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| **\* 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. |
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| **Chapter 1.** | **Name and Incorporation** |
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| **\*C1.01.** | The name of this congregation shall be Peace Lutheran Church (PLC). |
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| **\*C1.02.** | For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as "this congregation." |
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| **\*C1.11.** | This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma. |
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| **Chapter 2.** | **Confession of Faith** |
|  | This congregation incorporates Article 2 of the constitution of the North American Lutheran Church (the “NALC”), confessing: |
| **\*C2.01.** | The Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |
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| **\*C2.02.** | 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 the Holy Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God’s revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them the Holy Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world. |
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| **\*C2.03.** | 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, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged." (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Part I)  |
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| **\*C2.04.** | The Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of the Church. |
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| **\*C2.05.** | 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. |
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| **\*C2.06.** | 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 LargeCatechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church. |
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| **\*C2.07.** | 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. |
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| **Chapter 3.** | **Nature of the Church** |
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| **\*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. |
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| **\*C3.02.** | The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The North American Lutheran Church (NALC), therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day. |
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| **Chapter 4.** | **Statement of Purpose** |
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| **\*C4.01.** | The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world. |
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| **\*C4.02.** | To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives. |
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| **\*C4.03**. | To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry.c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.d. Teach the Word of God.e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.f. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the NALC.h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the NALC.i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy. |
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| **\*C4.04.** | This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Executive Board shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational group and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions in the section on the Executive Board. |
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| **\*C4.05.** | This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs. |
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| **Chapter 5** | **Powers of the Congregation** |
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| **\*C5.01**. | The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose. |
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| **\*C5.02.** | The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws. |
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| **\*C5.03.** | Only such authority as is delegated to the Executive Board or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:a. call a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;b. terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;c. call or terminate the call of associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers in conformity with the applicable policy of the NALC; d. adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter 17, and amendments to the bylaws, as specified in Chapter 16;e. approve the annual budget;f. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;g. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;h.sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means; i. elect its officers, Executive Board, boards, and committees, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; andj. terminate its relationship with the NALC as provided in Chapter 6.  |
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| **\*C5.04**. | This congregation shall choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the NALC as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by the congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the NALC. |
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| **\*C5.05.** | This congregation may have a mission endowment fund that will operate as specified in the congregation’s bylaws. The purpose of the mission endowment fund is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of this congregation. |
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| **Chapter 6.** | **Church Affiliation** |
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| **\*C6.01.** | This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the NALC or its successor. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the NALC. |
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| **\*C6.02.** | This congregation subscribes to the constitution of the NALC and will act in accordance with it.  |
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| **\*C6.03.**  | This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the NALC in which:a. This congregation agrees to be responsible for its life as a Christian community.b. This congregation pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the NALC.c. This congregation shall call only pastors who are members of the NALC or otherwise are authorized by the NALC to serve.d. This congregation shall appoint only commissioned lay leaders who are members of the NALC or otherwise are authorized by the NALC to serve. |
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| **\*C6.04.** | Affiliation with the NALC may be terminated as follows:a. This congregation takes action to dissolve.b. This congregation ceases to exist.c. This congregation is removed from membership in the NALC according to the procedures for discipline of the NALC.d. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in \*C6.05. |
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| **\*C6.05.** | This congregation may terminate its relationship with the NALC by the following procedure:a. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the NALC and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of this congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.c. The NALC bishop or his appointed representative shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least 90 days.d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the NALC or an authorized representative shall be present.e. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.f. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the bishop of the NALC, at which time the relationship between this congregation and the NALCshall be terminated.g. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the NALC bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church. |
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| **\*C6.06.** | If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the NALC bishop before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the NALC shall be received before any such action is effected. |

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| **Chapter 7.** | **Property Ownership** |
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| **\*C7.01.** | The Peace Lutheran Church Property is owned solely by the congregation. If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property not donated to a Lutheran charity may pass to the NALC.  |
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| **\*C7.02.** | If this congregation is removed from membership in the NALC according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation. |
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| **\*C7.03.** | If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the NALC.  |
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| **\*C7.04.** | If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body, title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation. |
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| **Chapter 8.**  | **Membership** |
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| **\*C8.01.** | 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 |
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| **\*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. Such confirmed members, during the previous 12 months, shall have communed 6 times in this congregation. 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 or membership on the Executive Board of this congregation. |
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| **\*C8.03.** | All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Executive Board. |
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| **\*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; andc. support the work of this congregation, and the churchwide organization of the NALC through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.  |
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| **\*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 by the Executive Board; ore. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws. Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern. |
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| **Chapter 9.** | **The Pastor** |
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| **\*C9.01.** | Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by this congregation to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod. |
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| **\*C9.02.** | Only a member of the clergy roster of the NALC or a candidate for the roster of ordainedministers who has been recommended forthe congregation by the NALC bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation. |
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| **\*C9.03.** | Consistent with the faith and practice of the NALC,a. Every ordained minister shall:1) preach the Word;2) administer the sacraments;3) conduct public worship;4) provide pastoral care; and5) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;2) supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation;3) install regularly elected members of the Executive Board; and4) with the Executive Board, administer discipline.c. Every pastor shall:1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization of the NALC. |
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| **\*C9.04.** | The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the NALC. |
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| **\*C9.05.** | a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the NALC bishop and for the following reasons:1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted; 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor; 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;6) the dissolution of the congregation; or 7) suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings. 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 bishop of the NALC by an official recital of allegations by the Executive Board or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop may, in consultation with the Executive Board, investigate such conditions personally or designate an appointee, in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson. c. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity, competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of the NALC with the advice of the committee and approval of the Executive Board may declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the NALC bishop and the Executive Board may take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.d. In the case of alleged local difficulties thatimperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the NALC or his designated appointee together with the committee described in \*C9.05.b. shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the NALC. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.e. If, in the course of proceedings described in \*C9.05.d., the committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action to the NALC bishop who may bring charges, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the NALC. f. If, following the appointment of the committee described in \*C9.05.b. or d., it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the NALC may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint NALC and churchwide fund and with housing provided by the congregation(s). |
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| **\*C9.06.** | At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor may be appointed by the Executive Board in consultation with the bishop of the NALC. |
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| **\*C9.07.** | During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in thecongregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the NALC and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. |
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| **\*C9.08.** | 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 before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting related to the NALC. |
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| **\*C9.09.** | 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, the Executive Board, and the bishop of the NALC. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation. |
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| **\*C9.11.** | With the approval of the bishop of the NALC, the congregation may depart from \*C9.05.a. and call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of \*C9.05.a. |
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| **\*C9.12.** | The pastor of this congregationa. shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation;b. shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the NALC; andc. shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations. |
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| **\*C9.13.** | The pastor(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the NALC at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the NALC. |
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| **Chapter 10.** | **Congregation Meeting** |
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| **C10.01.** | The semiannual meetingsof this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws. |
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| **C10.02.** | A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Executive Board, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of the congregation upon the written request of ten (10) of the 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. |
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| **C10.03.** | Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail to all members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient. |
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| **C10.04.** | Twenty (20) percent or 75voting members, whichever is lesser,shall constitute a quorum. |
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| **C10.05.** | Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted. |
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| **C10.06.** | All actions approved by the congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting memberspresent and voting,except as otherwise provided in this constitution. |
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| **C10.07.** | Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation. |
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| **Chapter 11.** | **Officers** |
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| **C11.01.**  | The officers of this congregation shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Past Chair.a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation. c. Officers of this congregation shall serve similar offices of the Executive Board and, except the Past Chair, shall be voting members of the Executive Board.  |
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| **C11.02.** | The officers shall be elected by the congregation by written ballot and shall serve for two years. The term shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of the following year. |
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| **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. |
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| **Chapter 12.** | **Executive Board** |
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| **C12.01.** | The voting membership of the Executive Board shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and not more than five or fewer than three other members of the congregation.Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Executive Board shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from two successive regular meetings of the Executive Board without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Executive Board in other circumstances*.*  |
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| **C12.02.** | The members of the Executive Board except the pastor(s) shall be elected at a legally called meeting of the congregation during the month of November. Their term of office shall be for two years, with the term of office beginning on January one (1) and ending on December 31 of the following year. Newly elected Executive Board members shall be installed at worship prior to the date they assume office. |
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| **C12.03.** | Should a member's place on the Executive Board be declared vacant, the Executive Board shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the expiration of the term being vacated. Individuals who have served less than one-half of a regular term shall be eligible for nomination and possible election to a full term. |
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| **C12.04.** | The Executive Board shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the NALC. The duties of the Executive Board shall include the following:a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor. h. To emphasize partnership with the NALC as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the NALC*.* i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the NALC.j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel. |
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| **C12.05.** | The Executive Board shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.a. The Executive Board 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 Oklahoma, except as otherwise provided herein. b. The Executive Board shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.c. The Executive Board may enter into contracts of up to $5,000 for items not included in the budget. d. The Executive Board shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption. The budget shall include this congregation's full-indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the NALC. e. The Executive Board shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the NALC treasurer.f. The Executive Board shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program. |
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| **C12.06.** | The Executive Board shall see that the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws and the continuing resolutions are carried out. |
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| **C12.07.** | The Executive Board shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster. |
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| **C12.08.** | The Executive Board in consultation with the pastor shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this congregation. |
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| **C12.09.** | The Executive Board shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation annually.  |
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| **C12.11.** | The Executive Board shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the chair of the Executive Board, and shall be called by the chair of the Executive Board at the request of at least one-half of its members or by the written petition of at least 10 voting members of the congregation. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present. |
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| **C12.12.** | A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Executive Board, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when the pastor or interim pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Executive Board, following consultation with the NALC.  |
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| **Chapter 13.** | **Congregation Committees** |
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| **C13.01.** | A **Nominating Committee** of six voting members of this congregation shall be appointed by the Executive Board. If possible, two shall be outgoing members of the Executive Board. |
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| **C13.02.** | An **Audit Committee** of three voting members shall be elected by the Executive Board. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Executive Board. Term of office shall be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall not be eligible for consecutive reelection. |
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| **C13.03.** | A **Mutual Ministry Committee** shall be appointed jointly by the chair of the Executive Board and the pastor. Term of office shall be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year. |
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| **C13.04.** | When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a **Call Committee** of at least six voting members shall be elected by the Executive Board. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor. |
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| **C13.05.** | **Other Committees** of this congregation may be formed, as the need arises, by decision of the Executive Board. |
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| **C13.06.** | Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in the Bylawsand/or Continuing Resolutions. |
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| **Chapter 14.** | **Organizations Within the Congregation** |
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| **C14.01.** | All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation’s life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances. |
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| **C14.02.** | Special interest groups, other than those of the official organizations of the NALC, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Executive Board and specified in a continuing resolution. |
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| **Chapter 15.** | **Discipline of Members and Adjudication** |
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| **\*C15.01.** | Denial of the Christian faith as described in 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: a) private admonition by the pastor, b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and c) citation to appear before the Executive Board. If for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a. and b. hereof, the chair of the Executive Board (if not the pastor) or vice chair of the Executive Board shall administer such admonitions. |
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| **\*C15.02.** | The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the NALC. If discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor, who shall advise the Executive Board of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Executive Board. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused. A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Executive Board after having received a written citation, at least ten days prior to the meeting. If the member charged with the offense fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Executive Board may proceed with the hearing and may pass judgment in the member’s absence. |
| **\*C15.03.** | Members of the Executive Board who participate in the preparation of the written charges or who present evidence or testimony in the hearing before the Executive Board are disqualified from voting upon the question of the guilt of the accused member. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Executive Board who are not disqualified but who are present and voting, and renewed admonition prove ineffectual the Executive Board shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:a. censure before the Executive Board or congregation;b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; orc. exclusion from membership in this congregation.Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.  |
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| **\*C15.04.** | The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Executive Board shall have the right to appeal the decision to the NALC. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the NALC shall be final. |
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| **\*C15.05.** | Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Executive Board upon receipt of:a. evidence that injustice has been done orb. evidence of repentance and amendment. |
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| **\*C15.10.** | **Adjudication** |
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| **\*C15.11.** | Where there is disagreement among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation shall have access to the NALC bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Executive Board of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of the NALC shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the NALC shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the NALC Council, whose decision shall be final. |
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| **Chapter 16.** | **Bylaws** |
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| **\*C16.01.** | This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution. |
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| **\*C16.02.** | Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting. |
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| **\*C16.03.** | Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Executive Board at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Executive Board notify the congregation’s members by mailof the proposal with the council’srecommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. |
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| **\*C16.04.** | Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the NALC. |
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| **Chapter 17.** | **Amendments** |
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| **\*C17.01.** | Those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the model constitution for Congregations of the NALC, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least 10% of the votingmembers or by the Executive Board. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Executive Board 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Executive Board shall notify the congregation’s members by mail of the proposal together with the council’s recommendation at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. |
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| **\*C17.02.** | An amendment to this constitution, proposed under \*C17.01. shall:a. be approved at a legally called Congregation Meeting according to this constitution by amajority vote of those present and voting;b. be ratified without change at the next semi-annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; andc. have the effective date included in the resolution[[1]](#footnote-1) and noted in the constitution. |
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| **\*C17.03.** | Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in \*C17.01. and\*C17.02.shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the NALC. The amendment shall become effective within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the NALC unless the NALC informs this congregation that the amendment is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the NALC. |
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| **\*C17.04.** | Whenever the Model Constitution for Congregations is amended by the NALC Convocation or NALC Churchwide Assembly, this constitution may be amended to incorporate any such amendment by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any subsequent meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Executive Board has submitted by mail notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with Executive Board’s recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Following the adoption of an amendment, such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval. |
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| **Chapter 18.** | **Continuing Resolutions** |
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| **\*C18.01.** | The Executive Board may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation. |

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| **\*C18.02.** | Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Executive Board. |
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| **Chapter 19.** | **Indemnification** |
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| **\*C19.01.** | Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt provisions providing indemnification for each person who, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Congregation Council or Executive Board 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 complete civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding. |
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1. **Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of \*C17.03. to allow time for a NALC review of the amendment.** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)