



For God who said,
“Let light shine out of darkness,”
made His light shine
in our hearts...

2 Corinthians 4:6

**CONSTITUTION
OF
PILGRIM LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

June, 2001

Revised June 2009

Bylaws revised June 2009

CONSTITUTION

PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Puyallup, Washington

January 2001

PREAMBLE

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

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

C1.01. The name of this congregation shall be **Pilgrim Lutheran Church of Puyallup, Washington.**

C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the **Pilgrim Lutheran Church** congregation is hereinafter designated as "this congregation".

C1.03. This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of **Washington.**

Chapter 2.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

C2.01 This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C2.02. This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

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

C2.03. This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.

C2.04. This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.

C2.05. This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

C2.06. This congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Church.

C2.07 This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 3.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.

C3.02. The Church 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. This church, 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.

Chapter 4.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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.

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 Scriptures, 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.

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 congregations.
- 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- h. foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy.

C4.04. This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregational Board shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational groups and shall review their actions. (Such Description shall be contained in continuing resolutions of the Congregational Board.)

C4.05. This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

Chapter 5.

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

C5.01. The powers of the congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.

C5.02. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregational Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.

C5.03. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregational Board or their organizational units in the congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:

- a. call a pastor;
- b. terminate the call of a pastor;
- c. appoint or terminate the appointment of associates in ministry in conformity with the applicable policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- d. approve the annual budget;
- e. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- f. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- g. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;

- h. elect its officers and Congregational Board, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
- i. terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Chapter 6.

Chapter 6.

CHURCH AFFILIATION

C6.01. This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the **Southwestern Washington Synod** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C6.02 This congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the Purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.

C6.03. This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in which this congregation:

- a. agrees to be responsible for its life as a Christian community.
- b. pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- c. agrees to call pastoral leadership from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod.
- d. agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution any bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or with the constitution of the synod.

C6.04. Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures to discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- d. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in C6.05.

C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 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 synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.
- c. The bishop of the synod 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 synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.

e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between this congregation and ELCA shall be terminated.

f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.

C6.06. If this congregation is considering relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

Chapter 7.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

C7.01. If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to the **Southwestern Washington Synod** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C7.02. If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.

C7.03. If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a regularly 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 Southwestern Washington Synod.

C7.04. If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a regularly 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 only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with the congregation by the established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of the congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Chapter 8.

MEMBERSHIP

C8.01. Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of the congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have

declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

- a. Baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or , having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
- b. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
- c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed during the current or preceding year.
- 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. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.

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

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

- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. support the work of this congregation and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

C8.05. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action by the Congregational Board; or
- e. 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.

Chapter 9.

THE PASTOR

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 regularly called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by this congregation to recommend the call, shall seek theadvice and help of the bishop of the synod.

C9.02 Only a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or who has been recommended for it by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship, provide pastoral care, and shall speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation, offer instructions, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead; supervise all schools and organizations of the congregation; shall install regularly elected members of the Congregational Board, and with the council administer discipline. Every pastor shall seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad, **and** shall impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications.

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.

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 synodical bishop and for the following reasons:

- 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term of years;
- 2) resignation of the pastor;
- 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; or
- 6) dissolution of the congregation.

b. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office, it shall be the responsibility of the bishop of the synod, when such difficulties are personally known or have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregational Board, or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, to investigate such conditions personally 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 synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of the synod shall 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 which imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the synod 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 synod. If either party fails to assent,

the congregation may dismiss the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a regularly called meeting after consultation with the bishop.

e. The foregoing procedure shall never be invoked when questions of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty are involved, all such cases being treated as disciplinary matters.

f. If in the course of the proceedings, it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint churchwide/synod fund and with housing provided by the congregation for a time mutually agreeable between congregation and synod.

C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor may be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregational Board.

C9.07. During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregational Board. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor.

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.

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 Congregational Board, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

C9.10. With the approval of the bishop of the synod the congregation may depart from C9.05.a. and call a pastor for a specific term of years. Detail 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 call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of C9.05.a.

C9.11. The pastor shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, and shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the synod.

C9.12. The pastor(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the synod Assembly.

Chapter 10

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

C10.01. The semi-annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.

C10.02. A special Congregational Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregational Board, or the president of this congregation, or at the written request of **ten per cent of** 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.

C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays **or** by mail to all voting 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.

C10.04. A quorum shall be ten percent of the voting membership of the congregation.

C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

C10.06. All actions by the congregation shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided in this constitution.

C10.07. Robert's rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

Chapter 11.

OFFICERS

C11.01. The officers of the Congregation shall be a president, a president-elect, a secretary, and a treasurer.

- a. The president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected by the voting members of the congregation by written ballot at the annual meeting of the congregation.
- b. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
- c. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- d. The officers of the congregation shall serve similar offices in the Congregational Board and shall be voting members of the Congregational Board except for the treasurer.

C11.02. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms except for the treasurer.

Chapter 12

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregational Board shall consist of the Lead Pastor, the officers of the congregation except for the treasurer, **and five members of the Board.** Any voting member may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregational Board shall be declared vacant if the member

- a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or
- b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregational Board without being excused in advance by the president.

C12.02. The members of the Congregational Board shall be elected at a legally called meeting of the congregation usually during the month of May. **Their term of office shall be for three years (rotating) with the term beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30 The vice president shall serve one year as vice president (President elect), one year as President, and shall then serve on the leadership**

development and nominating committee. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively except for the treasurer. Council members shall be installed at worship the Sunday prior to the date they assume office.

C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregational Board be declared vacant, the Congregational Board shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting when officers are elected.

C12.04. The Congregational Board shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation including long-range planning, policy making, financial accountability, and in particular its worship life. Its responsibility is to see that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Duties of the Congregational Board shall be defined in the by-laws.

C12.05. The Congregational Board shall see that the provisions of this constitution, its bylaws, and the continuing resolutions are carried out.

C12.06. The Congregational Board shall be responsible for the appointment and supervision of the senior pastor of this congregation and shall exercise this responsibility after considering the recommendations made by the Personnel Committee.

C12.07. The Congregational Board is responsible for ensuring an annual performance review is conducted on all staff.

C12.08. The Congregational Board is responsible for approving annual goals for the church.

C12.09. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregational Board, including at least one staff member, except when the staff member request or consent to be absent and have given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting.

Chapter 13.

STANDING COMMITTEES

C13.01. A **Leadership Development and** Nominating Committee shall be defined in the bylaws.

C13.02. An Audit Committee shall be defined in the bylaws.

C13.03. A Personnel Committee shall be defined in the bylaws.

C13.04. When a staff vacancy occurs that requires a Call Committee, the Congregational Board shall select a Call Committee of twelve members of the congregation. The term of office of this committee shall terminate upon the installation of the newly called staff person. The Call Committee shall select the chairperson of this committee from their members.

C13.05. Other congregational committees may be formed as the need arises by decision of the Congregational Board.

C13.06. Duties of congregational standing committees shall be specified in the bylaws.

Chapter 14.

ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

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. Each organization or group shall submit a written report for inclusion in the annual reports meeting booklet. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.

C14.02. Special interest groups, other than those of the official organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregational Board and specified in a continuing resolution..

Chapter 15

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

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 Congregational Board.

C15.02. A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregational Board having received a written notice, specifying the exact charges that have been made against the member, at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

C15.03. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the Congregational Board, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. censure before the council or congregation;
- b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
- e. exclusion from membership in this congregation.

Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.

C15.04. The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Congregational Board shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final.

C15.05. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregational Board upon receipt of

- a) evidence that injustice has been done or
- b) evidence of repentance and amendment.

Chapter 16.

BYLAWS

C16.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

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.

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 Congregational Board at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose and that the Congregational Board notify the members of the proposal with its recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregational Meeting.

C16.04. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent to the synod.

Chapter 17.

AMENDMENTS

C17.01. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least 12 voting members or by the Congregational Board. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregational Board 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Congregational Board shall notify the members of the proposal with their recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

C17.02. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. be approved at a properly called meeting of the congregation according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting.
- b. be ratified without change at the next semiannual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.

C17.03. Any amendments to this constitution shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The amendment shall become effective within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the synod unless the synod informs this congregation that the amendment is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or the constitution of the Southwestern Washington Synod.

Chapter 18.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

C18.01. The Congregational Board may enact continuing resolutions which describe the function of the various committees or organization of the congregation.

C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregational Board.