

**CONSTITUTION  
CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN**

**Preamble**

The Word of God requires that a Christian congregation shall conform to this Divine Word in doctrine and practice (Ps. 119:105; Matt. 26:18-20; Gal. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 4:1-5) and that all things be done decently and in order (I Cor. 14:40).

Therefore, we, the members of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of Bloomfield Township, Michigan set forth this constitution and by-laws, by which all congregational affairs shall be governed.

**Article I - Name**

The name of this congregation shall be "Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of Bloomfield Township, Michigan."

**Article II - Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this congregation (corporation) shall be to reach out and bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ through dynamic worship of God, vigorous study of His Word, the administration of the Sacraments, loving care for one another and committed support of His work throughout the world.

This Corporate Body shall have all the rights and the powers that are granted by the Laws of the State of Michigan to religious corporations.

**Article III - Declaration of Creed**

A. This congregation accepts and acknowledges all the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as the Inspired Word of God and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and sound exposition of Christian Doctrine, taken from and in full agreement with the Holy Scriptures. These are:

1. The Three Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostolic, Nicene, Athanasian
2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession
3. The Apology of the same
4. The Smalcald Articles
5. Luther's Small Catechism
6. Luther's Large Catechism
7. The Formula of Concord.

- B. In this Congregation, no Doctrine shall be taught or tolerated which is at variance with these Symbolical Books; and, in accordance with these, all Doctrinal controversies which may arise shall be decided and settled.

#### **Article IV - Membership**

The membership of this congregation includes baptized, confirmed and voting members. The admission of new members and termination of membership shall be set forth in policies established by the Church Council, in accordance with the spirit of the constitution. The types of membership are as follows:

A. Baptized Members

Baptized members are all persons who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God, whether children or adult, and come under the pastoral care of this congregation. It is expected of baptized members that they:

1. Lead a Christian life as taught in Galatians 5:19-26
2. Are not members of any organization conflicting with the Word of God and the conduct of a Christian (2 Cor. 6:14-18).

B. Confirmed Members

Confirmed members are all baptized persons within the congregation who have received an approved course of instruction in Christian doctrine. In addition to the responsibilities of baptized members, it is expected of all confirmed members that they:

1. Accept and declare their adherence to all the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as the only divine rule and standard of faith and life as laid down in particular in the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism.
2. Are willing, for the sake of Christian love and peace, to submit to brotherly admonition, according to Matthew 18 and to abide with the regulations made by the Congregation, as far as such regulations are in conformity with the Word of God.

C. Voting Membership

All Confirmed members of the congregation who have signed this constitution shall be entitled to vote, but shall not be eligible to hold Council or other elected office until they reach the age of eighteen (18).

## **Article V - The Pastoral and other Called Offices**

A. The Pastoral Office and other Called Offices of this congregation shall be conferred upon such Ministers only as profess and adhere to the confessional standard set forth in Article III of this Constitution and are well qualified for their work. Any Minister shall, if the Call extended and accepted, be pledged to this confessional standard.

B. The Pastor(s) shall serve as ex-officio member(s) of all boards, committees, societies and organizations of the congregation and shall have all rights and privileges to participate, vote, etc., on said boards, committees, etc.

## **Article VI - Powers of the Congregation**

A. The Congregation as a body, through its voting members organized as a Voter's Assembly, shall have supreme power to manage its external and internal affairs. The establishment and conduct of all organizations, societies and institutions within the Congregation shall be subject at all times to the approval of the Voter's Assembly. However, the Voter's Assembly shall not be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church (Article III) and any such decision shall be null and void.

### **B. Right of Calling**

The right of Calling Pastors and others shall be vested in the congregation through the Voter's Assembly and shall never be delegated to a smaller body or to an individual. The Church Council may authorize the hiring of non-called staff as approved in the annual budget or by the Voter's Assembly.

### **C. Election of Council**

The Voter's Assembly shall elect a nine (9) member Church Council. The nomination and election of the Council shall be as specified in the by-laws.

### **D. Powers of Church Council and Officers**

The Church Council and all Congregational Officers or committees shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them. Such authority may, at any time, be altered or revoked by the Voter's Assembly.

### **E. Church Council Actions Requiring Prior Approval of the Voter's Assembly**

The Church Council shall obtain prior approval of the Voter's Assembly on the following items/actions:

1. Annual Financial Operating Plan (Budget)
2. Acquisition or disposal of any single asset or liability that exceeds 5% of the annual operating budget.
3. Calling or removal of Called Staff.
4. Dissolution of the congregation.

F. Removal from Office

Any called person, officer or other serving member may be removed from office by the Congregation through the Voter's Assembly by ballot, in Christian and lawful order for one of the following causes: inability to perform or willful neglect of official duties; scandalous life; persistent adherence to false doctrine. Such action shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present at a properly convened meeting.

G. Decisions

All matters shall be decided by a majority vote at a properly convened meeting of the Voter's Meeting, unless otherwise specified by the Constitution or by-laws.

**Article VII --- Powers of the Church Council**

A. The Church Council shall elect from its membership a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Financial Director.

B. The Chairman and Secretary shall sign all legal documents.

C. The Church Council shall have the power to develop and implement those policies and procedures as required to execute the plans approved by the Voter's Assembly. Written policies and procedures shall be available to voting members upon request. The Council shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them by the Constitution, its by-laws or by the Voter's Assembly, and powers delegated to them may at any time be altered or revoked by the Voter's Assembly.

D. Duties of the Council

1. The Council shall assist the Pastor(s) in all matters relating to the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

2. The Council shall watch over the life, doctrine and administration of the office of the Pastor(s) and Called Staff. The Council will monitor the welfare of the Pastor(s), Called and administrative staff, and provide pastoral care as appropriate. The Council shall supervise the Senior Pastor and ensure proper supervision of the staff. Such supervision shall enable the staff to develop and implement new strategies and programs to accomplish the mission as stated in Article II.

3. The Council shall transact or supervise the transaction of all legal and general business of the Congregation.

4. The Council shall supervise an annual audit of the financial operations of the church.

5. The Council shall conduct business within the limitations of the total Annual Budget as approved by the Voters' Assembly.

6. The Council shall annually report to the Voter's Assembly on the organizational and financial condition of the congregation. It shall also recommend an Annual Budget at the Voter's Assembly.

### **Article VIII - Property Rights**

All property of this congregation shall be held in the corporate name as stated in Article I. If, at any time, a separation should take place on account of Doctrine, the property of the Congregation and all benefits therewith connected shall remain with those Voting Members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article III of this Constitution. In the event this Congregation should disband, all property of the Congregation shall be disposed of by the final Voter's Assembly for the payment of debts, and any and all surplus, after due settlement of just claims against this Congregation, shall be transferred to the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

### **Article IX - Synodical Membership**

A. The Congregation shall hold membership in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod so long as said synod shall remain true to the confessional standard as set forth in Article III of this constitution.

B. It shall be the duty of the Congregation and its individual members to support the work of the Synod according to their ability.

### **Article X - By-laws**

This Congregation, through its Voter's Assembly, may adopt such By-laws as may be required for the accomplishment of its purpose.

### **Article XI - Changes and Additions**

A. Article III of this Constitution or sections thereof shall be unalterable and irrevocable.

B. The Constitution and its By-laws or any part thereof may be changed, amended or repealed, provided:

1. That they do not contradict the Word of God and the Declaration of the Creed of this Congregation (Article III); and

2. That the proposed amendment has been mailed to all voting members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting in which it is to be considered and announced at the Sunday Worship prior to the meeting.

3. The affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the voting membership present at a properly convened meeting shall be required for the adoption of an amendment.

