

# **REVISED CONSTITUTION OF ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

---

## **Article I. Name**

The name of this congregation is St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church. This congregation is an Ohio charitable, nonprofit corporation whose principal office is located at 5040 Rye Drive, in the City of Huber Heights, County of Montgomery.

## **Article II. Purposes**

The purpose of this congregation is to glorify God and to help extend His kingdom among men and women for their salvation by promoting and living the Christian religion as expressed in the doctrine and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

## **Article III. Confessional Standard**

This congregation accepts without reservation:

(A) the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament, as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice; and

(B) all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, which include the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord.

## **Article IV. Synodical Membership**

This congregation is a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which was decided by the congregation on May 15, 1994. The congregation will remain a member as long as the Synod conforms to the confessional standard in Article III.

## **Article V. Members**

All members of this congregation should strive to conform their entire life to the authority of God's Word. This includes making diligent use of the means of grace, exercising faithful stewardship of

God's many gifts and talents, imparting and accepting fraternal admonition, and being readily available to serve in the kingdom of Christ within and beyond the congregation. No member may belong to an organization whose principles or conduct conflict with the Word of God.

## **Article VI. Authority within the Congregation**

The voters assembly is the governing body of this congregation and has the power and authority to administer and manage all the congregation's affairs. But the voters assembly delegates its responsibility to govern and its power and authority to administer and manage all the congregation's affairs to the board of directors, except those powers and authorities expressly retained in this constitution and the bylaws. The voters assembly may review, revise, or revoke the exercise of any delegated power or authority.

All matters before the voters assembly are decided by a majority vote unless otherwise specified in this constitution or the bylaws. Matters of doctrine and conscience are decided only on the basis of the Word of God.

## **Article VII. Board of Directors**

The board of directors consists of the officers of this congregation and other representatives elected by the voters assembly. The board of directors exercises, or directs the exercise of, all corporate powers and authority (except those powers and authorities retained by the voters assembly) and manages all the affairs of this congregation.

## **Article VIII. Ministers of Religion**

This congregation may call one or more ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned.

### **8.1 Ordained ministers.**

The pastoral office may be conferred only on a man who is:

- (A) an ordained minister and a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- (B) a candidate for the pastoral ministry who has satisfied the Synod's qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls; or
- (C) an ordained minister and a member in good standing of a church body that has been formally recognized to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod, when an agreement for such a call is in place.

### **8.2 Commissioned ministers.**

A commissioned minister must adhere to the confessional standard in Article III of this constitution

and be qualified for the work of the ministry to which he or she is called. In addition, the commissioned minister must be:

(A) endorsed by and a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;

(B) a candidate of a Synod college or university who has satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls; or

(C) a commissioned minister and a member in good standing of a church body that has been formally recognized to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod, when an agreement for such a call is in place.

### **8.3 Right to call.**

The voters assembly of this congregation has the exclusive right to call an ordained or commissioned minister of religion.

### **8.4 Removal.**

A called ordained or commissioned minister may be removed from office in Christian and lawful order by a two-thirds affirmative ballot vote of the voters assembly for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of the duties of office, the inability to perform those duties, or domineering in office.

## **Article IX. Division or Dissolution**

### **9.1 Division.**

If this congregation divides, the congregation's property, and all benefits associated with the property, remain with those members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to the confessional standard in Article III of this constitution.

### **9.2 Dissolution.**

If this congregation dissolves, the congregation's property is disposed of at a meeting called for the purpose of dissolution to pay debts and just claims against the congregation. Any surplus that remains is given to the Ohio District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The records of the congregation should also be disposed of at the meeting.

## **Article X. Amendment**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voters assembly at any meeting of the congregation. An amendment not in conflict with Article III or VIII of this constitution may be proposed by the board of directors and must be proposed by the board on the written petition of ten voting members. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the board

of directors in writing and distributed to the members of the congregation at least 30 days before the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be put before the voters assembly.