

Adopted: May 1, 2016
RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH: CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Created in God's Image, redeemed by His Son, empowered by His Holy Spirit, the congregation is called to:

- Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Administer the Sacraments (Mark 14:22-25)
- Study the Scriptures (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- Instruct the youth and provide for their spiritual welfare (Matthew 19:13-14)
- Witness to the community, nation, and world (II Timothy 2:15, Acts 1:18)
- Support one another in prayer (James 5:16)
- Help those in need (I John 3:17)
- And practice responsible stewardship (I Peter 4:10-11)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The congregation's name is Resurrection Lutheran Church, incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Texas

ARTICLE II: CONFESSION OF FAITH AND ACCEPTANCE OF DOCUMENTS

The congregation confesses faith in the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; In the Father, the creator and sustainer of the universe; In the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior who died and rose again for the redemption of a fallen humanity; and In the Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the Christian church and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the faith.

The congregation further accepts the canonical scripture of the Old and New Testaments as the divinely inspired, and revealed Word of God and the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life. As brief and true statements of the doctrine of the Word of God, the congregation accepts the following: The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds; the Unaltered Augsburg Confession; Luther's Small Catechism; and the Book of Concord of 1580.

ARTICLE III: SYNOD AFFILIATION

The congregation is a member of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and is subject to its policies and disciplines. To sever membership in the LCMC, a two-thirds majority vote is required of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at a Voter's Assembly. To become effective, the decision to sever must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at a Voter's Assembly held at least ninety days after the initial vote was taken. To join another synod, the same procedure will be followed.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLESHIP (MEMBERSHIP)

As identified in the bylaws, disciples of the congregation are those individuals who accept and abide by its constitution and bylaws. Disciples will consider it a privilege and duty to use the means of grace, both Word and sacraments, to live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran Church, and to support the work of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

ARTICLE V: AUTHORITY

In all matters of Christian faith and life, the authority of the Word of God is supreme. In the administration of all other affairs, the congregation is governed by its constitution, bylaws, and decisions of the Voter's Assembly. For the purposes of this constitution, a quorum is twenty-five per cent of the voting disciples in attendance.

ARTICLE VI: PASTORS

Only individuals who accept and pledge faithful adherence to the confessions of the congregation as set forth in the Preamble and Article II of this Constitution and are clergy of, and/or recommended for consideration by the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, can be called to serve as pastors of the congregation.

ARTICLE VII: MINISTRIES

All ministries within the congregation are to be established as provided for in the constitution and bylaws. The pastor(s) by virtue of his or her pastoral duties will be the advisor(s) for all ministries.

ARTICLE VIII: LEGAL OWNERSHIP

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 two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at a Voter's Assembly. To terminate the congregation's existence, a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at a Voter's Assembly is required. Should the congregation disband title to its land and other estates, real and personal, must be used for charitable purposes as directed by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at a Voter's Assembly.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

The doctrinal basis and confessional subscription contained in Article II of the constitution are unalterable. The congregation must be notified of any proposed amendments to the constitution by mail and an announcement at each Sunday worship service not less than four consecutive weeks prior to their consideration at a Voter's Assembly. The amendments must be approved, with or without change, by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at the Voter's Assembly. To become effective and without change, it must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at a

Voter's Assembly held at least ninety days after the initial vote was taken. If the proposed amendments fail, they may be amended by a majority vote of those present and voting; and ratified, without change, by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at a Voter's Assembly held no sooner than six months later.

ARTICLE X: BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS

The congregation will adopt and amend bylaws as allowed by this article. The congregation must be notified of any proposed amendments to the bylaws by mail and an announcement at each Sunday worship service not less than four consecutive weeks prior to their consideration at a Voter's Assembly. They must be approved, with or without change, by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at the Voter's Assembly.

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH: BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS

Congregation: The body of people consisting of those individuals received as disciples (members) of Resurrection Lutheran Church according to Article IV of these bylaws.

Confirmed Disciple: An individual received into the fellowship of the congregation according to Article IV, Section 2, of these bylaws.

Disciple (member): An individual received into the fellowship of the congregation according to Article IV of these bylaws.

Disciple (in good standing): An individual participating in Holy Communion; contributing to the congregation; and participating in the life and worship of the congregation.

Ministry Teams:

Core Ministry Teams: teams, which are long-term and essential to the congregation's mission, vision, and values.

Ministry Teams: teams, which exist for the life of a specific ministry that complements the congregation's mission, vision, and values.

Pastors: Individuals qualified according to Article VII of the constitution and called according to Article VI of these bylaws.

Staff: Individuals, who are not clergy, who are employees of the corporation.

Church Council: Six disciples of the congregation, at least 18 years of age, elected by a Voter's Assembly according to Article VIII of these bylaws.

Voter's Assembly: A meeting of the voting disciples of the congregation.

Voting Disciple: An individual who is a confirmed disciple and who is "in good standing."

ARTICLE II: PRINCIPLES

The mission, vision, and values of the congregation are embodied in the Preamble and Article II of the constitution and in the following principles:

Section 1. Modeled after the early church

(Acts 2:42) "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Section 2. Motto

Resurrection: Where New Life Begins.

Section 3. Mission Statement

To Reach people in God's world; Raise up Christ followers; and Release servants to expand the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Powers of the Congregation

The powers of the congregation are vested in decisions of the Voter's Assembly made in accordance with the constitution and bylaws.

Section 2. Church Council

Authority of the Church Council is recognized only as delegated to them in the constitution, bylaws, and decisions of the Voter's Assembly.

Section 3, Quorum and Voting

Unless otherwise specified in the constitution and bylaws, a quorum for a Voter's Assembly will consist of twenty-five percent of the congregation's voting disciples in attendance. No voting disciple may cast a vote by proxy. Unless otherwise specified in the constitution or bylaws, a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting at a Voter's Assembly will decide all motions presented by a simple majority vote.

Robert's Rules of Order will govern all meetings of the Voter's Assembly and the Church Council.

ARTICLE IV: DISCIPLESHIP (MEMBERSHIP)

Section 1. Admission of Baptized Disciples

Children, one, or both of whose parents or guardians are disciples (members) of the congregation, will be received as disciples of the congregation upon receiving Christian baptism (as a duly recorded ministerial act performed under the auspices of the congregation). Children, whose parents or guardians are not disciples of the congregation, will be received as baptized disciples upon receiving a Christian baptism (as a duly recorded ministerial act performed under the auspices of the congregation). If, for good reason, they are to be enrolled as baptized disciples of another congregation, notice of the baptism will be sent to that congregation.

Children, who have received a Christian baptism in another congregation, will be received as baptized disciples of the congregation upon admission of one or both parents or guardians to discipleship, or by consent of one or both parents or guardians, or by decision of the Church Council .

Adults, not having been baptized, will be received as baptized disciples of the congregation when they have received instruction, given evidence of having an adequate understanding and acceptance of the teachings of the Word of God as confessed by the congregation in its constitution and bylaws, confessed their faith, and received Christian baptism (as a duly recorded ministerial act performed under the auspices of the congregation).

Section 2. Admission of Confirmed Disciples

Applicants for discipleship, presenting a letter of transfer showing them to be confirmed disciples in good standing in another Lutheran congregation, will be admitted to confirmed discipleship upon acceptance of their letter of transfer by the Church Council and submission of their names to the congregation.

Applicants for discipleship, without a letter of transfer who present evidence of confirmation in a Lutheran congregation will be admitted to confirmed discipleship upon acceptance by the Church Council and submission of their names to the congregation. Baptized adults, not previously confirmed disciples of a Lutheran congregation, will be received as confirmed disciples of the congregation after having received instruction, given evidence of adequate understanding of the teachings of the Word of God as confessed by the congregation in its constitution and bylaws, and having publicly affirmed their faith. Adults, received as

baptized disciples according to the provisions of Section 1 of this Article, will be received as confirmed disciples, upon recommendation of the pastor, by the Church Council and submission of their names to the congregation whether or not they have participated in the rite of confirmation (affirmation of baptism) or appropriate spiritual instruction. Children, who are baptized disciples of the congregation, will be admitted to confirmed discipleship through participation in the rite of confirmation or appropriate spiritual instruction.

Section 3. Voting Disciples

The Church Council will maintain a current roster of the congregation's confirmed voting disciples, which are disciples eighteen years in age or older and "in good standing" in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws. The roster will be available at all meetings of the Voters' Assembly.

Section 4. Associate Disciples

Associate disciples are those individuals having a discipleship (membership) in another Christian congregation, who wish to retain such standing and yet desire to participate in the life, mission, and vision of this congregation. They may become disciples "in good standing" of this congregation except for having the right to vote and to hold an elected office in the congregation.

Section 5. Discontinuance of Discipleship

Disciples, who move to another community, will be encouraged to transfer their discipleship to a congregation in their new location. Confirmed disciples, who are in good standing and desiring to change discipleship to another congregation, will be given a letter of transfer upon request. Confirmed disciples, not "in good standing" will be visited by a pastor and/or appropriately appointed disciples of the congregation to encourage them to active discipleship. If, during the second year these disciples remain unresponsive, their names will be removed from the disciples "in good standing" roster of the congregation. For one additional year, they will be retained on a list of those individuals who are in special need of the congregation's prayer and concern. Disciples, unable to maintain "in good standing" status because of physical or mental incapacity, will be given special consideration. Disciples, as determined by the Church Council who have resigned (clearly in a verbal manner or in writing), been dismissed, transferred to another congregation by letter of transfer, or who are known to have become disciples of another congregation without having requested a letter of transfer, will have surrendered all discipleship rights in this congregation. The applicable sections of this Article will govern the reactivation of individuals into discipleship.

ARTICLE V: COMMUNION PARTICIPATION

The congregation will regularly provide Holy Communion to its disciples.

Participation in Holy Communion will be open to all baptized believers who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It will be made known to prospective participants that the belief of the congregation is: Participation in the Lord's Supper is the reception of "the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink." We hold that a person is well prepared and worthy who believes these words, "given and shed for you for the

remission of sins.” Anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is neither prepared nor worthy, for the words for you require simply a believing heart.

ARTICLE VI: PASTORAL CALL

The Church Council , within seven days of the occurrence of a pastoral vacancy or within a reasonable time of receiving notice of an impending pastoral vacancy will call for a special meeting. It will select from the congregation at large not less than five or more than seven voting disciples to serve on a Call Committee. The Call Committee will review the pastoral staffing needs of the congregation, identify and interview pastoral candidates and make its recommendation to the Church Council and to a meeting of the Voter’s Assembly as to the issuance of a Letter of Call. The Call Committee’s duties will end upon acceptance of the Letter of Call or other determination by the Voter’s Assembly. At a meeting of the Voter’s Assembly called for that purpose, a two-thirds vote by a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting is required to approve a Letter of Call to a pastor. A pastor accepting the congregation’s Letter of Call will be loyal and faithful to the Word of God and the congregation’s constitution and bylaws. The Church Council , or its designees, will conduct an annual evaluation of each pastor called to serve the congregation. If a pastor of the congregation receives a Letter of Call from another congregation, he or she will notify the Church Council within two days of receiving the call and before arriving at their decision. At a meeting of the Voter’s Assembly scheduled for that purpose, a two-thirds vote by a quorum of the voting disciples present and voting is required to request a pastor’s resignation. If approved, the pastor will vacate his or her position at the time specified by the congregation’s decision. For the purpose of this paragraph, a quorum is twenty-five per cent of voting members in attendance. In the absence of a pastor, through a vacancy or other reason, the Church Council of the congregation may secure the services of a pastor who is qualified according to the constitution and bylaws to perform pastoral duties.

ARTICLE VII: VOTER’S ASSEMBLY

Section 1. Meetings

Within four weeks prior to or after the beginning of the congregation’s fiscal year, the Church Council will annually call a meeting of the Voter’s Assembly at which time the Church Council will submit for approval a budget for the congregation’s fiscal year and any other matters to be brought to the attention of the congregation. The congregation must be notified of the annual meeting by mail and an announcement at each Sunday worship service not less than four consecutive weeks prior to its being held. The Church Council , a Pastor, or ten qualified voting disciples of the congregation may call a special meeting of the Voter’s Assembly. The purpose of the special meeting must be disclosed in all notifications made to the congregation and no other business may be transacted during the meeting except on that for which the meeting was called. The congregation must be notified by postal or electronic mail and an announcement at Sunday worship not less than two weeks prior to a special meeting of the Voter’s Assembly.

Section 2. Order of Business

All annual meetings of the Voter's Assembly will follow the order prescribed below unless two-thirds of the voting disciples present vote otherwise. All special meetings of the Voter's Assembly will follow the order through number six and then consider the business for which the meeting was called.

1. Call to Order
2. Scripture reading and prayer
3. Appointment of parliamentarian and declaration of a quorum
4. Acknowledgment of new disciples qualified to vote
5. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
6. Treasurer's report
7. State of congregation report by Church Council
8. Report by pastor(s)
9. Special reports
10. Unfinished business
11. New business
12. Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nomination Procedure

The nominating committee will consist of five voting disciples with two chosen annually by the Church Council, and three elected annually at a meeting of the Voter's Assembly. They will serve for the purpose of nominating qualified confirmed disciples for terms on the Church Council and the succeeding fiscal year's nominating committee. A pastor will serve as convener and advisor. The nominating committee will consider the gifts of each qualified confirmed disciple and notify the congregation of the names of the nominees chosen. The notification must be made not less than three weeks prior to the Voter's Assembly at which the election will be held. All elections will be conducted at either an annual or special meeting of the Voter's Assembly called for that purpose. Following the notification to the disciples of the congregation, any qualified voting disciple may submit to the nominating committee additional names of qualified confirmed disciples "in good standing" to be placed into nomination. This must occur a minimum of two weeks prior to the Voter's Assembly at which the election will be held. The nominating committee, in prayer and consultation with the pastor(s), will consider the confirmed disciple's participation in the life and worship of the congregation, his or her conformance to the guidelines established by the nominating committee, and his or her willingness to serve. The congregation must be notified of any additional nominees not less than one week prior to the Voter's Assembly at which the election will be held.

Section 2. Election Procedure

At the annual meeting of the Voter's Assembly, the nominated candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be considered elected to the applicable positions on the Church Council and the nominating committee. Elections will be conducted by a written ballot unless a quorum of the voting disciples present approve a motion for a

unanimous ballot in the event the candidates nominated do not exceed the number of positions to be filled.

Section 3. Installation

Confirmed disciples newly elected to a full term on the Church Council and the nominating committee will be installed during a worship service the first Sunday following their election. A confirmed disciple elected to a partial term will be installed during a worship service the first Sunday after his or her election.

ARTICLE IX: Church Council

Section 1. Purpose:

The Church Council is called and elected to promote and advance the mission and vision of the congregation as embodied in the constitution and bylaws of the congregation and to implement the expressed will of the congregation in decisions made by a Voter's Assembly. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it will endeavor to coordinate and liberate the ministries of the congregation for the total furtherance of the work of Christ's Kingdom.

Section 2. Term of Office

The term of each position on the Church Council is three years, terminating at the installation of a successor. At the completion of each of these terms, successors will be elected to terms of two years. A voting disciple may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Section 3. Organization:

During the first meeting after the annual meeting of the Voter's Assembly and the installation of new members, the Church Council will elect from within its membership a Spokesperson and a Secretary. As determined by the Church Council, it will assign portfolios to its members as needed to facilitate communication with core ministry teams.

Section 4. Officers

The Spokesperson of the Church Council will preside at all meetings of the Voter's Assembly and Church Council. In his or her absence, another Council Member will preside. The secretary is responsible for congregational records and recording the minutes of all meetings of the Church Council and Voter's Assembly. The Church Council may appoint a treasurer from outside its membership. Following accepted accounting principles, the treasurer will be responsible for the oversight and maintenance of all financial records of the congregation and to perform other duties as defined in the position's job description or in these bylaws. In the case that all six positions of the Church Council are filled, the pastor(s) will serve as a non-voting ex officio advisor to the Council. Whereas, if positions are unfilled, the pastor(s) will serve as a voting member(s) of the Church Council.

Section 5. Meetings

The Church Council will meet at least once a month. As additionally needed, any three members of the Church Council may call a special meeting. To make official decisions, a quorum is a majority of members physically present or participating by a telecommunication device.

Section 6. Report and Audit

The Church Council will present a state of the congregation report at the annual meeting of the Voter's Assembly. The Church Council will annually appoint an Audit Committee consisting of any two qualified confirmed disciples of the congregation, other than the treasurer, to audit the financial records of the congregation. The audit report will be submitted to the annual meeting of the Voter's Assembly.

Section 7. Vacancies

If after prayerful consideration any member of the Church Council is unable to fulfill his or her commitment to their position, they are to submit their resignation. If a member is absent three or more consecutive meetings without a reasonable explanation, the remaining members of the Church Council may declare the position vacant. If a vacancy occurs on the Church Council for any reason, the nominating committee will follow the procedures in Section 1 of this Article and will submit the name of a qualified nominee (or nominees, if applicable) to the Church Council, which will then appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term. The appointment, unless the unexpired term is completed, must be ratified by majority vote at the next annual or special meeting of the Voter's Assembly that is held.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE

A disciple, who advocates doctrines that are contrary to Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Church, or who is guilty of conduct grossly unbecoming of a disciple of the Body of Christ, will be subject to discipline. The Church Council, on behalf of the congregation will administer the discipline. The disciplined disciple has the right of appeal to a meeting of the Voter's Assembly. All discipline of a disciple will be exercised in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18.