

**CONSTITUTION
of the
SASKATCHEWAN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

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ARTICLE I

Name and Incorporation

- Section 1. The name of the synod functioning under this constitution shall be Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
- Section 2. The synod shall be incorporated under the laws of Saskatchewan.
- Section 3. The seal of the Saskatchewan Synod shall consist of a cross encircled by the words "Saskatchewan Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Inc." The bishop shall have custody of the seal.

ARTICLE II

Territory

The territory of this synod shall be the Province of Saskatchewan and the geographical area served by member congregations and synodically recognized ministries outside Saskatchewan.

ARTICLE III

Confession of Faith

- Section 1. This synod confesses the Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - as the one true God. It proclaims the Father as Creator and Preserver; His Son, Jesus Christ, as Redeemer and Lord; and the Holy Spirit as Regenerator and Sanctifier.
- Section 2. This synod confesses that the Gospel is the revelation of God's saving will and grace in Jesus Christ, which He imparts through Word and Sacrament. Through these means of grace the Holy Spirit creates believers and unites them with their Lord and with one another in the fellowship of the Holy Christian Church.
- Section 3. This synod confesses the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and as the only source of the church's doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the church.
- Section 4. This synod confesses the following symbols, comprising the Book of Concord of 1580, which it subscribes specifically as witnesses to the way in which the Holy Scriptures have been correctly understood and explained and confessed for the sake of the Gospel, namely
- a. The Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds as the chief confessions of the Christian faith;

- b. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession as its basic formulation of Christian doctrine;
- c. Luther's Small Catechism as a clear summary of Christian doctrine;
- d. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles with the Treatise, and the Formula of Concord as further witnesses to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

ARTICLE IV

Mission

Section 1. The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal Church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people in Canada and around the world through proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments and through service in Christ's name.

Section 2. As the regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, in faithfulness to the Lord of the Church, this synod shall facilitate and advance the mission of this church within its territory and in cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, it shall carry out this mission by shepherding its congregations synodically recognized ministries and rostered ministers, and by engaging in other forms of ministry which proclaim God's Word and serve to bring reconciliation to the world.

ARTICLE V

Membership

Section 1. The membership of this synod consists of member congregations and synodically recognized ministries that are recognized by this synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this church. Baptized individuals who are members of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry shall exercise their privileges and responsibilities through participation in the congregation or synodically recognized ministry in which they are members.

Section 2. Congregations and synodically recognized ministries may be recognized by this synod acting on behalf of this church in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of this church.

Section 3. This synod may revoke its recognition of any congregation or synodically recognized ministry in the manner described in the constitution and bylaws of the church.

ARTICLE VI

Congregations

(Bylaws, Part II, Section 1)

- Section 1. Every congregation which is recognized by this synod shall have a constitution which, in the judgment of this Synod Council, is in harmony with the constitution and bylaws of this church and this synod.
- Section 2. Every congregation shall support faithfully with prayer, personal service and offerings the common work of this church and of the synod.
- Section 3. Every congregation of this synod shall choose a delegate or delegates to represent it at conventions of this synod and at meetings of the conference to which the congregation is assigned in accordance with procedures as defined in the bylaws of this synod. An alternate or alternates may act in the stead of the delegate or delegates in the event of their absence.
- Section 4. The alignment of congregations in parishes shall be subject to approval of Synod Council.
- Section 5. Congregations shall have the right to petition this synod, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.
- Section 6. In case of strife and division in a congregation, the congregational council shall seek the advice of the bishop of this synod.
- Section 7. When a pastor resigns, the congregational council shall receive the resignation, report it to the congregation and notify the bishop of this synod.
- Section 8. During a pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor or a vice-pastor shall be appointed by the congregational council after consultation with the bishop. The responsibilities of the two roles are defined in the Call Process Manual.
- Section 9. A congregation desiring to withdraw from this church must comply with the procedures for withdrawal set out in the bylaws of this church.
- Section 10. A congregation which has ceased to exist or whose membership has so diminished in numbers as to render it impossible or impractical for the congregation to function according to its constitution and bylaws shall, after consultation with any remaining members, be deemed by this synod to be defunct. This synod through this Synod Council shall appoint trustees, including where feasible former members of the

congregation, who shall take charge and control of the property of said congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this synod.

- Section 11. A lay member of any congregation, who is under discipline, may appeal to this synod in the manner described in the bylaws of this synod.

ARTICLE VII

Synodically Recognized Ministries

- Section 1. This synod shall maintain a roster of synodically recognized ministries as described in the bylaws of this church.
- Section 2. Each synodically recognized ministry is entitled to choose a representative to conventions of this synod in accordance with procedures as defined in the bylaws.
- Section 3. A lay member who is under discipline by his or her synodically recognized ministry may appeal to this synod in a manner described in the bylaws of this synod.

ARTICLE VIII

Rostered Ministers - Ordained (Bylaws, Part III)

- Section 1. This synod shall maintain a roster of ordained ministers.
- Section 2. The standards of admission and continuance on the roster of ordained ministers shall be defined in the bylaws of this church.
- Section 3. An ordained minister shall conduct himself/herself in accordance with the bylaws and policies of this synod and of this church.

ARTICLE IX

Rostered Ministers - Diaconal (Bylaws, Part IV)

- Section 1. This synod shall maintain a roster of diaconal ministers.
- Section 2. The standards of admission and continuance on the roster of diaconal ministers of this church shall be defined in the bylaws of this church.

Section 3. A diaconal minister shall conduct himself/herself in accordance with the bylaws and policies of this synod and of this church.

ARTICLE X

Conferences

(Bylaws, Part II, Section 2; Part V, Section 11, c,d)

Section 1. This synod shall be organized regionally into conferences whose number and boundaries shall be determined by this synod in convention upon the recommendation of Synod Council.

Section 2. The role of the conferences shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod.

ARTICLE XI

Conventions

(Bylaws, Part V)

Section 1. The convention of the synod shall be its highest legislative authority.

Section 2. Conventions of this synod shall be held according to times, policies, and procedures as described in the bylaws of this synod.

ARTICLE XII

Synod Council

(Bylaws, Part VII)

Section 1. Synod Council is the governing body of this synod and shall carry out all normal functions and responsibilities on behalf of this synod in accordance with the constitution, the bylaws and resolutions of this synod in convention.

Section 2. Synod Council shall consist of the officers of this synod, and members, all of whom shall be members in good standing of congregations or synodically recognized ministries of this synod, elected according to procedures defined in the bylaws of this synod.

Section 3. The terms of the elected members shall begin at the conclusion of the convention at which the election occurred.

Section 4. The bishop shall be an ex officio member of Synod Council.

ARTICLE XIII

Officers

(Bylaws, Part VIII & IX)

- Section 1. This synod shall be served by a bishop who shall be its chief pastor and chief executive officer. The other officers shall be a chairperson and a vice-chairperson who shall be elected from among the members of synod council and a secretary and a treasurer who shall be elected according to procedures set out in the bylaws of this synod. The bishop shall be on the roster of ordained ministers of this church. At least two of the other officers shall be lay members of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry of this synod. All officers shall serve as officers of the synod council.
- Section 2. The purpose, duties and expectations of the officers shall be defined in the bylaws.

ARTICLE XV

Committees

(Bylaws, Part X)

- Section 1. Synod Council shall have authority to establish such committees deemed necessary for the mission of this synod.
- Section 2. Term of reference for, and membership on, any committee shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod or in a policy manual.
- Section 3. The committees shall be accountable to this Synod Council, and report to the council through the Office of the Bishop.

ARTICLE XVI

Theological Institutions

(Bylaws, Part II, Section 4; Part V, Section 11 b., Part XI)

- Section 1. This synod acknowledges its responsibility to maintain a theological seminary within the guidelines provided by this church, to strengthen this seminary spiritually and academically, and to provide for its financial support.
- Section 2. The Board of Governors of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, shall control and manage the seminary and determine its academic and administrative affairs.

Section 3. Terms of reference for, and membership on, the Board of Governors of Lutheran Theological Seminary shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod or in a policy manual.

ARTICLE XVII

Bylaws

- Section 1. This synod may adopt such bylaws, not in conflict with this constitution, as may be necessary. Such bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. At least one day shall elapse between first presentation and convention action unless unanimous consent to amend is given.
- Section 2. Bylaws relating to convention procedure may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.

ARTICLE XVIII

Amendments

- Section 1. The Confession of Faith as stated in Article III shall be that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and is not amendable.
- Section 2. Amendments to this constitution shall be in writing and may be proposed by either:
- a. The National Church Council;
 - b. The Synod Council;
 - c. A congregation of the synod;
 - d. Ten convention delegates.
- Section 3. All proposed amendments must be reported to the convention no later than the first full day of business. The Synod Council shall make a report and recommendation during that convention on all proposed amendments. Adoption of an amendment shall require passage at this and the next regular convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. Notice of the full text thereof shall be sent to the ordained ministers, diaconal ministers and congregations of this synod at least one month prior to the second reading. Further amendment at the second reading shall require unanimous consent. Such amendments shall be effective upon ratification by the National Church Council.