

CONSTITUTION
OF
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA
Effective June 19, 2011

PREAMBLE

We the baptized, responding to the grace of God known through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, unite together for the purpose of the mission of God, to teach and preach the Word of God, and administer the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion ordained through His divine will, and revealed through the Holy Scriptures to be our way of life; for this reason this Congregation shall unite as members of Christ's Holy Church, to love God and to love one another as God has loved us. We confess that all power and authority resides in God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ and is revealed through the power of the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever.

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND INCORPORATION

C 1.01 Congregation shall be Hope Lutheran Church.

C 1.02 For the purpose of this Constitution and the accompanying By-Laws, the Congregation of Hope Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as "the Congregation" or "this Congregation".

C 1.03 This Congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of South Dakota.

ARTICLE 2: CONFESSION OF FAITH

C 2.01 This Congregation believes, teaches, and confesses the only One Triune God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

C 2.02 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 his new creation.

b. Jesus is the Savior of all mankind for all generations. The Gospel of Christ has not changed. The Mission of Christ is still the same. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. He was Yesterday, He is Today, and He will be Forever.

c. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through the person and work of Jesus Christ through whom God was pleased to reconcile all things to Himself.

d. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by the Holy Spirit speaking through the holy men of God, they record and announce God's revelation centering on Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain the Christian faith and establishes fellowship for the ministry of the Gospel.

e. We believe and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we as sinners are justified by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures; and this Gospel is the sole criterion of our faith, teaching and life.

C 2.03 We believe, teach, and accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the sole authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life.

C 2.04 This Congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of this scriptural faith.

C 2.05 We believe, teach and accept the confessions of the Lutheran Church, especially the following: The Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Luther's Small Catechism and other writings in the Book of Concord including the Large Catechism, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Treatise, the Smalcald Articles and the Formula of Concord. We affirm the centrality of grace alone, faith alone, and Word alone.

ARTICLE 3: POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

C 3.01 The powers of this Congregation are vested in the Congregational Meeting called and conducted as provided in this Constitution and By-Laws.

C 3.02 Only such authority as is delegated to the Church Council or other organizational units in this Congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the Congregation as specified in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE 4: CHURCH AFFILIATION

C 4.01 This Congregation is a member of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and is subject to its policies. This Congregation may choose to associate with other organizations to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ in accordance with the confessions of this Congregation.

C 4.02 To sever this Congregation's relationship with LCMC, a simple majority vote is required of the voting members present and voting at a Congregational Meeting. To become effective, the decision to sever must then be ratified by a 60% majority vote of the voting members present and voting at a Congregational Meeting held at least ninety (90) days after the initial vote was taken. To join another Lutheran organization, the same procedure will be followed. These processes may run concurrently.

ARTICLE 5: PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

C 5.01 All titles to property of this Congregation shall continue to reside in the name of this Congregation regardless of affiliation.

C 5.02 All property that is acquired by the Congregation will be held, owned, and titled in the name of the Congregation. The Congregation's real property will not be purchased, disposed of, or

encumbered in any manner except as approved by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting at a Congregational Meeting.

C 5.03 To terminate the Congregation's existence, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting members present and voting at a Congregational Meeting is required. Should the Congregation disband, title to its land and other estates, real and personal, properties must be used for charitable purposes as directed by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting at a Congregational Meeting.

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP

C 6.01 Members of this Congregation shall be those baptized persons who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and its By-Laws.

ARTICLE 7: THE PASTOR

C 7.01 The authority to call a Pastor shall reside with the Congregation.

C 7.02 The procedure for issuing a call to a Pastor and termination of a call shall be set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE 8: BY-LAWS

C 8.01 This Congregation may adopt By-Laws. No By-Law may conflict with this Constitution.

C 8.02 By-Laws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of the Congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting as specified in Article 7 of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

C 9.01 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by at least five (5) voting members or by the Church Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Church Council forty-five (45) days before formal consideration by the Congregation at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Church Council shall notify the members of the proposal with their recommendations at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting.

C 9.02 A proposed amendment to this Constitution:

- a. May be approved at a properly called meeting by a majority vote of those present and voting; and
- b. Must have the effective date included in the amendment.