

**CONSTITUTION
OF
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RISEN CHRIST**

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Constitution of The Lutheran Church of the Risen Christ

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PREAMBLE

The Holy Scriptures hold that a Christian congregation should conform to the Word of God in doctrine and practice (Psalm 119:105; Gal. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 4:1-5) and that all things be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40). We, the members of the **LUTHERAN CHURCH of the RISEN CHRIST** of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, therefore, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and By-Laws. They shall govern the spiritual, material and mission affairs of the congregation.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Congregation shall be **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RISEN CHRIST**, also known as **RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**, of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation shall be to be a blessing to others as God has blessed us by being the instruments of God in carrying out Christ's Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20). ~~Inasmuch~~In as much as God has loved us so much that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us so our sins are forgiven, we, the family of Risen Christ Lutheran Church accept our Lord's command to "go and make disciples of all nations," and therefore commit ourselves to:

1. **witness**....by bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to all people through our words and deeds.
2. **serve**....by following Christ's example in serving our fellow members and communities.
3. **stewardship**....by sharing our time, talents and resources in support of our Lord's work.
4. **nurture** by providing diverse opportunities for the spiritual, emotional and social growth of God's people through the study of God's word, the educational programs of our Christian Day School, the formation of support groups, the social ministry outreach and various programs which meet the needs of God's people.
5. **fellowship**....by coming together in God's love so that we may grow in our relationship to God and each other.
6. **celebrate**....by prayer, worship and singing praises to God in the joy of Christ's forgiveness and by sharing God's word and sacraments....so that we may live and reflect more meaningful lives as God's people on the Grand Strand of South Carolina.

ARTICLE III - CONFESSIONAL STANDARD

This congregation holds all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the sole rule of faith and life.

This congregation accepts all the Symbolic books of the Lutheran church contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, viz., the Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostolic, the Nicene and the Athanasian); the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of 1530; the Apology of the Augsburg Confession; the Catechisms of Martin Luther; the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord, as a correct and sound exposition of Christian Doctrine, taken from and in full accord with the Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLE IV - SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

This Congregation shall be affiliated with the **LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD** and the District in which it is geographically located, so long as the confessions and constitution of said Synod and District are in accord with the confession and constitution of this Congregation.

It shall be the privilege and responsibility of this congregation and its individual members to support the work of Synod and the District and to send its pastor and a lay delegate and called teacher(s) to the District convention of Synod.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

A Baptized Membership

All those on the membership list who have been baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" and who are under the spiritual care of this congregation.

B. Confirmed Membership

Confirmed members are those baptized members who accept and adhere to the doctrinal standards of Article III of this constitution and who have been received through the rite of confirmation, by transfer from a partner congregation, by profession of faith or by reaffirmation of faith in accordance with the Bylaws of this congregation.

C Voting Membership

Voting members of this congregation shall be confirmed members who have attained the age of 18 years and who have been received by the Voters Assembly and who have signed the Constitution and By-laws of this Congregation and are active members (a member of Risen Christ who participates in at least 50% of worship services annually and contributes their time and/or treasure monthly).

A voting logbook, documenting all those individuals who are eligible to vote and who have attended Voters Assemblies, will be kept in the church office.

D. Associate Members

These are members of other sister Lutheran Churches attending our church for an extended period, seeking to come under our spiritual care while here. They are invited to participate in the life of the church without holding an elected office. They are NOT voting members of the Congregation.

E. Members Living Out of Town

In rare situations, individuals holding membership in the Church may be transferred out of the area for extended periods of time. (i.e.—Military, University, employment, health, etc.) In each case, the individual anticipates returning to our area and Risen Christ Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

Any qualified voting member shall be eligible for elective office.

ARTICLE VII - GOVERNMENT OF THE CONGREGATION

A. Governing Body

The Voters' Assembly shall consist of all voting members present at a regular or special meeting of the congregation and shall have final authority in managing its internal and external affairs.

The congregation shall have sole responsibility for performing the following actions:

1. Call or remove a called worker,
2. Purchase or sell real estate or buildings,
3. Amend this constitution, bylaws, and/or Articles of Incorporation,
4. Adopt the annual financial plan,
5. Adopt the annual ministry plan,
6. Elect officials of the church as set forth in bylaws,
7. Dissolve the congregation.

The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the congregation (which includes but is not limited to the church, the school, and the child development center) and is responsible for administering all the congregation's affairs except those matters outlined above.

B. Powers of Officers

The officers and boards of this congregation shall be as the Bylaws of this Constitution prescribe.

C. Removal from Office – Called Worker

Any minister of religion, ordained or commissioned, may be removed from office by the congregation in a Christian and lawful manner, for one of the following reasons:

1. Persistent adherence to false teaching contrary to the Confessional Standard of the congregation.
2. Living a scandalous life.
3. Inability to perform on the job.
4. Willful neglect of duties.

This action shall be taken only after the Minister of Religion, Ordained or Commissioned, has been pre-advised of such charges preferred against them and given an opportunity to answer such charges. The Circuit Counselor and District President shall have knowledge of removal procedures when they involve a Minister of Religion, Ordained or Commissioned, and all such actions shall be taken in full consultation with said officials.

ARTICLE VIII - PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE CONGREGATION

This congregation may receive, acquire, hold title to, and manage such real estate and other property as it may deem necessary to accomplish its purpose as a congregation and may sell or dispose of such real estate and other property or any part thereof; and this congregation shall have all the rights and powers that are granted by the laws of the State of South Carolina to religious organizations.

Should a separation in the congregation occur, the entire property of the congregation and all rights connected therewith shall remain with those members who hold fast to this Constitution and the Confession of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. In the event the congregation should vote to disband, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to that District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod of which the congregation is a member.

ARTICLE IX - MINISTERS OF RELIGION - ORDAINED AND COMMISSIONED

The Pastoral office of this Congregation occupied by a called Minister of Religion–Ordained as well as that of a called Minister of Religion–Commissioned, shall be conferred on such Pastors, teachers and candidates whose beliefs are in accord with the confessional standards of this Congregation (Article III), and who have been approved by the Synod as being qualified Pastors and Ministers of Religion–Commissioned of the Church.

ARTICLE X - ~~AMENDMENT~~AMENDMENTS

Amendments to Articles of this Constitution may be adopted at a regular voters' meeting provided that:

1. ~~That the~~The proposed amendment be posted for two Sundays for all members to see, has been submitted in writing at a previous voters' meeting, and then e-mailed to voting members where possible.
2. ~~That a~~A two-thirds majority ~~affirm~~affirms the adoption.
3. ~~That amendments~~Amendments to Articles II, III and IV have a three-fourths majority affirm the adoption-
4. ~~3. Any and any~~ change to these articles shall not destroy their essential meaning.

ARTICLE XI - DECISIONS

All congregational matters decided by the Congregation shall be decided by a simple majority of the voting members present at a properly convened meeting of the Voter's assembly, except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws.