



**BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**CONSTITUTION
&
BY-LAWS**

APRIL 17, 2018

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Preamble

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul set forth, 1 Corinthians 14:40, that all things in the church shall be done "in a fitting and orderly way," and

WHEREAS, the history of the Christian church of all times shows that certain agreements and regulations are helpful to fulfill the purpose and attain the objectives of congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, a congregation of Lutheran Christians at Menomonee Falls and Germantown do herewith, in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and by subscribing our names hereto, adopt the following CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Constitution

Article I Name

The name of this congregation shall be
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Article II Articles of Faith

Section 1.

This congregation accepts and confesses all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God and submits to this Word as the only infallible authority of all matters of faith and life (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

Section 2.

This congregation accepts and confesses all the symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as true statements of scriptural doctrine.

They are:

- A. The three ecumenical Creeds
 - 1) The Apostles'
 - 2) The Nicene
 - 3) The Athanasian
- B. The six Lutheran Confessions
 - 1) Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism
 - 2) Dr. Martin Luther's Large Catechism
 - 3) The Unaltered Augsburg Confession
 - 4) The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
 - 5) The Smalcald Articles
 - 6) The Formula of Concord

Section 3.

This congregation accepts and confesses these symbolical books without reservation, not insofar as, but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith held by the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Section 4.

No doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation which is in any way at variance with the Holy Scriptures and these symbolical books.

Section 5.

All controversies which may arise in this congregation shall be decided and adjusted according to this norm of doctrine and practice.

Article III Purpose and Objective

Section 1.

The continuing purpose of this congregation, as a gathering of Christians, is to proclaim the gospel to all in order that disciples of Christ may be made and kept (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).

Section 2.

The primary objective of this congregation shall be to proclaim the law and the gospel in our congregation, community, and the world (2 Timothy 4:2), so that through the Means of Grace the Holy Spirit might:

A. lead sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ for life and salvation (Luke 24:46-48),

B. strengthen believers in Christian faith and living (Romans 10:17), and

C. equip believers as disciples, stewards, witnesses, and servants to share the gospel and live their faith (Ephesians 4:11-12; Matthew 5:16).

Article IV Church Affiliation

This congregation shall affiliate itself only with a church body that holds to all the truths of God's Word in doctrine and practice and is bound to the confession of faith as set forth in Article II, if, and as long as, such a church body exists.

Article V Church Membership

Section 1. Classification

A. Baptized members of the congregation are those who have been baptized into the Christian faith in the name of the Triune God (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16).

B. Communicant members are those baptized souls who confess Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior and have stated their adherence to all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament, without qualification, as the only rule and norm of faith and life, and have declared their agreement with the chief parts of Christian doctrine as written in Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

C. Voting members are those male communicant members (1 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:12) who have declared their agreement with this Constitution by their signatures and who have been received by the voters' assembly of the congregation.

Section 2. Privileges and Responsibilities

"God is love" (1 John 4:8), and his love ever moves him to bless the members of his church with physical and spiritual gifts (1 John 3:1; James 1:17). In return for all of these undeserved blessings, we love him (1 John 4:19) and show that love with the works that we do. The exercise of such love we acknowledge as

both a privilege and a responsibility. Some of the privileges and responsibilities to be noted are the following:

A. Our God has given us his Word, the one thing needful (Luke 10:42), which alone can save our souls and tell us how to live a God-pleasing life (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Consequently, members of his church will consider it a distinct privilege and a responsibility to:

- 1) hear and receive the Word of God diligently (Luke 11:28),
- 2) provide and promote opportunities for Christian education (2 Peter 3:18),
- 3) bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4), and
- 4) share the gospel with all people (Acts 1:8).

B. Our God has given us two sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, which are means that our Lord uses to bring his grace to us. Consequently, members of his church will

- 1) have their children baptized early in life, for "baptism now saves you also" (1 Peter 3:21) and
- 2) frequently partake of Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-26), if they are recognized as such who can properly examine themselves (1 Corinthians 11:28). Only those in our confessional fellowship of faith are permitted to commune at our altar. (Close Communion—1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; Romans 16:17).

C. Our God has given us the privilege and responsibility of being managers over a certain portion of his estate and assures us he will graciously bless our faithful management (2 Corinthians 9:6). Therefore members of his church will under grace:

1) continually remember that all their possessions, time and abilities are really a trust from God,

2) cheerfully decide in their hearts (2 Corinthians 9:7) the portion of their possessions and time and abilities which they will regularly devote to the Lord for use in carrying out that which the congregation has made its concern, not omitting the work of the church-at-large (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 9:14; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; 1 Peter 4:10), and

3) if eligible, become voting members and regularly attend the voters' meeting and lend the congregation their counsel and aid.

D. Our God has implanted within us Christians the new man, who desires to live righteously (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24). Consequently, members of his church will

1) not live in obvious acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21), but lead a Christian life (Galatians 5:22-25),

2) when they have erred, permit themselves to be admonished and corrected by their fellow Christians in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-18, and

3) refuse to hold membership in any organization whose teachings and practices conflict with the Word of God (e.g. lodges) (John 5:23; 8:31-32; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

Section 3. Church Discipline and Excommunication

Christian discipline shall be exercised in this congregation according to Matthew 18:15-18 toward those who err from the faith or who in other ways have given offense. Those members who become evident as impenitent sinners shall be recommended for excommunication. At all times this shall be done in the spirit of the gospel, namely, to regain the erring. In order that the congregation may be "perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Corinthians 1:10), a unanimous vote of the voters' assembly is necessary for excommunication.

Section 4. Termination of Fellowship

Members who persist in an error that in itself does not make the presence of saving faith impossible and who otherwise are not under church discipline (cf. Article V, Section 2, D, and Section 3) may be excluded from the fellowship of this congregation

a) after they have been evangelically admonished by their fellow Christians in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-16; and

b) when their adherence to error becomes public and a matter of divisiveness (Titus 3:10) and thus an offense and obstacle to the truth of God's Word (Romans 16:17).

This action shall not be used for removing inactive members or as a substitute for the loving act of excommunication when impenitence is clearly evident.

Section 5. Loss of Rights and Privileges

Those who have been excommunicated or excluded from the fellowship of this congregation lose all rights and privileges in the congregation and its property.

Section 6. Right of Appeal

A lay person who has been subject to disciplinary action by this congregation shall have the right to appeal the action. The lay person shall be notified in writing by the congregation of the right to appeal within 30 days of the disciplinary action. Such an appeal must be filed with the president of the Southeast Wisconsin District to which the congregation belongs within 60 days of receipt of notification from the congregation.

Section 7. Reinstatement

When, by the grace of God, a person who has been excommunicated or whose fellowship has been terminated repents of ~~their~~his sin, ~~they are~~he is to be reinstated with all former rights and privileges of this congregation (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

Article VI Powers and Rights of the Congregation

Section 1.

In all matters of Christian faith and life the Word of God is supreme (Psalm 119:105).

Section 2.

In all matters not decided by the Word of God the congregation, represented by the voters' assembly, shall have the right of decision (Romans 12:10; 14:19; Ephesians 5:21).

Section 3.

The church council, any other elected committee or organization within the congregation, and any of its elected or appointed officers shall have no power or authority beyond that conferred upon them by the congregation. However, the church council in an emergency may act in the name and for the welfare of the congregation. Such action must be submitted for approval at the next regular voters' meeting.

Section 4.

No group or society may be organized within the congregation without the approval of the congregation. The congregation shall be assured that the aims of such a group are in complete harmony with the congregation's aims before it grants its approval (1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25).

Article VII The Public Ministry

Section 1.

The congregation has the exclusive right to call pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and others involved in the ministry of the Word.

Section 2.

The office of pastor in this congregation shall be conferred only upon such men who are qualified for this ministry and publicly and without reservation profess their acceptance of and adherence to Article II of this Constitution, and such acceptance and adherence shall be required of them in the call extended by the congregation (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9).

Section 3.

The offices of teacher and staff minister in this congregation shall be conferred only upon such individuals who are qualified for these ministries and are in accord with the confessional standard of the congregation as set forth in Article II of this Constitution (Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:6-8).

Section 4.

In case of a vacancy in the office of pastor, teacher, or staff minister the congregation shall notify the president of the Southeast Wisconsin District that he may assist in temporarily filling the vacancy and in giving his good counsel in regard to the calling of a new pastor, teacher or staff minister.

Article VIII Officers of the Congregation

Section 1.

The first New Testament congregation at Jerusalem chose men "full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:1-6) to aid the apostles in the administration of its affairs. This congregation shall choose officers and committee members with like qualifications. (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

Section 2.

The listing of the officers and their duties is given in the Bylaws.

Section 3.

The respect and esteem of the congregation are due these officers in the performance of their duties, and they shall be given its cooperation. They shall conduct themselves in a manner befitting their responsible office (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

Article IX Removal from Office

Section 1.

If anyone who holds an office in the congregation willfully neglects his duty and upon due admonition does not amend, the congregation has the right and eventually the duty to remove ~~them~~ from office and to elect/appoint another in ~~their~~ place (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

Section 2.

Sufficient and urgent causes for removing a pastor, a teacher, or a staff minister are persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of duty or established inability to perform the duties of ~~their~~ office (1 Timothy 3: 1-7; Titus 1:6-9).

In such a case the advice and good counsel of the appropriate Southeast Wisconsin District officer shall be sought.

Article X Meetings of the Congregation

Meetings of this congregation shall be held at such times and in such manner as stated in the Bylaws. The meetings shall give the voters of this congregation the opportunity to hear, discuss and take necessary action in matters pertaining to the welfare of this congregation and of the church-at-large.

Article XI Separation or Dissolution

Section 1.

If at any time a separation should occur in this congregation, the property and all equipment of this congregation shall remain with that portion of the membership which adheres to this Constitution, regardless of number.

Section 2.

In the event of termination or dissolution of the congregation, the church council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the congregation, dispose of its remaining assets, if any, exclusively for the purposes of the congregation, by distributing, at the direction of the voters' assembly, the remaining assets to (and only to) one or more organizations with which the congregation is in fellowship, which shall at the time qualify as exempt organization(s) (under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code).

Article XII Repeals and Alterations

Section 1.

The scriptural principles expressed in Articles II, III, IV, V, VI, Sections 1 and 2, VII, Sections 1-3, VIII, Sections 1 and 3, IX and XII, Section 1 of this Constitution shall be and remain unalterable and irrevocable.

Section 2.

Proposals to alter or repeal any alterable or repealable article of this Constitution or to add an article shall be submitted in writing to the church council and shall be publicly announced on two Sundays immediately preceding a regular business meeting of the voters' assembly and posted in the church during that period.

Section 3.

Such a proposal shall be discussed in the meeting in which it is presented and voted on in the next regular meeting of the voters' assembly.

Section 4.

A two-thirds vote of the voting members present shall be required to alter or repeal any alterable or repealable article of this Constitution or to add an article hereto.

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By-laws

Article I Meetings of the Congregation

Section 1.

A regular meeting of the congregation's voters shall be held at least two~~four~~ times per year.

Section 2.

The church council shall set the exact date, time and place of the meetings, unless otherwise specified by the congregation. Announcements of the meetings shall be given in print and/or orally ~~on~~ at least two weeks in advance of ~~different dates prior to~~ the date and time of the meeting.

Section 3.

Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the church council, or the pastor(s), or upon written request of fifteen (15) ~~three~~ voting members. Such meetings must be announced according to the general rule set forth in Section 2 with the purpose(s) clearly stated.

Section 4.

The ~~regular~~ January meeting shall be designated as the annual meeting. The September meeting shall be designated as the annual election meeting.

Section 5.

The order of business for the regular meetings may be as follows:

- A. opening devotion,
- B. review~~reading~~ and approval of minutes of the previous regular and any intervening special meetings,

C. reception of new members; transfer, release or removal from membership,

D. ministry reports and recommendations (outreach, ~~adult~~ spiritual growth, etc.),

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E. unfinished business,

F. recommendations of the church council and new business,

G. new members sign the Constitution, and

H. adjournment with prayer.

Section 6.

The meetings shall be conducted according to good, Christian order. Robert's Rules of Order may be followed for parliamentary procedure.

Section 7.

No one shall bring to any meeting a charge or complaint against any member or against a pastor, a teacher, or a staff minister unless he has first admonished ~~them~~him in a Christian manner in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-20.

Section 8.

Only voting members present at the meeting shall have the right to vote.

Section 9.

Voting membership shall be restricted to male communicant members who have reached the age of 18.

Section 10.

To indicate their acceptance of it, voting members shall sign the official copy of the Constitution and Bylaws at the meeting of the congregation in which they were received or as soon thereafter as possible.

Article II Quorum

The voting members present at a properly announced meeting of the congregation shall constitute a quorum.

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Article III ~~The~~ Church Council and Boards

Section 1. Officers of the Congregation

1.1 The church council is to be composed of:

- President
- Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Pastor(s)
- Staff Minister(s)
- School Principal

And a representative from each of the following Boards:

- Elders
- Education
- Trustees
- Stewardship
- ~~Adult~~ Spiritual Growth
- Evangelism
- Youth Ministries
- Early Childhood Ministries

1.2 At its annual election meeting the voters' assembly shall elect by ballot the officers of the congregation and the members of the following boards:

- Board of Elders
- Board of Education
- Board of Trustees
- Board of Stewardship
- Board of ~~Adult~~ Spiritual Growth
- Board of Evangelism

- Board of Youth Ministries
- Board of Early Childhood Ministries

Each board shall consist of at least ~~seven~~three members, including its chairman. Additional members may be added by resolution of the voters.

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Section 2. Term of Office

2.1 The term of office for each elected position shall be three years. No person shall serve more than two consecutive full terms. He shall again be eligible for election one year after the expiration of his second full term of office.

2.2 The term of one third of the church elected positions, if possible, shall expire each year, such expired terms to be filled by election at the annual election meeting of the voters' assembly. Each person shall serve until his successor is installed.

Section 3. Relationships

The church council shall be responsible and accountable to the voters' assembly, and the boards shall be responsible and accountable to the church council.

Section 4. Installation

As soon as possible, the newly-elected officers shall be installed into office at a regular service and shall thus be presented to the congregation.

Section 5. Responsibilities

5.1 The church officers shall adorn their high office with an honest way of life and be good examples to the congregation (1 Timothy 3:8-12). They shall be responsible for the spiritual and material affairs of the congregation under the guidance of the pastor(s). They shall be accountable for good order in the services. They shall particularly care in love for their fellow members who have special needs (Galatians 6:9-10).

5.2 The members of the church council shall consult together concerning the total spiritual and physical well-being of the congregation, giving due attention also to the work of the Lord in the church-at-large. They shall implement resolutions of the voters' assembly and carry out such assignments as are directed to them by the voters' assembly. They shall recommend to the voters' assembly the annual [Ministry Plan and associated ministry financial plan](#)/budget of the congregation.

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They shall control the corporate property of the congregation according to the direction given by the voters' assembly. The church council is hereby empowered to borrow money, pledge the assets of the congregation, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the real ~~and personal~~ property of the congregation all at the direction of the voters' assembly. It shall also have the right to acquire property by any legal means as directed by the voters' assembly. The president and the recording secretary (or the treasurer, in the secretary's absence) are hereby designated as the persons who shall sign all documents of the congregation.

Section 6. Meetings

The church council shall meet regularly, normally once each month. Special meetings may be called by one of the pastors, ~~or~~ the president [or three members of the council](#). The church council shall never convene to transact business without the knowledge of the pastor(s). A majority of the members [present at a meeting](#) of the council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. Vacancies

If during the course of the year an elected person is incapacitated, leaves the congregation, resigns his office, or is removed from office, the president, with the concurrence of the church council, is empowered to appoint a successor, and to have such ratified at the next regular voters' meeting.

Article IV Duties of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Section 1. President

The president shall preside as chairman of all business sessions of the congregation and church council and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him. He shall have general supervision of the affairs of the congregation and conduct all its business affairs according to established good order. He shall sign all deeds, mortgages, notes, leases, and all other legal documents directed to be executed by the congregation. He shall assure that the congregation's financial records are evaluated

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annually and that a report of the evaluation is presented to the [council and the](#) voters at the meeting after the completion of the annual evaluation. The president is an ex officio member of all boards and committees.

Section 2. Vice President

The vice president shall assume the duties of the president in his absence, assist the president in the execution of his responsibilities, and assume specific duties as delegated by the president. He shall appoint a financial secretary (non-council position) to maintain an envelope system for members and be responsible for the tabulation of their contributions and the issuing of private statements to members on a quarterly basis. He shall appoint counting teams and be responsible for their counting of collections and deposits. He shall also assume such other duties as the congregation may direct.

Section 3. Recording Secretary

The recording secretary shall record accurately the proceedings of all voters' and church council meetings. He shall be responsible for the legal records of the congregation. He shall have the authority to countersign all deeds, mortgages, notes, leases, and all other legal documents executed by the congregation and assist in the orderly conduct of its business affairs according to established good order. He shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the congregation.

Section 4. Treasurer

The treasurer shall oversee the accounting ~~function including oversight manager(s) hired by the congregation~~ in the making of disbursements by check on authority of the voters' assembly (no further authority needed for items of approved budget or for "in" and "out" accounts). He shall submit written ~~monthly financial reports to the church council, financial reports to the congregation and monthly reports to the church council.~~ He shall give an annual report in writing to the congregation at the annual meeting.

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This report is to be included in the annual report that is to be made available to all communicant members of the congregation. He shall submit his records to the financial review committee for evaluation as soon as possible after the end of the calendar year. He shall be authorized to sign legal documents for the congregation, if required by law. He shall also assume such duties as the congregation may direct.

Section 5. The Board of Elders

The Board of Elders shall, in general, be responsible for the spiritual well being of the congregation. It shall insure that doctrine and practice in the church conform to the Word of God and the provisions of the Constitution, that regular worship services are conducted in good order, and that assistance is given the pastor(s) in administering the spiritual affairs of the congregation. It shall prepare annual ~~ministry financial plan budget~~ recommendations for those items of the congregation's business for which it is responsible. It shall give an annual report in writing to the congregation at the annual meeting. This report is to be included in the annual report that is to be made available to all communicant members of the congregation.

Section 6. The Board of Education

The Board of Education shall oversee and promote the Lutheran Elementary School, ~~pre school, and childcare.~~ It shall formulate all policies to be followed in those educational phases of the congregation's ~~work, and work and~~ shall recommend them by way of the church council to the voters' assembly for ratification.

~~It prepare~~ shall prepare annual ~~ministry financial plan budget~~ recommendations for those items of the congregation's business for which it is responsible. It shall give an annual report in writing to the congregation at the annual meeting. This report is to be included in the annual report that is to be made available to all communicant members of the congregation. The principal of the Lutheran elementary school shall be an advisory member of the Board of Education.

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Section 7. The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall supervise the repair and upkeep of the congregation's property. It shall prepare annual ~~ministry financial plan budget~~ recommendations for those items of the congregation's business for which it is responsible. It shall give an annual report in writing to the congregation at the annual meeting. This report is to be included in the annual report that is to be made available to all communicant members of the congregation.

Section 8. The Board of Stewardship

The Board of Stewardship shall develop and maintain Christian consciousness among the congregation to give freely of themselves, their time and their talents, in serving the Lord as He has blessed them. It shall give an annual report in writing to the congregation at the annual meeting. This report is to be included in the annual report that is to be made available to all communicant members of the congregation. It shall prepare annual ~~ministry financial plan budget~~ recommendations for those items of the congregation's business for which it is responsible ~~and all forecasts of congregation offerings.~~

Section 9. The Board of ~~Adult~~ Spiritual Growth

The Board of ~~Adult~~ Spiritual Growth shall be responsible for the ongoing ministry avenues that promote the spiritual growth of the congregation’s membership. It shall give regular reports at council and voters’ meetings and provide a written report for the annual report which is to be made available to all communicant members. It shall prepare annual ministry financial plan~~budget~~ recommendations ~~for~~ those for those items of the congregation’s business for which it is responsible.

Section 10. The Board of Evangelism

The Board of Evangelism shall establish and maintain an active ministry so that the congregation can reach out to the neighborhood and the community with the gospel. It shall also promote the work that the congregation does together with its fellow congregations as a synod. It shall prepare annual ministry financial plan~~budget~~

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recommendations for those items of the congregation's business for which it is responsible. It shall give an annual report in writing to the congregation at the annual meeting. This report is to be included in the annual report that is to be made available to all communicant members of the congregation.

Section 11. The Board of Youth Ministries

The Board of Youth Ministries shall be responsible for the proper administration of the following organizations: Teen Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Cradle Roll, Lutheran Pioneers, Lutheran Girl Pioneers, Public School Instruction, and any other youth ministry organizations. It shall prepare annual ministry financial plan ~~budget~~ recommendations for those items of the congregation’s business for which it is responsible. It shall give an annual report in writing to the congregation at the annual meeting. This report is to be included

in the annual report that is to be made available to all communicant members of the congregation.

Section 12. The Board of Early Childhood Ministries

The Board of Early Childhood Ministries shall oversee and promote the pre-school and childcare ministries. It shall formulate all policies to be followed in these educational phases of the congregation's work and shall recommend them by way of the church council to the voters' assembly for ratification. It shall prepare annual Ministry Financial Plan recommendations for those items of the congregation's business for which it is responsible. It shall give an annual report in writing to the congregation at the annual meeting. This report is to be included in the annual report that is to be made available to all communicant members of the congregation. The Director of Early Childhood Ministries shall be an advisory member of the Board of Early Childhood Ministries.

Section 132. Other Committees and Appointments

The president, with the concurrence of the church council, shall appoint other committees and additional board/committee members as needed.

Section 143. Ex Officio Membership

The pastor(s) and president by virtue of their offices are members of all boards and committees and are to be informed of all meetings of all committees so that they may attend if they desire to do so.

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Article V Reception into Membership

Section 1.

Persons who wish to be received into membership in this congregation, ~~other than through the sacrament of holy baptism or rite of confirmation,~~ shall bring their request to the attention of one of the pastors or the church council. The council shall honor the request when accompanied by a letter of transfer, a recommendation from a sister congregation, or a profession of faith, provided that qualifications for membership, as specified in Article V of this Constitution, have been met. Such action of the council shall be ratified at the next regular or special meeting of the voters' assembly. Notice of such receptions shall be reported to the entire congregation.

Section 2.

Persons who wish to be received into membership in this congregation shall upon this request receive an application for membership, a copy of the church handbook, and a copy of the church's Constitution and By-laws. Reception into membership signifies acceptance of and submission to this Constitution and By-laws.

Article VI Transfer, Release, or Removal from Membership

Section 1.

Those desiring a transfer or release from membership shall bring their request to the attention of one of the pastors or the church council for action to be ratified at the next regular meeting of the voters' assembly.

Section 2.

Transfer of membership shall apply only to those who desire membership in a congregation which is in [fellowship agreement](#) with this congregation in doctrine and practice. Release from membership shall apply when affiliation is sought with those denominations not in agreement with this congregation in doctrine and practice.

Section 3.

Members with whom the congregation has been unable to communicate, despite diligent efforts to do so, may be removed from the membership list.

Section 4.

Members released, transferred, or removed have no further rights in this congregation and its property.

Article VII Repeals and Amendments of the Bylaws

Any and all Bylaws may be added, repealed, or amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any [meeting of the voters quarterly assembly meeting](#), provided that public notice of this proposed action shall have been given the congregation on at least two Sundays prior to the time of the meeting and provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the church council for its study and recommendation.