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CONSTITUTION
of
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, The Word of God demands that a Christian congregation not only to conform to the Word of God in doctrine (Ps. 119:106; Gal. 1:6-8, II Tim. 4:1-5) but, also, that all things be done decently and in order (I Cor. 14:40), therefore, we a number of Lutherans, of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos, California, and vicinity, in establishing such a Christian Congregation, adopt this document as its Constitution and Bylaws, in accordance with which our congregational affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

ARTICLE I -- Name

The name of the congregation shall be Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Los Alamitos, California.

ARTICLE II - Object and Purpose

The object and purposes for which this corporation is formed, besides those stated in the Articles of Incorporation, are:

1. To establish and maintain in our midst, for the spiritual benefit of our congregational membership, the office of the Christian Ministry.
2. To assist to the best of our ability in the regular and systematic promulgation and dissemination, in our own community, and in the world at large of the Christian religion as set forth in the Confessional Standard of the Lutheran Church, the Book of Concord of the year 1580.
3. To establish and maintain the best possible agency or agencies for the Christian education and training of our youth.
4. To contract with persons, firms and corporations and be contracted with to do all other acts necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the objectives and purposes for which the corporation is formed.

ARTICLE III - Confessional Standards

This congregation accepts without reservation:

1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the Written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice;
2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther and the Formula of Concord.

ARTICLE IV - Membership

The congregation distinguishes between Child, Communicant and Voting members, all of whom must be baptized. The admission of new members is set forth in the Bylaws of this Constitution.

Communicant membership requires that a person:

1. Accepts and is familiar with the confessional standards related in Article II, above;
2. Attends divine services faithfully and partakes of the Lord's Supper frequently;
3. Leads a Christian life (Matt. 5-7; Gal. 5:22, 23) and abstains from manifest works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21);
4. Contributes as the Lord has prospered him/her (I Cor. 16:2) toward the maintenance of the congregation, its due functions and the extension of the Church at large;
5. Submits, for the sake of love and peace, to the regulations already made, or still to be made, by this congregation, provided they do not conflict with the Word of God;
6. Accepts brotherly admonition when he/she has erred, becomes delinquent in the requirement of membership, or otherwise given offense (Matt. 18:15-17);
7. Is not a member of any organization that confesses and/or fosters a religion, the principles and practices of which conflict with the Word of God (II Cor. 6:14-18, II John 9) such as secret, oath-bound societies, etc.

1 This procedure shall include provision for payment of any financial obligations that at such time may be outstanding against
2 the congregation.

3 **ARTICLE IX - Called Personnel**

4 This congregation has the exclusive right to call ordained and commissioned ministers (refer to Article V). The pastoral office
5 shall be conferred only on such a pastor or candidate who professes and adheres to the confessional standard set forth
6 in this Constitution, who is qualified for this work, who has been endorsed by the Synod, and who is a member of the
7 Synod.

8 Any ordained or commissioned minister may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority ballot vote at a properly called
9 regular or special meeting of the congregation, in Christian and lawful order, for one of the following reasons: persistent
10 adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect, or evident inability or protracted incapacity to perform duties
11 of the office.

12 In case of a vacancy in the office of an ordained or commissioned minister, the congregation shall notify the president of
13 the District so that he may assist in temporarily filling the vacancy and also give assistance in regard to the calling of a new
14 pastor(s).

15 **ARTICLE X - Board of Directors**

16 The officers of this corporation shall be the Board of Directors as outlined in the Bylaws. No officer of this congregation shall
17 have authority beyond that which the congregation or this constitution and Bylaws may confer upon him/her.

18 **ARTICLE XI - Removal from Office**

19 Any officer or officers of the congregation, in Christian and rightful order, may be removed from office. Sufficient and urgent
20 causes for removal are: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect, or evident inability or
21 protracted incapacity to perform duties of the office. (Refer to Article IX for the removal of called personnel.)

22 **ARTICLE XII - Synodical Membership**

23 The congregation shall immediately apply for and hold membership in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and by
24 signing the Constitution of this Synod, respectively the Constitution of the Pacific Southwest District of the same, by the
25 Pastor and lay delegate, properly authorized to do so, shall commit itself to the confession, doctrines, practices and
26 discipline of such Synod and the Pacific Southwest District of the same in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of said
27 Synod and District, as directed in section 109b of the Synodical Handbook (1949).

28 "Synod expects every member congregation to respect its resolutions and to consider them of binding force if they are in
29 accordance with the Word of God and if they appear expedient as far as the condition of the congregation is concerned.
30 Synod, being an ADVISORY BODY, recognizes the right of the congregation to be the judge of the expediency of the
31 resolution as applied to its local condition. However, in exercising such judgment, a congregation must not act arbitrarily,
32 but in accordance with the principles of Christian love and charity."

33 **ARTICLE XIII - Organizations within the Congregation**

34 Any organization within the congregation shall exist only by the consent and approval of the congregation and shall have
35 the right to existence only as their general activities conform to the purpose and serve the best interest of the congregation
36 and the Church at large. The Pastors shall, by virtue of their office exercise the spiritual supervision over such organizations.
37 The Board of Directors as such shall concern itself with the activities and welfare of such organizations and shall, from time
38 to time, receive a report of their general status and functions.

39 **ARTICLE XIV - Amendments, Alterations, Repeals**

40 This Constitution, except Articles II, III, IV, and XII, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of voting members present at a
41 properly called regular or special congregational meeting provided that the proposed amendment has been included in
42 the call of the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be acted upon.

43 Articles II, III, IV, and XII may be amended by a two-thirds vote of voting members present at a properly called regular or
44 special congregational meeting provided that the proposed amendment has been included in the call of and discussed
45 at two meetings before the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to receive action. Due notice that a vote will be
46 taken shall be given to all voting members of the congregation. Any changes to these articles shall not change their
47 essential meaning. Whether this has occurred shall be decided by Synodical dispute-resolution procedures.