

Constitution

CLB Pacific Region

As adopted April 24, 2010

ARTICLE I – NAME

The Pacific Region of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.

MOTTO

“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

John 4:35

ARTICLE II – STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren shall also be the Statement of Faith of the Pacific Region of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren as follows:

1. The Bible, including both the Old and New Testaments as originally given, is the verbally and plerarily inspired Word of God and is free from error in the whole and in the part, and is therefore the final and authoritative guide for faith and conduct.
2. There is one God eternally existent in three distinct persons in one divine essence; Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. God the Father has revealed Himself to us as the Creator and Preserver of the universe to Whom the entire creation and all creatures are subject.
4. God created Adam and Eve in His image to live in fellowship with Him. They fell into sin through the temptation of Satan and thereby lost fellowship with God. Through their disobedience the entire human race became totally depraved, that is, self-centered sinners who oppose God, and who by nature are unable to trust, fear or love Him. They are subject to the devil, and are condemned to death under the eternal wrath of God.
5. Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son, is the image of the invisible God. To accomplish our redemption, He became fully human, being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus Christ, who is true God and true man, by His perfect obedience and substitutionary death on the cross, has purchased our redemption. He arose from the dead for our justification in the body in which He was crucified. He ascended into Heaven, where He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father as our interceding High Priest. He will come a second time personally, bodily and visibly to gather the believers unto Himself, and to establish His millennial kingdom. He will judge the living and the dead and make an eternal separation between believers and unbelievers. His kingdom shall have no end.
6. The Holy Spirit is a divine person eternally one with the Father and with the Son. Through the Word of God, He convicts people of sin, persuades them to confess their sinfulness to God, and calls them to faith through the Gospel. He regenerates, sanctifies, and preserves believers in the one true faith. He comforts, guides, equips, directs, and empowers the church to fulfill the Great Commission.
7. The knowledge and benefit of Christ's redemption from sin are brought to the human race through the means of grace, namely the Word and the Sacraments.

a. Through the Word of the Law God brings sinners to know their lost condition and to repent. Through the Word of the Gospel He brings sinners to believe in Jesus Christ, to be justified, to enter the process of sanctification, and to have eternal life. This occurs as the Holy Spirit awakens them to see their sin, convicts them of their guilt of sin, and calls them to repent and believe, inviting and enabling them to accept God's grace in Christ. Each one who thus believes is instantly forgiven and credited with Christ's righteousness. The Word then teaches and guides the believer to a godly life.

b. In the Sacrament of Baptism, God offers the benefits of Christ's redemption to all people and graciously bestows the washing of regeneration and newness of life to all who believe. God calls the baptized person to live in daily repentance, that is, in sorrow for sin, in turning from sin, and in personal faith in the forgiveness of sin obtained by Christ. By grace we are daily given the power to overcome sinful desires and live a new life in Christ. Those who do not continue to live in God's grace need to be brought again to repentance and faith through the Law and Gospel.

Because the sinfulness of human nature passes on from generation to generation and the promise of God's grace include little children, we baptize infants, who become members of Christ's believing church through baptism. These children need to come to know that they are sinners with a sinful nature that opposes God. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, they need to confess their sinfulness and yield to God; and possess for themselves forgiveness of their sin through Jesus Christ, as they are led from the faith received in infant baptism into a clear conscious personal faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior and being assured of salvation, rely solely on the finished work of Christ, and the power of the Gospel to live as children of God.

c. In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ gives to the communicants His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. He declares the forgiveness of sin to all believers, and strengthens their faith.

8. Eternal salvation is available to every living human being on earth by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. This salvation consists of an instantaneous aspect and an ongoing, continual aspect.

a. Justification is God's gracious act by which He, for Christ's sake, instantaneously acquits repentant and believing sinners and credits them with Christ's righteousness. At that moment, God gives each one who believes a new and godly nature and the Holy Spirit begins the process of sanctification. There is no place for human effort in justification.

b. Sanctification is God's gracious, continual work of spiritual renewal and growth in the life of every justified person. Through the means of grace, the Holy Spirit works to reproduce the character of Christ within the lives of all believers, instructing and urging them to live out their new nature. The Holy Spirit enables believers more and more to resist the devil, to overcome the world, and to count themselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in and bestows spiritual gifts upon all believers. He calls, empowers and equips them to serve God in the home, in the community, and as part of the Church Universal. The process of sanctification will be complete only when the believer reaches glory.

9. The Church universal consists of all those who truly believe on Jesus Christ as their Savior. The local congregation is an assembly of believers in a certain locality among whom the Gospel is purely taught and the sacraments are rightly administered. The confessing membership of the local congregation shall include only those who have been baptized into “the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” confess personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, maintain a good reputation in the community and accept the constitution of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. It cannot, however, be avoided that hypocrites might be mixed in the congregation; that is, those whose unbelief is not evident to the congregation.

10. The Church of the Lutheran Brethren practices the congregational form of church government and the autonomy of the local congregation. The office of pastor and elder is to be filled by men only. The synodical administration has an advisory function as it relates to the congregation and an administrative function as it relates to the cooperative efforts of the congregations.

11. The Lutheran confessions are a summary of Bible doctrines. We adhere to the following confessional writings: The Apostles’ Creed, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism.

ARTICLE III – DEFINITION AND SCOPE

The Pacific Region is an association of Lutheran Brethren congregations working in harmony with the teaching and practices of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, located in an area determined by the Council of Directors of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.

ARTICLE IV – AIMS

The aims of the Pacific Region are as follows:

1. To cooperate with the congregations in order to strengthen the believers through the preaching of the Word and the exercise of the gifts of grace to win souls for Christ.
2. To unite in inter-church programs, which can be more effectively accomplished on a region-wide basis.
3. To cooperate with the Church of the Lutheran Brethren in the promotion of synodical ministries.
4. To work through Ministry Clusters to reach people in new communities and in church planting efforts.
5. To promote region-wide conferences, Bible Camps, youth conferences, and Sunday School workshops as appropriate.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Any congregation within the Pacific Region belonging to the Church of the Lutheran Brethren is automatically a member of the Region.

ARTICLE VI – REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

1. Organizaton of the Pacific Region: The Region shall consist of Pacific North (WA, OR, ID) and Pacific South (CA, AZ, TX).
2. Officers: The officers of the Region shall be those from Pacific North – Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Secretary, Treasurer and Youth Coordinator; and from Pacific South – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Youth Coordinator.
3. The Regional Executive Board will consist of the Regional Pastor, the Pacific North Chairman, the Pacific South Chairman plus one additional member from each of the executive committees of Pacific North and Pacific South appointed by their respective Regional Chairmen.
4. All officers shall be members of Lutheran Brethren congregations within the Region. The Chairmen and Vice Chairmen shall be pastors or elders ordained in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.
 - a. The two Vice Chairmen of Pacific North shall be elected one from the northern area and one from the southern area. The determination of the boundaries of the northern and southern areas shall be determined and periodically reviewed by the Regional Executive Board.
 - b. Following the election of the two Pacific North Vice Chairmen a vote will be taken by the Pacific North executive committee to determine the order of succession to serve as First Vice Chairman and Second Vice Chairman. The person receiving the greater number of votes will serve as First Vice Chairman.
 - c. In the event that the office of First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, or Youth Coordinator(s) be vacated, the Regional Executive Board may appoint inviduals to fill the vacated office until the next Regional Biennial Meeting.
5. Transition of Authority: All elected officers shall assume their duties immediately following the Regional Biennial Meeting.
6. Bible Camp Board(s) in the Region shall consist of members as determined by the cooperative efforts of the local congregations. These boards shall choose their own Bible Camp Directors.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

1. The Biennial Meeting of the Region shall be held after January 1 and before August 1. Each congregation may be represented by four delegates and its pastor(s). In addition, synodical pastors and missionaries residing in the Region shall have voting rights. A quorum for an official Regional meeting shall be defined as duly elected representatives from the majority of the Region congregations.
2. The Biennial Meeting of the Pacific Region may consist of separate Pacific North and Pacific South meetings or a combined meeting at the discretion of the Regional Executive Board.
3. A Nominating Committee(s) of three members shall be appointed by the respective executive committees of the Pacific North and Pacific South. If possible, the Nominating Committee(s) will submit a double slate of candidates for offices to be elected at the upcoming Biennial Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

This constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present at the Regional Biennial Meeting providing said amendment has been presented in writing to the Regional Executive Board for discussion and distribution to member congregations at least three months prior to the Biennial Meeting. Changes in this constitution shall be subject to ratification by the Council of Directors of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

1. Regional Pastor.
 - a. He shall be an ordained pastor or elder of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.
 - b. The United States Regional Pastors shall be nominated by the Synod President and appointed by the Council of Directors.
 - c. His performance shall be evaluated by the Synodical President with input from the pastors and congregations in the Region.
 - d. His appointment shall be affirmed every two years by the congregations within the Region at their Regional Biennial Convention.
 - e. He shall report directly to the Synodical President.
 - f. He shall preside at the meetings of the Regional Executive Board.
 - g. He shall provide assistance in the shepherding/mentoring of pastors, and in the areas of synodical and congregational relations, pastoral and congregational health, conflict resolution, and training/education.
 - h. He shall encourage, facilitate and support Ministry Clusters, congregations in the Region working together in various aspects of ministry.
 - i. He shall be responsible for regional and cluster communication.
 - j. He shall provide assistance in church planting efforts within the Region. He will work with individual congregations and clusters of congregations to reach people in new communities and will provide coaching, resources and encouragement.
 - k. He shall pursue opportunities to utilize the resource of young people, by training, equipping, empowering, and networking in unity of mission and purpose.
 - l. He shall generally preside at regional official functions (ordinations, installations, dedications, etc.) unless the local congregation should request the services of the Synodical President or some other mutually acceptable person.
 - m. He shall recommend pastoral candidates to congregations seeking his advice.
 - n. He shall schedule individuals and groups traveling through the Region unless the congregations make their own arrangements.

- o. He shall have other synodical responsibilities as assigned by the Synodical President.
 - p. He shall be a non-voting member of the Council of Directors.
2. The Duly Elected Officers of the Region:
- a. The Chairman of either Pacific North or Pacific South presides at the Regional Biennial Meeting to be determined by the Regional Executive Board.
 - b. The Chairmen assume other duties and responsibilities as agreed upon by their respective executive committees.
 - c. The First Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman in all his various duties at the Chairman's request.
 - d. The First Vice Chairman shall assume the position and duties of the Chairman in his absence. The Second Vice Chairman shall assume the duties of the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman and the First Vice Chairman.
 - e. The Secretary of either Pacific North or Pacific South as designated by the Regional Executive Board shall keep a record of the Regional Biennial Meeting and the Regional Executive Board meetings.
 - f. The Treasurers shall keep an accurate accounting of the funds of Pacific North and Pacific South and shall pay all regular authorized obligations, and report on the same to the Regional Biennial Meeting and at the request of the Regional Executive Board.
 - g. The combined executive committees of Pacific North and Pacific South are authorized to establish a budget for the second year of the biennial term.
 - h. The Youth Coordinator(s) shall collect and coordinate youth leader contacts from each Regional congregation, encourage local youth ministry within the Region, work toward sharing youth ministry resources and ideas, and plan at least one Regional or cluster youth event annually. He/She shall communicate plans and activities to the executive committees, and shall submit a report to the Regional Biennial Meeting. The Youth Coordinator(s) shall have youth ministry experience.
3. Terms of Office: All duly elected officers of the Region shall serve four year terms. The terms of the Chairman and Secretary shall expire together, but not at the same biennial meeting as the Vice Chairmen, Treasurer and Youth Coordinator whose terms will expire together.
4. Duties of Boards and Committees:
- a. Regional Executive Board:

- 1) It shall have a general supervisory responsibility for the work of the Region. It shall arrange for the time and place of all Regional meetings. The Executive Board shall have authority to call special Regional meetings when needed.
 - 2) It shall recommend new congregations for membership to the Regional Biennial Meeting which in turn recommends the congregation to the Church of the Lutheran Brethren Biennial Meeting.
 - 3) It shall recommend to expel a local congregation from membership in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren first to the Regional Biennial Meeting and then to the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.
- b. Other committees may be established as needed by the Regional Executive Board.
5. The financial records of the Region shall be audited annually by the Finance Department of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.
 6. Council of Directors Regional Representatives: The Region shall nominate at its Biennial Meeting at least two laypersons (at least one ordained) and at least one pastor from its members for four year terms for election to the Council of Directors of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.

ARTICLE II – AMENDMENTS

These by-laws can be amended by a majority vote of the delegates present at the Biennial Meeting of the Region providing said amendment has been presented in writing to the Regional Chairman for discussion and distribution to member congregations at least three months prior to the Biennial Meeting. Changes in these by-laws shall be subject to ratification by the Council of Directors of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.