

CONSTITUTION



***“SERVING GOD IN SEGUIN AND BEYOND
SINCE 1966”***

***"We are imperfect people, saved by grace, willing to risk it all to
share the Good News of Jesus Christ!"***

***FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEGUIN, TEXAS***

CONSTITUTION OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH SEGUIN, TEXAS

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EXHIBIT A William F. Lange Scholarship Fund

CONSTITUTION OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH SEGUIN, TEXAS

PREAMBLE

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this Constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 1. NAME AND INCORPORATION

- C1.01. The name of this Congregation shall be Faith Lutheran Church of Seguin, Texas.
- C1.02. For the purpose of this Constitution and the accompanying Bylaws, the Faith Lutheran Church of Seguin, Texas, is hereinafter designated as "this Congregation."
- C1.03. This Congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

CHAPTER 2. CONFESSION OF FAITH

Jesus is the head of the Church. Unity among the various expressions of the body of Christ is best achieved through focusing on Jesus, who alone is able to draw all people to Himself. Jesus is the complete and ultimate expression of God and is part of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 22:34-40, John 14:6, Philippians 2:9-11)

- C2.01. This Congregation confesses the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C2.02. This Congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
 - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

- C2.03. This Congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- C2.04. This Congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this Congregation.
- C2.05. This Congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- C2.06. This Congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- C2.07. This Congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

CHAPTER 3. NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this Congregation are to be carried out under His rule and authority.
- C3.02. The Church is the gathering of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in accordance with the Gospel (Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Article 7).
- C3.03. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Faith Lutheran Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Thus, we believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning; the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). Further, the Pastors and staff of Faith Lutheran Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Faith Lutheran Church shall only host weddings/events between one man and one woman.
- C3.04. Faith Lutheran Church believes that all human life is sacred and created by God in his image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre – born babies, and the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps 139).
- C3.05. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Faith Lutheran Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our residing Pastor along with the Church Council is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

CHAPTER 4. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and called and sent to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- C4.02. To carry out God's mission, this Congregation as a part of the Church shall:
- a. carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people, near and far, to make disciples in Christ;
 - b. provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered;
 - c. provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry;
 - d. challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their Congregation;
 - e. teach the Word of God;
 - f. serve in response to God's love to meet human needs;
 - g. teach Biblical stewardship; and
 - h. foster and participate in relationships with other congregations.
- C4.03. This Congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

CHAPTER 5. POWERS OF THIS CONGREGATION

- C5.01. The powers of this Congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.
- C5.02. The powers of this Congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.
- C5.03. This Congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the Bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each Ministry Team, Standing Committee, task force, or other organizational groups and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions of the Congregation Council.
- C5.04. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this Congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by this Congregation. This Congregation is authorized to:
- a. call a pastor or other professional Church workers as provided in Chapter 9;
 - b. terminate the call of a pastor or other professional Church workers as provided in Chapter 9;
 - c. adopt amendments to the Constitution, as provided in Chapter 20, and amendments to the Bylaws, as specified in Chapter 19;
 - d. approve the annual budget (Programs of Christ's Ministry);

- e. acquire or decline real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- f. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- g. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- h. elect Congregation Council members, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
- i. affiliate or terminate its affiliation as provided in Chapter 6.C5.05. This Congregation shall choose from among its voting member's individuals to serve as delegates to represent it at meetings of any conference, district, coalition, or other area subdivision or organization of which it is a member.

CHAPTER 6. CHURCH AFFILIATION (LCMC)

- C6.01. Faith Lutheran Church is affiliated the the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).The Congregation may affiliate with other church bodies with which it can accept a common confession of faith. (See Chapter 2 of this Constitution.)
- C6.02. This Congregation may affiliate with other Christian church bodies as decided by a two-thirds majority ballot vote of the voting members then present and voting at a specially called meeting of this Congregation with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution)
- C6.03. This Congregation may terminate its affiliation as follows:
 - a. This Congregation takes action to dissolve.
 - b. This Congregation ceases to exist.
 - c. This Congregation is removed from membership by its affiliated organization.
 - d. This Congregation may terminate its affiliation with other Christian church bodies as decided by two-thirds majority ballot vote of the voting members then present and voting at a specially called meeting of this Congregation with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution).

CHAPTER 7. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- C7.01. If this Congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall be disbursed to non-profit entities and/or organizations as determined by a majority of the remaining voting members of this Congregation at a specially called meeting of this Congregation.
- C7.02. If this Congregation is removed from membership in an affiliated organization according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall remain with this Congregation.

C7.03. Regardless of affiliation, title to any real property and assets of this Congregation shall remain with this Congregation.

CHAPTER 8. MEMBERSHIP

C8.01. Membership in this Congregation is a call to discipleship under Jesus Christ. Therefore, members of this Congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this Congregation at the time that this Constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and its Bylaws.

C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

a. Baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this Congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.

b. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this Congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.

c. Voting members are confirmed members who have worshipped with this Congregation at least three (3) times during the previous twelve months (or an average of once every two months from the date of acceptance by Congregation Council as a member, if less than twelve months), and have communed and made a personal contribution of record to this Congregation at least once in the previous twelve months. Members of this Congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this Congregation. College students, those serving in the military and homebound members are exempt from these requirements.

d. Associate members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this Congregation, or persons who wish to retain a relationship with this Congregation while being members of other congregations. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices of this Congregation.

C8.03. All applications for membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of Congregation Council.

C8.04. It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this Congregation to:

a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;

b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and

c. support the work of this Congregation through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as Biblical stewards.

- C8.05. Membership in this Congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:
- a. death;
 - b. resignation;
 - c. transfer or release;
 - d. disciplinary action under Chapter 16; or
 - e. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the Bylaws.

CHAPTER 9. THE PASTOR(S) AND CALLED PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS

- C9.01. To assist this Congregation in fulfilling its mission, this Congregation may call or contract with pastors and other professional church workers.
- a. Authority to call a pastor(s) or other professional church workers shall be in this Congregation at a meeting legally called for that purpose with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution) by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of voting members present and voting.
 - b. Contract calls shall be issued by the Congregation Council by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of Council members present and voting, and ratified by this Congregation at the next regularly scheduled Congregation meeting with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution) by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of voting members present and voting.
- C9.02. Only a pastor credentialed or certified by this Congregation's then-affiliated Lutheran association(s) may be a called pastor of this Congregation.
- C9.03. Any called or contract pastor of this Congregation shall subscribe to this Congregation's Confession of Faith (see Chapter 2 of this Constitution). To help this Congregation fulfill its mission, the pastor(s) shall:
- a. preach the Word of God;
 - b. administer the sacraments;
 - c. conduct public worship;
 - d. provide pastoral care; and
 - e. proclaim God's love for the world.
- C9.04. Ordained pastors with a Congregational call shall, within this Congregation:
- a. offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - b. provide spiritual guidance to all schools and organizations of this Congregation;
 - c. install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council and other organizations of this Congregation;

- d. seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; and
 - e. with the Congregation Council, administer discipline.
- C9.05. The specific duties, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor(s) and other Called professional Church workers, shall be included in a letter of call.
- C9.06.a. The Call of this Congregation, when accepted, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the Called worker, may be terminated for the following reasons:
- 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation; which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted to the Congregation Council;
 - 3) inability to conduct the duties of their office effectively in this Congregation, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the Called worker;
 - 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the Called worker;
 - 5) disqualification of the Called worker through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;
 - 6) commission of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude; or
 - 7) the dissolution of this Congregation.
- C9.06.b. When allegations of physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office have come to the attention of the Congregation Council, then the Congregation President and the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council shall personally investigate such conditions and make recommendation to Congregation Council.
- C9.06.c. In the case of alleged difficulties which imperil the effective functioning of this Congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the Congregation Council shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor. If the pastor agrees to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the Congregation Council. If the pastor fails to agree, this Congregation may dismiss the pastor by a two-thirds majority ballot vote of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of this Congregation with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution).
- C9.07. During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights, duties, and obligations in this Congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a contract pastor with the consent of the Congregation Council.
- C9.08. When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to

accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors and the Congregation Council. As occasion requires, the call documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

- C9.09. The pastor of this Congregation shall:
- a. see that accurate parish records are kept of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from this Congregation. All such records shall remain the property of this Congregation;
 - b. see that a summary of such statistics is submitted annually to this Congregation and Congregation Council as part of the annual report;
 - c. become a voting member of this Congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call.
- C9.10. This Congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this Congregation within 30 days of termination.

CHAPTER 10. CONGREGATION MEETING

- C10.01. The regular meetings of this Congregation shall be held in January and December of each year.
- C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the Congregation Council or the President of this Congregation, and shall be called by the President of this Congregation upon written request of 60 voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.
- C10.03. Notice and agenda of all meetings of this Congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail or by other transmission as specified in the Bylaws or continuing resolution to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.
- C10.04. Fifty percent (50%) of the previous year's average weekly attendance shall constitute a quorum.
- C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- C10.06. All actions approved by this Congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting as specified in C10.04, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution or Bylaws.
- C10.07. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this Congregation.
- C10.08. Election for Congregation Council members and other church representatives shall be in accordance with the Bylaws or continuing resolutions.

CHAPTER 11. OFFICERS

- C11.01. The officers of this Congregation shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. These officers will be elected by the members of Congregation Council from among its members immediately following the January Congregational Meeting.
- a. The duties of the officers shall be specified in the Bylaws.
 - b. The officers shall be voting members of this Congregation.
 - c. The officers of the Congregation Council shall serve similar offices in this Congregation.
- C11.02. The officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the first Congregation Council Meeting after the January Congregational Meeting.
- C11.03. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.
- C11.04. The President may appoint a recording secretary.

CHAPTER 12. CONGREGATION COUNCIL

The Bible is our authority and sole guide for life and faith. We accept on faith that all of the Scripture is inspired and is without error; however not all interpretation is without error. Therefore we support and encourage the study of original manuscripts, recognizing the original audiences and purposes of a text, and allowing the Bible to interpret itself. For the Scriptures are a living Word that are always relevant and revealing of God's purpose for all creation. (John 1:1, 1:14, II Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 15:4, Psalm 1)

- C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of Council members as defined by the Bylaws. The called pastor(s), Called workers and the Church Administrator, if any, may have a voice but no vote at meetings of the Congregation Council.
- C12.02. Paid Congregational staff members, including called pastors, shall not be elected to any Congregation Council position or the Endowment Fund Committee.
- C12.03. The members of the Congregation Council shall be elected to serve for terms of two years. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two consecutive full terms. The dates of office and the duties of the officers of this Congregation and Council members shall be specified in the Bylaws. No member of the Congregation Council shall be eligible to serve by election after serving continuously four years on the Congregation Council until a one-year period of separation from service on the Congregation Council has occurred. No person shall be considered for election to any Congregational position if fulfilling the term of their election would violate the four year term limits in this section.
- C12.04. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor to finish out the

remaining term of the vacating member. The successor shall be ratified by this Congregation at its next meeting.

- C12.05. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this Congregation, and in particular its spiritual life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and this Congregation's Confession of Faith. The duties of the Congregation Council shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- C12.06. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this Congregation and:
- a. shall be the board of directors of this Congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of Texas, except as otherwise provided herein.
 - b. shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of this Congregation except as specified in the Bylaws or continuing resolution.
 - c. shall prepare an annual budget (Programs of Christ's Ministry) for adoption. The Congregation Council shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption; and the Congregation Council may incur annually-aggregated obligations less than six percent (6%) of the prior year's actual operating expenses (Programs of Christ's Ministry), less benevolence.
 - d. shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this Congregation are being conducted efficiently according to generally accepted accounting principles.
 - e. shall be responsible for this Congregation's investments and its total insurance program.
- C12.07. The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions for this Constitution, its Bylaws, and any continuing resolutions are implemented.
- C12.08. The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual audit of the membership roster, as referenced by Chapter 8 of this Constitution.
- C12.09. The Congregation Council, with input from the Senior Pastor, shall be responsible for the employment of the lay employees of this Congregation and for the implementation of policies and procedures for all employees of this Congregation, as specified in the Bylaws.
- C12.10. The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special Council meetings may be called by the Congregation President, and shall be called by the Congregation President at the request of at least one-half of the Congregation Council members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.
- C12.11. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council.

CHAPTER 13. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- C13.01. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of this Congregation, the Senior Pastor, and the Church Administrator, if any.
- C13.02. The Executive Committee shall have such powers and limitations on those powers as are specified by the laws of the State of Texas, this Constitution, and its Bylaws, and shall have such authority to implement such actions and duties as are specifically authorized by the Congregation Council or by this Congregation by continuing resolution.
- C13.03. The Executive Committee shall have no authority to expend funds, to authorize the purchase of property and services, or to conduct any business on behalf of this Congregation except as is specifically authorized by the Bylaws or by resolution of the Congregation Council or this Congregation.
- C13.04. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as specified in the Bylaws and/or continuing resolutions.

CHAPTER 14. CHURCH FUNDS

- C14.01. There shall be a Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Fund and a William F Lange Scholarship Fund. These funds shall be administered by committees elected by the Congregation. Their actions and expenditures must be approved by the Congregation Council and by the Congregation at a Congregation Meeting. See Exhibits A and B in the Bylaws for purposes and administration. C14.02. There may be additional restricted funds administered by the Congregation Council or approved by Church organizations. Expenditures will be restricted to purposes that fall within the purposes of the fund title.

CHAPTER 15. STANDING COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

- C15.01. A Nominating Committee shall be formed in accordance with the Bylaws.
- C15.02. An Audit Committee and Financial Review Committee shall be formed in accordance with the Bylaws.
- C15.03. A Call Committee shall be formed in accordance with the Bylaws whenever a pastoral or other Called worker vacancy occurs that this Congregation intends to fill. **Add Emergency Management Team with description in Bylaws**
- C15.05. A Preschool Committee which shall serve as the Board of Directors overseeing the operations of the Faith Preschool.
- C15.04. A Human Resources Committee shall be formed in accordance with the Bylaws.
- C15.05. Other committees or task forces may be formed by the Congregation Council or the pastor(s) as the need arises.
- C15.06. Duties of Standing Congregation Committees shall be as specified in the Bylaws and/or continuing resolutions.
- C15.07. Except for the Audit Committee, the Senior Pastor of this Congregation may be a member with voice but no vote of all Standing Committees of this

Congregation. The Senior Pastor may designate another called pastor or Called worker of this Congregation to serve in this capacity for any Standing Committee.

- C15.08. Except for the Nominating Committee and the Audit Committee, the Congregation President may be a non-voting member of all Standing Committees and taskforces of this Congregation, as defined in the Bylaws. In the absence of Congregation President, the Congregation Vice President when acting in the Congregation President's capacity)

CHAPTER 16. MINISTRY TEAMS

Jesus gave his disciples this command – “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Therefore, the Church exists primarily for the sake of those who don't yet belong. We will seek to invite every person to consider a living and personal relationship with Jesus Christ, for He is the only way to salvation and eternal life. (Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 4:18-20, Luke 19:10, Acts 1:8)

- C16.01. Ministry Teams shall be formed as determined in the Bylaws.
- C16.02.
- C16.02. Ministry Teams shall have authority and structure as outlined in the Bylaws and/or continuing resolutions.
- C16.03. The Senior Pastor of this Congregation shall be a member with voice but no vote of all Ministry Teams of this Congregation. The Senior Pastor may designate another called pastor or Called worker of this Congregation to serve in this capacity for any Operational Committee.
- C16.04. The Congregation President, or the Congregation Vice President when acting in the Congregation President's capacity, shall be a non-voting member of all Ministry Teams of this Congregation.
- C16.05. Each Ministry Team shall submit a comprehensive written report from their respective Team to the Congregation at the January meeting.

CHAPTER 17. ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THIS CONGREGATION

- C17.01. All organizations within this Congregation shall exist to support this Congregation in fulfilling its mission. As outgrowths and expressions of this Congregation's life, the organizations are subject to the Congregation's oversight and direction.
- C17.02. Special interest groups other than those of the official organizations of this Congregation will have no voice or vote in the operations of this Congregation, unless authorized by the Congregation Council and ratified at the next meeting of this Congregation with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution).

CHAPTER 18. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

- C18.01. Denial of the Christian faith as described in Chapters 2 and 3 of this Constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this Congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a

member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps as needed: a) private admonition by the Senior Pastor, b) admonition by said pastor in the presence of two or three other members, and c) notice to appear before the Congregation Council. If, for any reason, said pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a) and b) hereof, the Congregation President or Congregation Vice President shall administer such admonitions. If the above steps do not “win the person back” (Matthew 18), the matter will be taken to the Congregation for final resolution.

CHAPTER 19. BYLAWS

- C19.01. This Congregation may adopt Bylaws. In the event of a conflict between the Bylaws and this Constitution, this Constitution controls.
- C19.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any properly called meeting of this Congregation with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution) by a two-thirds majority vote of those voting members present and voting.
- C19.03. Changes to the Bylaws may be proposed by the Congregation Council or by written petition signed by at least 60 voting members provided that such additions or amendments be submitted to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Congregation Council notify this Congregation's members in writing of the proposal with its recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.

CHAPTER 20. AMENDMENTS

- C20.01. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Congregation Council or by written petition signed by at least 60 voting members. Proposed amendments must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council at least 60 days before formal consideration by this Congregation at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this Congregation's members in writing of the proposal with the Council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.
- C20.02. A proposed amendment to this Constitution (proposed under Section C20.01), shall
- a. be approved at a properly called meeting of this Congregation according to this Constitution with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution) by a two-thirds majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and
 - b. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the Constitution.

CHAPTER 21. CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

- C21.01. This Congregation, in a properly called meeting, or the Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of this Congregation.

- C21.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted, rescinded, or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of those voting members present and voting at a regular or specially called meeting of this Congregation with a quorum present (see Section C10.04 of the Constitution) or a two-thirds majority vote of voting members of the Congregation Council present and voting at a regular or specially called meeting.
- C21.03. Continuing resolutions enacted as a result of a Congregation vote may only be amended or rescinded by a two-thirds majority vote of those voting members present and voting at a regular or specially called meeting of this Congregation with a quorum present.

CHAPTER 22. INDEMNIFICATION

- C22.01. Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this Congregation is incorporated, this Congregation may adopt provisions providing indemnification and Errors and Omissions insurance coverage for each person who, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Congregation Council member, officer, employee, agent, or other member of any committee of this Congregation, was or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.

Effective Date:

The effective date of the operation of this amended Constitution shall be **May 15, 2016**.