

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF
HOPE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Shorewood, Illinois**

PREAMBLE

It is the will of God that His disciples should preach the Gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). That Christ's mission for His Church might be carried out according to His Will, He has commanded that Christians unite in worship (Hebrews 10:24-25), practice fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42), witness to all men (Acts 1:8), help each other grow in the Word (Ephesians 4:11-14), serve the needs of all men in the Word in Christian love (Ephesians 4:7-16, Mark 10:42-44, John 13:35, Galatians 6:10), administer the Office of the Keys as His Church (John 20:21-23, Matthew 18:15-29), and maintain decency and order (1 Corinthians 14:40) in the Church.

Therefore, we as members of Hope Lutheran Church in Shorewood, Illinois accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and by-laws in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation shall be governed.

MISSION STATEMENT

We make disciples by inviting people to become more like Jesus by

Coming and seeing him, (*John 1:39*)
Coming and following him, (*Matthew 4:19*)
Coming and being with him, (*Mark 3:14*) and
Going and remaining in him (*John 15:5*)

For a God-given impact on the world

**ARTICLE I:
NAME**

The name of this congregation shall be:
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church of Shorewood, Illinois.

ARTICLE II:
CONFESSION OF FAITH

This congregation accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired and revealed Word of God, and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as the correct presentation and true exposition of Christian Doctrine drawn from the Holy Scriptures:

The Three Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostle Creed, The Nicene Creed, and
the Athanasian Creed
The Unaltered Augsburg Confession of 1530
The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
The Smalcald Articles
Luther's Large Catechism
Luther's Small Catechism
The Formula of Concord

According to this confession of faith all matters of doctrine, conscience, and Christian Life shall be decided and guided.

ARTICLE III:
SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

This congregation shall be affiliated with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as long as the confessions and Constitution of said Synod are in accordance with the confession and Constitution of this congregation as laid down in Article II.

This congregation shall, to the best of its ability, participate with said Synod and assist it in effecting all sound measures intended for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE IV:
MEMBERSHIP

A. Baptized Membership

Baptized membership in this congregation is held by all those who are baptized in the Name of the Triune God with water and are under our pastoral and spiritual care.

B. Communicant Membership

Communicant membership in this congregation may be held only by those who:

1. are baptized in the name of the Triune God.
2. have declared their acceptance of the confessions of this congregation as contained in Article II of this Constitution.
3. have been accepted into communicant membership in accordance with the by-laws of this congregation and shall remain faithful to the responsibilities of membership as contained in these by-laws. (by-laws, Article I)
4. lead a Godly life and do not live in manifest works of the flesh. (Galatians 5:19-21)
5. are not members or shall not become members of any organization whose principles and practices conflict with the Word of God and the Christian faith. (II Cor. 6:14-18)

C. Requirements of Membership

Requirements of membership are as follows:

1. Members shall worship and commune regularly with the congregation. (Acts 2:42)
2. Members shall continue to grow in the Word of God through Christian Education and Bible Study.
3. Members shall support the work of the Christian Congregation by contributing regularly and faithfully of their time, talents and treasures as God blesses them.

D. Membership Privileges

The membership and membership privileges of each communicant member shall remain in force so long as each member shall maintain his/her eligibility according to the points enumerated in Sections B and C of this article and shall meet the requirements stated or implied in the disciplinary or other provisions of the by-laws. A member who voluntarily severs his/her connection with this congregation or who has been released or transferred, or who has been excommunicated or has excluded him/herself according to the provisions of the by-laws, shall be deemed to have terminated his/her membership in this congregation along with all rights and privileges of that membership.

**ARTICLE V:
ORGANIZATION**

A. Voting Membership

This congregation shall be represented by, and shall administer all its affairs through its voting membership. Only communicant members, who have qualified according to the membership provisions of the by-laws, shall be received as voting members of the congregation.

B. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of three officers of the congregation and four at-large members. The Officers shall be the President, Secretary and Financial Officer. They shall hold a position on the Board of Directors by virtue of their election by the voting members of the congregation for a term of three years and are eligible to be elected three times to a specific position.

C. Rights and Powers

This congregation, subject to the limiting provision and regulations of this Constitution and its associated by-laws, shall have supreme power in the administration of its affairs. No duly elected officers of this congregation shall have any power or authority beyond that conferred upon them by the congregation acting through its voting membership. The Board of Directors, shall be responsible for the performance of such duties as the voting membership may delegate to them by special resolution. Such specially delegated rights and powers shall be subject to revision or complete withdrawal by the voting membership at its discretion.

D. Legal Trustees

The Legal Trustees of Hope Lutheran Church shall be the President, the Financial Officer, and the Secretary. They shall hold the position of legal Trustees by virtue of their election to their respective offices, as provided in the by-laws. Their term of office as Legal Trustees shall be concurrent with that of their respective offices, as provided in the by-laws.

**ARTICLE VI:
PASTORS AND COMMISSIONED CHURCH WORKERS**

Only such candidates shall be called and elected to serve as Pastors or Commissioned Church Workers, who profess acceptance of, and pledge faithful adherence to, the confessions of this congregation as set forth in Article II of this Constitution. Said candidates shall be on the Ordained Ministers or Commissioned Church Workers rosters of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

In the absence of adequate cause for dismissal, as defined in the by-laws of the constitution, the tenure of office of a called or elected Pastor or Commissioned Church Worker shall be the remainder of his/her active life, or until the Lord calls him/her into another field of service.

**ARTICLE VII:
PROPERTY RIGHTS**

If, at any time, a separation should take place within this congregation, the advice of the officers of District and Synod shall be sought. If, despite all efforts to compose differences in peace and love, a division into factions of the congregation shall occur, the property of the congregation and all benefits therewith connected shall remain with those members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Articles II, III, IV, and VI of this Constitution.

**ARTICLE VIII:
VALIDITY OF RESOLUTIONS**

All congregational matters shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the qualified voting members present at the properly convened meeting of the voting membership, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and its associated by-laws for dealing with certain specific situations or matters therein specifically mentioned and defined.

**ARTICLE IX:
AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be changed or amended with the exception listed below, by a three fourths majority of the votes cast in a regular meeting of the voting membership, provided that the intention to amend the Constitution and the wording of the amendments proposed shall be communicated to the congregation over two different weekends prior to the date upon which the amendment is presented for action.

Articles II, III, IV, and VII are hereby made irrevocable and unchangeable.

BY-LAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP

A. Application for Membership - Procedure

Applicants for communicant membership in this congregation shall consult the Pastor, who shall determine whether such applicants are eligible for membership in accordance with Article IV of the Constitution. Applicants not familiar with the doctrines and confessions of the Lutheran Church, as set forth in its confessional stance found in Article II of this Constitution, shall be required to attend a course of instruction, and to make profession of their faith before the congregation or, at the Pastor's discretion, before the Pastor and witnesses from the congregation, prior to being received as members.

Applicants from other Evangelical Lutheran churches shall submit a request for a letter of transfer from their former congregation to establish their eligibility for membership. In the case of applicants whose previous membership in a Lutheran congregation has lapsed, the Pastor may arrange for a period of re-instruction prior to reaffirmation of faith for such applicant.

After applicants have given satisfactory evidence of their eligibility in accordance with the two preceding paragraphs, their admission as communicant members shall be recommended by the Pastor to the Church Board of Directors, which shall have the authority to act on such application on behalf of the voting membership. The roster of new members shall be publicized to the congregation.

B. Privileges and Duties of Communicant Members

It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

1. Receive Pastoral Care.
2. Grow in the Christian faith and life through faithful use of the Means of Grace, searching the Scriptures at home, conducting and participating in worship around the Family Altar, worshipping with other members of the congregation and partaking of the Lord's Supper frequently and regularly.
3. Live a morally decent life before God and men, and abstain from open works of the flesh (Gal. 5:18-21), and so conduct themselves at all times as to bring credit, rather than blame, upon the Church of Jesus Christ.
4. Provide for the proper Christian training of their children by instruction at home and through the educational ministries of the church, so that the children may be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

5. Contribute toward the maintenance of the congregation and the extension of the Kingdom of God at home and abroad to the limit of their financial ability and as the Lord blesses them.

6. Place their God-given time, talent and abilities at the disposal of the Pastor, the Board of Directors, and other ministries of the congregation as set forth in its Constitution and by-laws, so that the purposes and functions of the congregation may be effectively implemented.

ARTICLE II: **VOTING MEMBERSHIP**

A. Eligibility

Any communicant member of this congregation who is 18 years of age or older shall be a voting member if:

1. They attend worship on a regular basis.
2. They agree to abide by the Constitution of Hope Lutheran Church.

After applicants have given satisfactory evidence of their eligibility in accordance with the above criteria, their admission as voting members shall be recommended by the Pastor to the Church Board of Directors, which shall have the authority to act on such application on behalf of the voting membership. The roster of new voting members shall be publicized to the congregation.

B. Privileges and Duties of Voting Members

It shall be the privilege and duty of a voting member of this congregation to:

1. Conscientiously and prayerfully exercise his/her right of suffrage in all measures that will advance the work of Christ's Kingdom, both locally and in the church-at-large.
2. Willingly serve in any office or capacity for which his/her talents and abilities equip him/her.
3. Faithfully attend all meetings of the voting membership. Assist with wholehearted diligence in administering the temporal and spiritual affairs of the congregation.

C. Termination of Voting Membership

The Board of Directors will review names as brought to it by the Pastor. The Board will vote on whether or not to terminate their membership. Names will be brought to the congregation for vote at the next Voters' Meeting.

**ARTICLE III:
DISCIPLINE IN THE CONGREGATION**

All discipline in this congregation shall be administered in accordance-with the order of discipline laid down in Matthew 18:15-20, I Cor. 5:1-5, and other related New Testament passages. The following procedures shall be followed under the direction of the Pastor and the Board of Directors.

A. Membership Termination

1. Transfers: A member desiring transfer to another Lutheran Congregation shall apply to the Pastor. Upon approval by the Pastor, he shall issue a letter of transfer.
2. Joining Other Churches: In cases where members of this congregation have joined a non-Lutheran congregation, they shall, upon the decision of the Pastor(s) and the Board of Directors, be deemed to have terminated their membership in this congregation, forfeiting all rights and privileges of such membership. Their name(s) shall be removed from the membership roster of the congregation.
3. Whereabouts Unknown: The names of members whose whereabouts are unknown and cannot be established within a period of two years, shall be removed from the membership roster of the congregation.
4. Lack of Attendance: When a member of Hope Evangelical Church has not worshipped for two years, he/she shall no longer be considered a member and will be removed from the membership roster.
5. Excommunication: Matthew 18; Does not lead a godly life and manifests works of the flesh.
6. Process: The Pastor will bring any terminations of membership to the Board of Directors who shall act on it by vote to confirm such termination on behalf of the congregation. The action shall then be publicized to the church and shall be reported as such at the next regular meeting of the Voters' Meeting.

B. Provisions Pertaining to members of the Board of Directors

Any member of the Board of Directors of the congregation who willfully neglects the duties of his office, may be deposed by a two-thirds-majority vote of the voting members present in a regular meeting of the Voters' Meeting. A majority of the Board of Directors shall initiate such disciplinary action. When an office is made vacant by deposition, resignation, death, or excommunication of the incumbent, a successor to such position shall be elected by the voting membership at the next meeting.

C. Provisions Pertaining to Ordained or Commissioned Minister:

Sufficient grounds for deposing ordained or commissioned ministers on the rosters of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, shall be persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, and willful neglect of official duties, or evident and protracted incapacity to perform the function of the sacred office. Charges on any of these counts shall be carefully investigated by the Board of Directors. Should such charges be substantiated by clear evidence, the individual involved shall first be given an opportunity to resign their position in the congregation. Such opportunity having been given and declined, the Board of Directors shall, after consultation with the appropriate officers of the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, notify the voting membership of the situation and shall submit the matter for action at a special meeting of that body. A three-fourths majority vote of the voting members present shall be required to remove ordained or commissioned ministers from office.

Should the occasion to remove an ordained or commissioned minister of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, arise, the intended removal shall be announced by the President of the Board of Directors at regular divine services of the two weekends preceding a special meeting of the voting membership called for that purpose. All voting members shall be notified at least two weeks in advance.

**ARTICLE IV:
MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION**

A. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the voting membership shall be held semi-annually for approval of budgets and nominations/election of officers. Dates and times of all Voter's Meetings shall be set by the Board of Directors. Notice of the time and date of such a meeting, and the nature of the business to be transacted, shall be given at all services on two consecutive weekends preceding the date of the meeting.

All communicant members of the congregation may attend the Voters' Meetings and may, with the consent of the voting membership, submit recommendations or participate in a discussion of any given item of business before the voting membership.

B. Special Meetings

Special Voters' Meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or the Pastor. Notice of the time and date of such a meeting, and the nature of the business to be transacted, shall be given at all services on two consecutive weekends preceding the date of the meeting.

C. Restriction Pertaining to Voters' Meetings

Attending voting members of a properly called Voters' Meeting shall constitute a quorum,

except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and by-laws for dealing with certain specific situations defined herein.

In the event of a tie vote, the Pastor shall cast the deciding ballot. Voting by proxy shall be allowed at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

D. Special Quorum

All voting members present at a valid Voters' Meeting, including those that vote by proxy, shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V: THE OFFICE OF PASTOR AND COMMISSIONED CHURCH WORKERS

A. Procedure for Securing a Pastor or Commissioned Church Worker

The right of calling a Pastor(s) or Commissioned Church Worker shall ever be vested in the congregation, and shall not be delegated to a smaller body, or to an individual.

B. Calling a Pastor

The Board of Directors shall administer the following process for calling a Pastor:

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Call Committee consisting of a cross section of the congregation as well as at least one Board Member. The Committee shall consist of an uneven number of members.
2. When a vacancy in the Pastoral Office occurs, the Board of Directors shall request a list of candidates from the President of the Northern Illinois District or his representative.
3. The Board of Directors shall present its recommendations at the next regular Voters' Meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.
4. At that meeting, and at two weekend services following, the Board of Directors shall request from members of the congregation, the names and addresses of possible candidates for the Pastoral Office. This list of nominations shall then be submitted to the District President with the request that he secure information on these men, and prepare a list of candidates for submission to the Call Committee.
5. At a meeting of the Call Committee, the nominees received from the District President and reviewed by the Board of Directors, shall be presented. The Committee shall then adopt the list of candidates and the election by ballot shall proceed as follows: (1) after the first ballot, the name(s) receiving no votes and the name(s) receiving the lowest

number of votes shall be removed from consideration; (2) after the second and succeeding ballots, the name receiving the lowest number of votes shall be removed; (3) when a name has received a majority of the votes cast, he shall be presented to the voting members.

6. At a regular or special Voters' Meeting, the nominee shall be presented. The voting members shall vote. The nominee must receive a 3/4 majority of the votes cast to be elected.

7. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to promptly notify the candidate of his election. The Congregation shall endeavor to provide their elected Pastor with the information he requests in making a God-pleasing decision, and to that end they shall regularly remember him in their prayers. If the Pastor they have elected declines their call, the congregation shall repeat the process described in the preceding paragraphs.

C. The Office of the Pastor

The Pastoral Office is the authority conferred upon pastors by God, through a call of the congregation (the holder of the priesthood and of all congregational authority) to exercise in public office the common rights of spiritual priesthood in behalf of all. The Pastoral Office is the primary office in the congregation from which all other offices are derived. However, the congregation may establish as many auxiliary offices as its needs require and determine what work is to be assigned to such offices.

Upon being installed, the Pastor is authorized and obligated to proclaim to the congregation, corporately and individually, the Word of God in its full truth and purity as contained in the Scriptural writings of the Old and New Testaments and professed in the Book of Concord of the year 1580 (see Article II and VI of this Constitution; Ephesians 4:11-16, II Timothy 3:14-17). He is further authorized and obligated to:

1. Administer the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion in accordance with their divine institution (I Cor. 4:1-2);
2. Perform toward all members the functions of a minister and pastor of their souls in an evangelical manner; in particular to aid, counsel, and guide members of all ages and social conditions; to visit the sick, the shut-in, and the dying; and to admonish the indifferent and erring (Acts 20:28);
3. Guard the spiritual welfare of the younger members and of adults during their preparation for receiving Holy Communion (II Timothy 4:1-4);
4. Guide the congregation in applying the divinely ordained discipline of the church (II Timothy 2:1-2);
5. Promote and guide the mission activity of the congregation as it is related to the local community and to the District and Synod, in particular to train workers and guide them in

evangelism activities and to enlist the support of the congregation for mission work generally (II Timothy 4:5);

6. Provide spiritual leadership and oversight in the educational ministries and the various adult and youth organizations within the congregation (II Timothy 4:2);

7. Assist the congregation in adopting administrative policies and procedures which will help it carry out the mission of a Christian congregation (Acts 6:1-6);

8. Endeavor earnestly to live in brotherly unity with the members, since by reason of his position he is not only a servant and steward of God, but also in partnership with the members in the work of proclaiming the Gospel (Phil. 1:3-5, I Timothy 5:1-2);

9. Serve as an example by Christian conduct and do all that is possible for the up-building of the congregation and for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ (I Timothy 3:1-7).

10. Seek to maintain a professional standard of ministry through continual education.

Members of the congregation are obligated, because of his office, to:

1. Receive the Pastor as the servant and under-shepherd of Christ (I Corinthians 4:1);

2. Give him honor, love, and obedience in his ministry of God's Word (I Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 13:17); and support his ministry with diligent and faithful assistance and prayers (Hebrews 13:18);

3. Provide for his maintenance according to the ability of the congregation (I Timothy 5:17-18);

4. Provide time and funds for professional growth.

In calling a Pastor to preach the Word of God and to administer the Sacraments on their behalf, the members of the congregation exercise their royal priesthood, and by no means relinquish it. This is the privilege and responsibility of all members of the Church.

D. Calling a Commissioned Church Worker

The Board of Directors shall administer the following process for calling a Commissioned Church Worker when the need arises:

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Call Committee consisting of a cross section of the congregation as well as at least one Board Member. The Committee shall consist of an uneven number of members.

2. The Board of Directors shall request a list of candidates from the President of the Northern Illinois District or his representative.
3. The Board of Directors shall present its recommendations at the next regular Voters' Meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.
4. At that meeting, and at two weekend services following, the Board of Directors shall request from members of the congregation, the names and addresses of possible candidates for the Commissioned Church Worker position. This list of nominations shall then be submitted to the District President with the request that he secure information on the nominees, and prepare a list of candidates for submission to the Call Committee.
5. At a meeting of the Call Committee, the nominees received from the District President and reviewed by the Board of Directors, shall be presented. The Committee shall then adopt the list of candidates, and the election by ballot shall proceed as follows: (1) after the first ballot, the name(s) receiving no votes and the name(s) receiving the lowest number of votes shall be removed from consideration; (2) after the second and succeeding ballots, the name receiving the lowest number of votes shall be removed; (3) when a name has received a majority of the votes cast, he shall be presented to the voting membership.
6. At a regular or special Voters' Meeting, the nominee shall be presented. The voting members shall vote. The nominee must receive a 3/4 majority of the votes cast to be elected.
7. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to promptly notify the candidate of his/her election. The Congregation shall endeavor to provide their elected Church Worker with the information he/she requests in making a God-pleasing decision, and to that end they shall regularly remember him/her in their prayers. If the Church Worker they have elected declines their call, the congregation shall repeat the process described in the preceding paragraphs.

ARTICLE VI:
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Nomination Procedure

1. In February the Board of Directors will appoint a nominating committee, consisting of two (2) members of the current Board and up to three (3) church members. The Pastor shall serve as an advisor to the committee.
2. The Nominating Committee is charged to select qualified candidate(s) for each position up for election. Candidates are nominated to a specific position based on their spiritual gifts, and their ability to perform the tasks of that position. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and be a voting member. A member may not be nominated without

his/her consent.

2.1 The Nominating Committee shall solicit names from the congregation to be considered for the open position(s). These individuals will be interviewed by the Nominating Committee to determine who will make the best fit to serve on the Board of Directors.

2.2 Staff members of the congregation, or their spouses, who are compensated for more than ten hours per week shall not be eligible to serve in elected positions of the congregation.

3. The Nominating Committee will interview all candidates before the election and prepare a list to be presented to the voting membership. The voting members will ratify or reject the list of candidates.

4. Officers and Board Members shall be elected at the May Voters' Meeting by majority ballot.

5. The terms of the Officers and Board Members shall be three years. Every Officer and Board Member is eligible to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. Terms will begin on June 1 and end on May 31, three years following.

5.1 The 1st year of Board elections will have the following terms. When the first term is over for each position, all positions will have three-year terms:

President and two at large members: three years.

Financial Officer and third at large member: two years.

Secretary and fourth at large member: one year.

6. Officers and Board Members shall be placed into office during a worship service of the congregation in the month of June.

7. In case of a vacancy in an elected office, the Board shall appoint a member to fulfill the duties of that office until the next regularly scheduled election, at which time that office will be up for election.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

General Functions and Powers of the Board of Directors

A. Duties of Officers

1. President - The President conducts meetings of the Board of Directors and the voting

membership. The President shall enforce the Constitution, bylaws, and policies of the congregation and otherwise perform such duties as pertain to the office; and shall serve as the Chief Governance Officer. He/she shall appoint a Financial Review Committee to review all church books as laid out in the bylaws. He/she shall be empowered to sign checks in the event of the unavailability or incapacity of the Financial Officer for the congregation and authorized purposes. He/she shall be empowered to sign documents on behalf of the Board or congregation when duly instructed. The President shall speak on behalf of the congregation on all external matters.

2. Financial Officer - The Financial Officer is responsible for the financial activities of the congregation and ensures that all members of the Board understand the financial reporting and actual financial condition of the congregation.

3. Secretary - The Secretary shall record the minutes of the Voters' and Board Meetings. He/she shall register all members attending the meetings and submit minutes for approval at the following meeting of either the congregation or Board. The Secretary shall maintain the official copies of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Board Policy Manual. He/she shall provide copies of the Constitution, Bylaws, and the Policy Manual to the members of the Board and/or voting members of the congregation as requested.

4. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for developing and maintaining a Board of Directors Policy Manual. File copies will be kept at the church office.

4.1 Specific Function of the Board of Directors

4.1.1 Shall establish Policy Manual for effective governance;

4.1.2 Shall establish policy for strategic direction of the congregation;

4.1.3 Shall seek direction from congregational voting members to fulfill the mission of the congregation;

4.1.4 Shall establish parameters for the Pastor

4.1.5 Shall approve the Pastor's yearly plan of ministry and programs for the congregation prior to the November Voters' Meeting.

4.1.6 Shall oversee and appraise the work of the Pastor;

4.1.7 Shall coordinate long-range planning for capital needs with input from the Pastor and congregation;

4.1.8 Shall prepare the agenda and set dates and times for the Voters' Meetings;

4.1.9 Shall appoint a director to fill unexpired terms of Officers or Board Member at-large positions until the next Voters' Meeting when a director can be voted on according to Bylaw III, B;

4.1.10 Shall review the preliminary budget prior to the November Voters' Meeting and recommend changes, if necessary, based upon overall congregational needs;

4.1.11 Shall, in the case of necessity, be empowered to incur without specific approval of the congregation, an expenditure not to exceed the amount of \$10,000 in excess of the amount approved in the budget;

4.1.12 Shall communicate regularly with the congregation.

4.2 The Board of Directors shall exercise its governing authority as a whole. No individual officer or member shall exercise such authority except as authorized by the Board. Further, all Board decisions governing the actions of the Pastor and other staff members shall be accomplished through policy or resolution.

B. The Legal Trustees

The duties of the Legal Trustees of this congregation shall to obtain legal information necessary on the laws governing religious, non-profit corporations, and for the wise consideration of contracts, deeds, and the like by the congregation; to represent the congregation in all legal matters; and to sign official documents and contracts that have been negotiated and approved by the congregation.