

CONSTITUTION

Hope Lutheran Church
Wake Forest, North Carolina

Adopted: June 1, 1997

Revisions:

Preamble

We, the members of Hope Lutheran Church, Wake Forest, North Carolina, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and any subsequent ByLaws. They shall govern the spiritual, material and missional affairs of the congregation.

Article I - Name

The name of this congregation shall be Hope Lutheran Church of Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Article II - Purpose

The primary purpose of this congregation is to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all people (Matthew 28:18-20) through a ministry of worship, service, fellowship, stewardship and growth in Christian faith and life.

We therefore dedicate ourselves to the task of (1) witnessing our faith in Jesus in the community in which we live, with each other, and to the nation and world, (2) modeling a life of service marked by acts of mercy, kindness and concern, (3) celebrating fellowship with one another so that a spirit of unity and joy exists among us, (4) growing in grace and knowledge of God's will through study of His Word, (5) managing, both as individuals and as a group, our lives and resources in such a way that we serve God's mission and purpose for us, and (5) remaining faithful in worship and reception of the Sacraments.

Article III - Confessional Basis

This congregation holds all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament to be the inspired and written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice. This congregation accepts all of the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as a true and accurate statement and exposition of the Word of God, which books include: The three Ecumenical Creeds (being the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed); The unaltered Augsburg Confession; The Apology of the Augsburg Confession; The Smalcald Articles; The Large and Small Catechisms of Dr. Martin Luther; and The Formula of Concord.

Article IV - Affiliation

This congregation shall be a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the District in which it is geographically located, so long as the Synod and District conform to the congregation's confessional basis as set forth in Article III above.

Article V - Membership

The membership of this congregation shall include Baptized and Communicant Members.

Baptized Members shall include all persons who have been baptized “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”, and have been placed under the spiritual care of this congregation.

Communicant Members shall include those who are Baptized Members and have been received through the rite of youth or adult confirmation, by transfer from a partner Lutheran congregation, by profession or reaffirmation of faith.

It is expected that all Communicant Members shall (1) attend worship regularly and partake of the Lord’s Supper frequently, (2) lead a Christian life and not live in a public, persistent manner which is offensive to the example and witness of the Christian faith, (3) contribute regularly and faithfully to the mission of the congregation through the stewardship of their time, talent and treasure, (4) guard against the teachings of secret societies or any other organizations whose purposes and rituals conflict with the Word of God, (5) grow in the knowledge and understanding of the Word of God, and (6) place themselves under the spiritual care of the congregation and permit themselves to be admonished in love when they have erred.

Voting Members shall include Communicant Members who have attained the age of 18 years.

Article VI - Authority of the Congregation

The authority of the congregation is vested in its Voting Members. Accordingly, no arrangement or decision shall be valid unless made in the name of the congregation and in accordance with the power delegated by the Voting Members.

Voting Members shall retain and not delegate the authority of the congregation to call Ministers of Religion, Ordained and Commissioned who are eligible for a Divine Call. The Voting Members shall retain and not delegate the authority to select those persons who serve on the Ministry Leadership Team. The Voting Members shall retain and not delegate the right of the congregation to borrow money or incur debt which exceeds \$10,000.

Any action by the Voting Members to remove a Communicant Member or to remove a Called Worker from his or her office shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Scripture and appropriate Synod and/or District church procedures.

The Voting Members shall meet at the annual Congregational Assembly or at special times provided the meeting is publicized in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. Special meetings may be called by the Ministry Leadership Team, Congregational Chairperson, Pastor or upon request by at least four Voting Members in writing to any of the aforementioned persons.

Except as otherwise noted in this Constitution, all congregation matters shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the Voting Members present at a properly convened meeting of the Congregational Assembly. Absentee voting or voting by proxy is not permitted in any action requiring vote of the Voting Members.

Article VII - Office of the Ministry

The pastoral office of this congregation as well as that of other called ministers of religion shall be conferred only upon such ministers whose beliefs are in accord with the confessional standards of this congregation (Article III) and have been approved by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as being qualified ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned.

Article VIII - Parish Administration

The Ministry Leadership Team and the Pastor shall be responsible to the congregation for the leadership and administration of the church's mission, vision and daily business, providing an annual report to the Voting Members.

The Ministry Leadership Team shall (1) work with the Pastor in developing a shared vision for ministry, (2) provide spiritual leadership, oversight and administrative guidance to the Pastor and the congregation, (3) provide accountability and responsible management of the congregation's resources, and (4) encourage and enlist members of the congregation in effective use of their gifts and talents.

The Ministry Leadership Team shall consist of at least seven members, recommended by the Pastor based upon their spiritual qualifications, and selected by the Voting Members of the congregation. The Ministry Leadership Team shall select one of its members as the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. The Chairperson and the Secretary shall serve as the congregation's Legal Trustees. The Ministry Leadership Team will select and appoint members of the congregation to hold the positions of Treasurer and Financial Secretary. All terms of leadership positions shall be for a period of one year commencing with the annual Congregational Assembly.

The Ministry Leadership Team shall serve as the congregation's Board of Directors for purposes of managing the affairs of the congregation as a not for profit corporation according to the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Article IX - Property Rights

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 North Carolina to not-for-profit 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 continue to adhere to the confessional basis as set forth in Article III. In the event the congregation should disband, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to the District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod of which the congregation is a member.

Article X - Bylaws and Amendments

The congregation may set forth and adopt By-laws and amend those Bylaws according to provisions therein.

This Constitution may be amended by the Voting Members of the congregation at either the annual Congregational Assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided that the proposed amendment(s) does not conflict with Article III of this Constitution and provided further that the proposed amendment(s) has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting and that a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members present and voting at the meeting affirm the adoption.