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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

BELL GARDENS, CALIFORNIA

PREAMBLE

Whereas the Word of God demands that a Christian congregation not only conform to It in doctrine and practice (Psalmll9,105-106; Galatians 1,6-8:2 Timothy 4,1-5) but also that all things be done decently and in order (l Corinthians 14,40) therefore, we the members of Christ The King Lutheran Church of Bell Gardens, California adopt this document as our Constitution and By-laws in accordance with which our congregational affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Christ The King Lutheran Church of Bell Gardens, California.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

The objects and purposes of this congregation shall be the promulgation and dissemination of the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Article III of this Constitution the administration of the Sacraments; the maintenance of the Christian ministry; the acquiring and holding of real and personal property for Church parochial school and parsonage purposes and the erection, maintenance and use of buildings for such purposes; to assist, to the best of our ability, in the extension of the Kingdom of God through home and world mission work; to establish and maintain the best possible agencies for the Christian education and training of our membership; and to affiliate with or join such a Synod or Federation which the voting members shall decide most nearly is committed and adheres and conforms to the doctrines, confessions, and practices as set forth in this Constitution in Article III (Confessional Standard)

ARTICLE III: CONFESSIONAL STANDARDS

This congregation acknowledges and accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed, inerrant Word of God, verbally inspired, and all the confessional books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as they were originally published in the Book of Concord of 1580 and are now found in the Concordia Triglot to be the true and genuine exposition of the doctrines of the Holy Bible:(I) The three Ecumenical Creeds ,i.e. the Apostolic, the Nicene and the Athanasian (2)The Unaltered Augsburg Confession (3) The Apology of the same (4) The Smalcald Articles (5) Luther's Large Catechism (6) Luther's Small Catechism and (7) The Formula of Concord. No doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation which is at Variance with these confessions and according to them all doctrinal controversies which may arise shall be adjudicated and decided.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

This congregation distinguishes between Soul, Communicant and voting members all of whom must be baptized. Communicant Membership requires that a person: (1) accept the Holy Bible as the verbally-inspired Revelation of God and the only Divine Rule and Standard of Faith and Life;(2)Be familiar with the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at least to the extent in which it is set forth in Luther's Small Catechism and declares acceptance thereof;(3) Attend Devine Services faithfully and partake of the Lords Supper frequently;(4) Lead a Christian life (St. Mathew 5:7;Galatians 5:22—23)and abstain from manifest works of the flesh(Galatians 5:19-21) (5)Contribute as the Lord has prospered (1 Corinthians l6:2)towards the maintenance of this congregation and its due functions and the extension of the Church at large (6)Submit, for the sake of Love and Peace, to the regulations already made or still to be made by this congregation(7)accept brotherly admonition when delinquent in the requirements of membership or when having given offense(St. Mathew 18,15-17)(8)not hold membership in any organization which confesses and fosters a religion the principles and practices of which conflict with the Word of God(2 Corinthians 6,14-18;2 John 9).

ARTICLE V: POWERS VESTED IN CONGREGATION

This congregation, represented by the Voter's assembly, shall have Supreme power in the external and internal administration of its own spiritual and material affairs. No decision, enactment or performance on behalf of this congregation, whether it proceed from an individual or from a body within the congregation shall be valid unless it shall have been enacted or performed according to a general or special power conferred by the Voter's Assembly. Not even the Voter's Assembly shall be empowered to order, enact or decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church. Any such ordinance, enactment or decision shall be null and void. The right to choose and call ministers and parish school teachers and to elect all other officers of this congregation shall ever be vested in the Voter's Assembly except in the case of Church Council appointments to fill unexpired terms. This rule shall also apply in the matter of removal from office a pastor, teacher or Church officer.

ARTICLE VI: LITERATURE

All literature used for devotional and religious educational purposes (such as Orders of Service, liturgical forms, books of instruction, etc.) shall ever be in full agreement with the Confessional Standard set forth in Article III and with sound Lutheran practice.

ARTICLE VII: PROPERTY

The congregation, represented by the Voter's Assembly, shall have the right to acquire and own such property as is necessary for the successful realization of its objects and purposes. Everything owned by the congregation, whether movable or fixed, is the estate of the congregation.

Members who sever their connection with this congregation for whatever reason shall forfeit all claims to any of the property of the congregation. Any former member may be reinstated to membership by examination of the pastor and the Board of Elders with the approval of the Voter's Assembly.

If at any time this congregation is to be dissolved, this can only be considered after all qualified voting members have been notified by certified letter one week in advance of three consecutive called meetings and at least two-thirds of the voting members present have cast their vote in favor of dissolution at each meeting after paying or adequately providing for the debts of the congregation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to such religious corporations or associations then in existence which the Voter's Assembly decide most nearly are committed and adhere and conform to the confessions, doctrines and practices as set forth in Article III of this constitution and which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes. If at any time a separation in the congregation shall take place the property of the congregation and all the benefits connected there-with shall remain with those members who adhere to the Confessional Standard set forth in Article III of this Constitution. The right of appeal shall be granted any group of dissenters. Under such circumstances a committee of five male members shall be appointed by the Voters Assembly: three members from the congregation and two members from the Synod or Federation with which this congregation is affiliated at the time of the separation. This committee will adjudicate the matter according to the Confessional Standard of this congregation as set forth in this constitution.

ARTICLE VIII: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The congregation shall provide a truly; Christian education and training for the children of our parish(St. John 2l:l5;St. Mathew 28:19-20) and to this end shall establish and maintain an efficient Sunday School and religious instruction by the pastor preparatory to confirmation; and, realizing the blessings of the Vacation Bible School and especially the Christian Parish School for the fulfilment of its obligations, as conditions may warrant and as the necessary finances are available, shall establish and maintain either one or both of these educational agencies. Our members with children, besides providing proper Christian training in the home, are expected to avail themselves of the congregation's agencies for the best possible indoctrination of their children in the Christian Religion and, together with all the members of the congregation, to give these agencies their moral, prayerful and financial support. Under the leadership of the Pastor, this congregation will also provide in the best possible way for the continued instruction and Christian growth of our confirmed youth and adult members.

ARTICLE IX—OFFICES OF PASTOR AND TEACHER

The office of Pastor (s) and Teacher(s) shall be conferred only upon such pastors, teachers or candidates who unreservedly accept the confessional standard enunciated in Article III of this constitution and who, according to the call extended to and accepted by them, adhere to the same.

ARTICLE X-OFFICERS

The officers of this congregation, besides pastors and teachers, shall consist of a Board of Elders, a Board of Trustees, a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers, boards and committees as the congregation may establish. Each of the Boards of Elders and Trustees shall consist of three or more members elected by the Voter's Assembly. In the event of an unexpired term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Church Council. The pastor and president shall be ex-officio members of all boards and committees of the congregation.

ARTICLE XI—SYNODICAL OR FEDERATION AFFILIATION

This congregation shall hold membership in such a Synod or Federation as the Voter's Assembly decides is most nearly committed to the Confessional Standard set forth in Article III of this constitution.

ARTICLE XII ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

The Board of Elders shall concern itself with the establishment, activities and welfare of all congregational organizations and shall receive reports on their general status and functions.

ARTICLE XIII-IRREPEALABLE ARTICLES

The principles stated in Article Two, Three, Four, Seven, and Eleven and in this Article shall be unalterable and irrepealable.

ARTICLE XIV—ALTERATIONS,AMENDMENTS,REPEALS

Any proposed amendment to any Article of this Constitution other than those listed in Article XIII shall be presented at three (3) consecutive properly called and announced regular and/or special meetings of the Voters Assembly. Such amendments or repeals shall be adopted when a two-thirds majority of the member’s present cast its vote in favor at each meeting.

BYLAWS-CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECTION I-ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

A) A person becomes a Soul Member when he is baptized under the authority of the congregation and he and/or his parents have agreed to his membership. Other applicants, if they have already been baptized into the Christian faith, may be accepted as Soul Members at any properly—convened meeting of the Board of Elders, the Church Council or the Voter's Assembly.

B) Applicants for Communicant Membership, presenting a valid letter of transfer from a recognized Orthodoxed Lutheran Congregation, shall be accepted at any properly—convened meeting of the Board of Elders, the church council, or the Voters Assembly. Applicants not affiliated with a recognized Orthodoxed Lutheran Church, but have given satisfactory evidence of their qualifications for membership, having received, if necessary, an adequate course of instruction in Christian Doctrine, to the extent contained in Luther's Small Catechism, and who have declared before witnesses their acceptance of the Doctrinal Standard set forth in Article III of the Constitution and their readiness to abide by the principles set forth in Article IV, shall be received into Communicant membership on presentation of their names to the Board of Elders, the Church council or the Voter's Assembly. In such cases they will be received on the profession or reaffirmation of their faith.

C) Voting membership will be accorded to male Communicant Members of the congregation twenty-one years of age or older. Eligible applicants, having previously familiarized themselves with this constitution and Bylaws, may be proposed for membership at any regular meeting of the Voter's Assembly. If no valid objection is raised, applications may at once be submitted to a vote by acclamation. If the vote is favorable, the applicants shall sign the Constitution and its By Laws thus establishing their voting membership.

SECTION II RELEASE AND WITHDRAWAL

Members who desire a release from membership shall obtain a written transfer or dismissal from the pastor and the Board of Elders. Such a release or dismissal shall be approved by the Voter's Assembly. Members who move from the parish without obtaining a release shall, after one year, be dropped from the membership by authority of the Voter's Assembly. Communicant members who have absented themselves from Holy Communion for a period of one year, after proper admonition by the pastor and the Board of Elders and there being no improvement in communion attendance, shall be dropped from Communicant Membership by authority of the Voter's Assembly.

SECTION III MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Voter's Assembly shall be held in January, March, June, September, November, and December. Announcement of these meetings shall be made on the two Sundays preceding the scheduled meeting date. Special meetings may be called by the pastor and at least two other officers or any three officers of the congregation or the written request to the President of at least five voting members. Announcement of such meetings will be made by mail or in a public service.

The quorum necessary to transact official business at any regular or special meeting shall be at least one-fifth of voting members, except in the case of property purchase or construction or dismissal of officers or pastor(s) and teacher(s) in which case one-third of the voting membership is required.

It shall be the duty of every voting member to attend at least all the regular Voter's meetings. By failing to attend, a voter waives his right to vote. Any voting member who fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings without a valid excuse shall be dropped from the list of voting members by the authority of the Voter's Assembly.

SECTION IV-ORDER OF BUSINESS

The following shall be the Order of Business at the meetings of the Voter's Assembly: (1) Devotion (2) Roll Call (3) Reading of the minutes (4) Report and ratification of members received and members dismissed by the pastor, the Board of Elders and the Church Council. (5) Reception of new voting members and report on delinquent voting members (6) Written reports of officers and committees including, in January, the annual reports of officers (7) Election of officers at the November meeting (8) Communications (9) Unfinished business (1O) New business (11) Announcements (12) Adjournment (13) Closing prayer.

SECTION V-ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The annual election of officers shall be held in the regular November meeting. An Elections Committee, appointed by the President, shall at this meeting present a slate including, if possible, two candidates for each office. Nominees may be added from the floor. When the nominations have been closed and no valid protest has been made, the election shall be carried out by ballot in such a manner that only one officer is elected at a time. A candidate receiving a majority vote shall be considered elected. No person Shall be elected to more than two offices in one term. Only such voting members shall be eligible for office as are not under Church discipline and have held voting membership for at least three months. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by appointment of the Church Council.

The officers shall be publicly inducted into office at a regular Sunday service as soon as possible following the election meeting.

SECTION VI-REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Any officer, as is true of pastors and teachers, may in Christian love be removed from office, the following being sufficient causes for removal: persistent adherence to false doctrine, leading an offensive life, willful neglect of their duties and evident inability or protracted incapacity in the performance of their duties.

SECTION VII-TENURE OF OFFICE

The President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a calendar year at a time. Appointed officers shall, in case of a vacancy, complete only the remainder of the calendar year. Members of the Board of Elders, the Board of Trustees and any other board consisting of three or more members shall be elected for a period of three years in such a manner that no more than two are elected to each board or committee each year.

SECTION VIII-THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council shall be composed of the Board of Elders, The Board of Trustees, the President, Vice-president, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. As soon as possible after the election, the Vice-president shall call a meeting of the Council to take care of matters in the interest of the congregation. The Vice-president shall be the chairman of the Council and the Recording Secretary of the congregation shall be the Council Secretary. The Council shall meet prior to all regular Voter's meetings. Special Council meetings may be called by the pastor and one member of the Council or any two members of the Council. The Council shall recommend, advise, propose and submit resolutions to the Voter's Assemb1y.(Members of the Council and of the various Boards and Committees shall be in duty bound to keep in strictly confidential all matters of a private nature discussed in their respective meetings, except as otherwise provided by the doctrine and practice of the Church.)

SECTION IX-DUTIES OF BOARDS AND OFFICERS

A) The Board of Elders: It shall be the duty of the Board of Elders to watch over the doctrine, life and administration of the office of the Pastor(s) and Teachers(s), the Sunday Schools, Parochial School, Bible and Instruction Classes. It will also be concerned that the congregation fulfill its obligations towards its pastors and teachers with regard to their physical needs in accordance with the Word of God and their respective calls. It will assist the pastor With congregational problems and endeavor lovingly to maintain good order and Christian discipline in the congregation. To this end the Elders will admonish negligent and delinquent members, appoint a head Usher to supervise orderly Church services, and will be especially concerned with the spiritual life of the congregation and the fulfillment of its missions obligations at home and in all the world, and to place a constitution in the hands of every family with an explanation, especially of Articles III, IV, and VII.

B) Board of Trustees: It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to care for property of the congregation as a legal and an equitable trust-to see to it that the property is kept in good repair and appearance-to supply materials necessary to conduct all approved Church functions to provide adequate insurance at all times for all the Church properties-to represent the congregation in all legal and business transactions. The trustees shall be empowered to expend up to twenty-five dollars for any project or repair without previous consent of the Voter's Assembly In case of emergency they shall call a special meeting of the Church Council.

C) The President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Voter's Assembly-to exercise care that the meetings are held in agreement with this Constitution and By-laws and are conducted in an orderly manner according to Christian principals and Robert's Rules of Order-to appoint all Standing and Special Committees authorized by the Voter's Assembly, including, in the January meeting, an Auditing Committee and, in the September meeting, an Elections Committee—to supervise, in harmony with the pastor and the Church officers, the execution of this Constitution and its By Laws together with all other resolutions of the Voter's Assembly. He shall be Ex-officio member of all boards and committees in an advisory capacity.

D) The Vice-President: It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to act in full capacity as the president in his absence and to serve as chairman of the Church Council.

E) The Recording Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep an accurate record of all proceedings, transactions and resolutions of the Voter's Assembly in all properly-convened meetings-to submit the minutes for approval at the next regular meeting and to promptly enter such approved minutes in the book provided for that purpose—to see to it that newly-accepted voting members promptly sign the Constitution and By-laws in the book provided for that purpose-to keep a current list of the voting membership-to see to it that properly-authorized amendments to and alterations and re- peals of the Constitution and the By Laws are accurately entered into the book containing the Constitution and By Laws- to take care of such correspondence as the Voter's Assembly may direct-to carefully preserve all documents and records, including the record of minutes and previous Treasurers books no longer in use, and to serve, in general as the clerk of the congregation.

F) The Financial Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to receive and carefully record all contributions and to deposit them promptly in the corporate name of the congregation in a bank designated by the Voter's Assembly-to provide the Treasurer with receipted records of such deposits— to provide the Communicant membership with offering envelopes- to cosign, with the Treasurer, all checks for the payment of bills- and to attend to such other financial matters as will promote the best interests of the financial condition of the congregation.

G) The Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to promptly record all moneys received in the various accounts and all financial transactions of the congregation- to pay all current bills from the General Fund, in accordance with the budget, and to otherwise disburse funds as authorized and directed by the Voter's Assembly or, with the previous reservation, by the Board of Trustees. All withdrawals on the Church account shall be made by checks signed by him and one of two others authorized by the Voter's Assembly- to transmit all Mission Contributions in accordance with the directions of the Voter‘s Assembly or the adopted Annual Budget- to keep all receipts, vouchers and bank balance sheets for audit by the Auditing Committee- to report to all regular meetings of the Voter's Assembly and, upon request, also to the Church Council.

SECTION X - AUDITING COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee to audit the books and records of the Financial Secretary, the Treasurer and the Treasurers of the Church organizations at least once a year and to bring a written report to the following Voter’s Assembly. Serious discrepancies should be reported without delay to the Church Council.

SECTION XI- FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Finance and Stewardship Committee shall consist of the chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Its duty shall be to receive written budget requests from all boards and committees and organizations not later than October in order to be able to prepare and present a proposed budget for the following year no later than the December meeting. It shall also concern itself with the education of the membership in Christian Stewardship and will recommend such programs and means as will assist the congregation to grow in the grace of Christian Giving.

SECTION XII -ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of the Elections Committee to establish a slate of candidates for each office for presentation at the November Election meeting. It shall follow the principals set forth in Section Five and Section Seven of the By-Laws and shall, together with the President, conduct the election in an orderly and Christian manner.

SECTION XII I — AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendment to or alteration or repeal of these By-Laws shall be presented at two consecutive properly called and announced regular and/or special meetings of the Voter's Assembly. The proposed amendment, alteration or repeal shall be adopted when a two-thirds majority of voting members present shall have cast its vote in favor at each of the meetings.