of all that and symbols, and from layer with at least Luther's small catechism;

Attend a vine services regularly, and could take a holy communion frequently;

Do not living and manifest works of the flash (Galatians five: 19-21) a lead a Christian life;

Submit to the constitution and bylaws of this congregation and permit themselves to be a fraternal lee at monies a corrected when they have aired

Willing to assess, according to their ability, to maintain the work of the church;

Are not members of an organization conflicting with the word of god and the teachings of the Lutheran church.

### **Section three-associate members**

An associate member is a resident who maintains an affiliation as a communicate member with another Lutheran church. These person share of all rights and privileges of this peerage. This does not include the right to vote on district person article matters. They cannot hold elective office.

### **Section four-application for membership**

Application for various memberships in this congregation must be presented to the pastor or Elders. Except the member shall be presented to the congregation at a divine service. If members in good standing move away and desire to transfer their membership to another congregation at some other time, a letter of transfer or really shall be issued by the congregation to the pastor. This shall be reported at the next regular meeting of the council and the borders assembly for record.

### **Article two-voting membership**

Section one voting membership in this congregation shall be granted to each communiqué and or associate member. Each voting member of this congregation shall be entitled to one vote. No voting by proxy, or absentee ballots is permitted.

Section two all voting members of this congregation, shall be entitled to hold elective office, except paid administrative employees of the church and associate members. On matters pertaining to the public administration of the office of the keys, only men hold the offices of president and vice president.

It shall be the privilege of all communicate members and associate members of this congregation to become voting members upon their acceptance as members, and upon their signing the constitution and bylaws. It shall be the duty of every voting member, if possible, to attend all meetings of the borders assembly. By failing to attend a quarterly or special meeting, a member waives the right of casting his or her vote at said meeting.

(C section one)

#### **Section four – duties of voting members**

Voting member shall be active in the affairs of the church, shall willingly serve as officers or on committees when elected or appointed, shall regularly attend all meetings of the congregation, and shall, according to their ability, promote the welfare of the congregation in every possible way.

#### **Section five-meeting quorums**

When a meeting of the governing body has been announced at the public services on the previous two (two) Sundays, such meeting shall be capable of transacting business in passing valid resolutions, if at least 10% (10%) of the active members of the congregation are in attendance. An inactive voting member may become active by attending any borders meeting. No voting member therefore, shall be denied the right to vote in any borders meeting.

#### **Section six-voting on Dr. and**

In matters of doctrine, as described in article three of the constitution, while a unanimous vote is desirable, a 2/3 (2/3) vote will enable the passing of a valid resolution. All other matters require a majority of the votes cast, except where article 14 of the constitution applies.

## **Article three-purpose of the borders assembly**

### Section one-purpose

The primary purpose of the boat is assembly is to elect the officers, received an adjudicatory ports of the church council.

Section two every Communicant member or associate member, may of keel to this assembly in regard to any matter relating to the affairs in governing of said congregation, after the matter his first been presented to the church council for examination in clarification, before being presented a regular our special borders meeting. The voters' decision shall be final and binding, but such decision shall always be in accord with the word of god and the symbolic of books of the evangelical Lutheran church and, also hit is so, shall be null and void.

### **Section three a-associate members**

An associate member is a resident who maintains an affiliation as a communiqué and member within other Lutheran church. These persons have all rights and privileges of this periods. T is does not include the right to vote kindest recourse an article matters. They cannot hold elective office.

## **Article four-officers: church council**

The affairs of this congregation will be many inch by president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer or assistant treasurer, financial secretary courses that financial secretary and the chairpersons, or board member of pointed by that year, of any boards these officer shall constitute the church council. They show conduct all business of this congregation, unless specifically delegated to the borders assembly by this constitution and bylaws.

## **Article four-power of the officers**

No officer of this congregation shall have authority beyond that which has been conferred upon him slash her by the borders assembly, subject to change or revision by the voters assembly. Any officer or pastor or teacher of this congregation many in a Christian and lawful manner be removed or dismiss from office. Sufficient, ballot and urgent causes of removal or dismissal shall be persistent they hear and Stu false doctrine, offensive and slash or immoral life, or willful neglect of official duties.

## **Article six nomination and eight elections**

### Section one-nomination procedures

The nominating committee, composed of the board of stewardship and pastor, shall place names in the nomination for each elective office, and shall, present the slate of officers at the September khalsa meeting for confirmation and then publish in the October newsletter in weekly church bulletins. The election will take place at the October of orders assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, providing the nominees have agreed to allow their names to be place for a vote

### Section two elections

Elections of officer shall take place at the October voters assembly. All elections shall be by ballot. All electrician shall be governed by pollen and terry procedure (robert's rules of order).

### Section three term of office

Office of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, financial secretary, and assistant financial secretary, shall be two years

President, secretary, assistant treasurer, assistant financial secretary will take place on the odd number year

Boys president, treasurer, financial secretary will take office on the even number year

Office for board member shall be three years. A minimum of one board member shall expire in each year

The president may succeed this term for one additional two year term.

- Terms of office can be expanded by 2/3 vote of the board assembly

Section four vacancies in the event of a vacancy, the unexpired term of the office with the exception of the president shall be filled by the pointy, nominated by the board of stewardship, or appointed by the president, and with the approval of the church council. Formal confirmation shall be announced. The presidential vacancy shall be filled by the vice president for the unexpired term of the president. A new vice president shall be subject to the procedure above.

Section five-periods of offices insulation of officers

All elected officer shall assume the duties of the respected office January 1, after being installed on any Sunday and ICS ember but prior to January 1.

Section six-ex officio members

The pastor and president shall be ex officio members of all committees and boards as ex officio members of any board the president and pastor have all the privileges of the board membership including the right to make motions into vote, but none of the obligation of the board members. (C. Robert rules of order) the pastor shall not vote on any personal matters relating to his financial and benefits package.

## **Article seven-duties of officers and boards**

### Part a officers

Section one president the presidential preside at all meetings of the congregation and shall perform all the usual duties of the presiding officer. The president shall ensure that the constitution and bylaws repel that all times. The present shall be an ex officio member of all committees and boards. The Persian shall appoint committees, excepting those expressly elected by the voters assembly. The president shall make in from appointments when a vacancy occurs and any office or board as prescribed in article six of these by-laws. The present shall be governed in his decisions by the parliamentary procedure as outlined in Robert's rules of order. In the case of a tie vote in the church council meeting, the president may cast his vote to break the tie.