

## Proposed Changes

(1)

### Article III – Confessions

This Congregation acknowledges and accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God, verbally inspired without error, and acknowledges and accepts the confessional writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, to be the true and genuine expositions of the doctrines of the Bible. These confessional writings are the three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Large and Small Catechisms, The Treatise of the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord.

*Currently Reads*

### ARTICLE III - CONFESSIONS

- A. This congregation acknowledges and accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God, verbally inspired and without error, and acknowledges and accepts all the confessional writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, to be the true and genuine expositions of the doctrines of the Bible. These confessional writings are the three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Large and Small Catechisms, and the Formula of Concord.

(2)

### Remove Letter B from Article III - Confessions

*(Currently Reads)*

- B. Recognizing the need for the development of additional doctrinal statements dealing with the theological concerns and problems of each age, this congregation also acknowledges and accepts the "Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod of 1932" and "A Statement of Scriptural and Confessional Principles" (1972) as true and genuine expositions of the doctrines of the Bible.

(3)

**C Voting Membership**

All Confirmed members who have reached their eighteenth birthday, have read and signed the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation, and have been accepted by the Voters' Assembly shall be entitled to a vote. A voting member shall not hold office in the congregation until they have reached the age of twenty-one and has been a communicant member of the congregation for one year.

*(Currently Reads)*

**C. Voting Membership**

All confirmed male members who have reached their eighteenth birthday, have read and signed the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation, and have been accepted by the Voters' Assembly shall be entitled to vote. A voting member shall not hold office in the congregation until he has reached the age of twenty-one and has been a communicant member of the congregation for one year.

(4)

**Article VI – Powers of the Congregation**

**E. Removal of Office**

Any officer, pastor, or teacher may be removed from office by the congregation, by ballot, in the Christian and lawful order specified in the Bylaws, for one of the following causes; persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, and willful neglect of their official duties.

*(Currently Reads)*

**E. Removal from Office**

Any officer, pastor, or teacher may be removed from office by the congregation, by ballot, in the Christian and lawful order specified in the Bylaws, for one of the following causes: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, and willful neglect of his official duties.

BYLAWS

Article III – The Calling of Pastors and Teachers

**A. Nominations**

1. The elected officers of the congregation shall serve as a Call Committee. The officers shall request the names of suggested candidates from the congregation. Any member of the congregation may submit a name through any officer. The Call Committee shall then secure information concerning these candidates as well as the names of other candidates and information concerning them from the District President or Education Executive from the Central Illinois District. This, then, becomes the official Call List from which the Pastor-elect or Teacher-elect is to be selected.

2. A subcommittee, approved by the officers of the congregation, may be formed to gather information, visit with, and share information with potential called Pastors or Teachers. The subcommittee will report their findings and recommendations to the officers of the congregation.

*(Currently Reads)*

ARTICLE III - THE CALLING OF PASTORS AND TEACHERS

A. Nominations

The elected officers of the congregation shall serve as a Call Committee. The officers shall request the names of suggested candidates from the congregation. Any member of the congregation may submit a name through any officer. The Call Committee shall then secure information concerning these candidates as well as the names of other candidates and information concerning them from the District President. This, then, becomes the official Call List from which the Pastor-elect or Teacher-elect is to be selected.

**Article IV – The Election of Congregational Officers**

A Nominating Committee of three voting members appointed by the president prior to the October Voters' Assembly meeting and ratified by the Voters' Assembly in the October meeting, and the pastor shall compile a slate of candidates which shall be published at least two weeks prior to the December Voters' Assembly meeting. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee shall consist of at least two names for each office, if possible. In the Election Meeting in December, the list of candidates shall be approved by the voters. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, but no person shall be nominated without ( ) prior consent. The annual election shall be by ballot and shall take place during the election of officers meeting in December. The officers-elect shall be installed in the worship service on the last Sunday in December, if possible, and shall assume their respective duties on the first day of January of the following year. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Church Council shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the term, and this action shall be approved at the next meeting of the Voters' Assembly. No one shall be eligible to hold more than one elected office at one time. There shall be no limitation on the number of terms an officer may serve in any one office. Officers shall be elected for the terms specified in these Bylaws.

*(Currently Reads)*

**ARTICLE IV - THE ELECTION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

A Nominating Committee of three voting members, appointed by the president prior to the October Voters' Assembly meeting and ratified by the Voters' Assembly in the October meeting, and the pastor shall compile a slate of candidates which shall be published at least two weeks prior to the December Voters' Assembly meeting. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee shall consist of at least two names for each office, if possible. In the December meeting the list of candidates shall be approved by the voters. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, but no person shall be nominated without his prior consent. The annual election shall be by ballot and shall take place during the worship service on the last Sunday in December, if possible, and shall assume their respective duties on the first day of January of the following year. In the event of a vacancy in any office the Church Council shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the term, and this action shall be approved at the next meeting of the Voters' Assembly. No one shall be eligible to hold more than one elected office at one time. There shall be no limitation on the number of terms an officer may serve in any one office. Officers shall be elected for the terms specified in these Bylaws.

(7)

**Article VIII – Terms of Office and Duties of Elected Offices**

**A. President**

3. Prepare an orderly agenda for each meeting of the Voters' Assembly and each meeting of the Church Council in consultation with Secretary; minutes should be presented to the congregation in a timely fashion following the meetings, and agenda's for Regular Voters Meetings should be published a week before the scheduled meeting;

*(Currently Reads)*

3. Prepare an orderly agenda for each meeting of the Voters' Assembly and each meeting of the Church Council in consultation with the Secretary;

(13)

**B. Secretary**

6. Assist the President in the preparation of an orderly agenda for each meeting of the Voters' Assembly the Church Council; minutes should be presented to the congregation in a timely fashion following the meetings, and agenda's for Regular Voters Meetings should be published a week before the scheduled meeting.

*(Currently Reads)*

6. Assist the President in the preparation of an orderly agenda for each meeting of the Voters' Assembly and of the Church Council;

## E. The Elders

### E. The Elders

The term of each Elder shall be three years, with a minimum of one Elder being elected each year. The Elders shall elect one of their number to serve as Chairman of the Elders. The Elders shall meet each month with the pastor.

The Elders shall

1. Have as their special concern the spiritual welfare of the members of the congregation, individually and collectively;
2. Pray regularly, both collectively and individually, for their pastor and other spiritual leaders;
3. Encourage their pastor in his work by word and action;
4. Stand ready at all times to help the pastor in difficult problems of his special ministry;
5. Be concerned about the spiritual, emotional, and physical health and welfare of the pastor and his family (adequate compensation and housing, free time, vacation, assistance in times of illness, etc.);
6. Stimulate a high level of spirituality in the congregation by faithful example and encouragement;
7. Be responsible, with the pastor, for arranging pulpit and altar assistance, guest speakers, and special services;
8. Arrange for pastoral services when a vacancy occurs and exercise leadership in properly calling another pastor;
9. Be responsible, with the pastor and the church secretary, for maintaining an accurate list of members, both baptized and communicant;
10. Be concerned with congregation member's attendance at worship services and with their use of the Sacraments and establish a personal calling program on those who become lax or delinquent in worship, reception of Holy Communion, the Baptism of children, or the Christian education of children;
11. Be concerned for aged and shut-in members and encourage visitation by fellow members as well as by the pastor and Elders;
12. Be concerned about the thorough instruction of youth and adults for confirmation and communicant membership;
13. Be responsible for the friendly personal welcome, orientation, and integration of new members, in coordination with the Board of Evangelism and Public Relations;
14. Be concerned about member retention;
15. Secure the assistance of as many men as necessary to assist the Elders and the pastor with the distribution of Holy Communion;
16. Oversee the activities of the Altar Guild;

17. Be responsible, with the pastor, for appointing a Head Usher, recruiting ushers, training them, and overseeing their activities;
18. Be responsible, with the pastor, for recruiting choir directors and organists and overseeing their activity
19. Analyze each year the time, number, and meaningfulness of regular and special worship services and the condition of hymnals, pews, service books, and recommend improvements, when necessary;
20. Secure adequate and competent secretarial help for the congregation;
21. Keep an accurate record of the minutes of each Elders' meeting;
22. Submit a report to each meeting of the Church Council and the Voters' Assembly.

(Currently Reads)

## E. The Elders

The term of office of each Elder shall be three years, one Elder being elected each year. The Elders shall elect one of their number to serve as Chairman of the Elders. The Elders shall meet each month with the pastor.

The Elders shall

1. Have as their special concern the spiritual welfare of the members of the congregation, individually and collectively;
2. Pray regularly, both collectively and individually, for their pastor and other spiritual leaders;
3. Encourage their pastor in his work by word and action;
4. Stand ready at all times to help the pastor in difficult problems of his special ministry;
5. Be concerned about the spiritual, emotional, and physical health and welfare of the pastor and his family (adequate compensation and housing, free time, vacation, assistance in times of illness, etc.);
6. Stimulate a high level of spirituality in the congregation by faithful example and encouragement;
7. Be responsible, with the pastor, for arranging pulpit and altar assistance, guest speakers, and special services;
8. Arrange for pastoral services when a vacancy occurs and exercise leadership in properly calling another pastor;
9. Be responsible, with the pastor and the church secretary, for maintaining an accurate list of members, both baptized and communicant;
10. Be concerned with congregation members' attendance at worship services and with their use of the Sacraments and establish a personal calling program on those who become lax or delinquent in worship, reception of the Holy Communion, the Baptism of children, or the Christian education of children;
11. Be concerned for aged and shut-in members and establish a program of visitation by fellow-members as well as by the pastor and Elders;
12. Be concerned about the thorough instruction of youth and adults for confirmation and communicant membership;
13. Be responsible for the friendly personal welcome, orientation, and integration of new members, in coordination with the Board of Evangelism and Public Relations;
14. Be concerned about member retention;
15. Secure the assistance of as many men as necessary to assist the Elders and the pastor with the distribution of the Holy Communion;
16. Oversee the activities of the Altar Guild;
17. Be responsible, with the pastor, for appointing a Head Usher, recruiting ushers, training them, and
18. Be responsible, with the pastor, for recruiting choir directors and organists and overseeing their activity;
19. Analyze each year the time, number, and meaningfulness of regular and special worship services and the condition of hymnals, pews, service books, lights, ventilation, heat, etc., and recommend improvements, when necessary;
20. Secure adequate and competent secretarial help for the congregation;
21. Keep an accurate record of the minutes of each Elders' meeting;
22. Submit a report, preferably written, to each meeting of the Church Council and the Voters' Assembly.



**F. The Trustees**

The term of office of each Trustee shall be three years, with a minimum of one Trustee being elected each year. The Trustees shall elect one of their number to serve as the Chairman of the Trustees. The Trustees shall meet at least once each quarter with the pastor and the principal.

**The Trustees Shall**

1. See that all buildings, properties, and equipment of the congregation are kept in excellent condition and functional order;

(2-12 remain the same)

13. Be responsible for lighting, heating, and ventilation and recommend improvements whenever necessary;

14. Submit a report at each meeting of the Church Council and Voters' Assembly

*(Currently Reads)*

**F. The Trustees**

The term of office of each Trustee shall be three years, one Trustee being elected each year. The Trustees shall elect one of their number to serve as Chairman of the Trustees. The Trustees shall meet at least once each quarter with the pastor and the principal.

**The Trustees shall**

1. See that all buildings, properties, and equipment of the congregation are kept in excellent condition and functional order;
2. Make an annual inspection of all church buildings, properties, and equipment, including the parsonage and teacherage, and recommend needed repairs and equipment;
3. Carry out all resolutions of the Voters' Assembly in regard to the purchase, repair, replacement, etc., of church property and equipment;
4. Engage, with the approval of the Voters' Assembly, adequate custodial help, including that needed for lawn care and snow removal, and meet periodically with custodians to discuss care of buildings and lawns, needs and problems in the area of custodial services, remuneration, etc.;
5. Negotiate service contracts for organ, pianos, office machines, etc., as needed and desired;
6. Determine and establish, with the approval of the Voters' Assembly, regulations governing the use of church property and equipment;
7. Issue keys for those parts of the church building that are to be locked, and keep a list of the people to whom the keys are issued;

8. Annually check the adequacy of all types of insurance policies on church buildings and property and negotiate insurance contracts;
9. Annually check all property for fire hazards and see that fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, smoke alarms, etc., including those in the parsonage and teacherage, are properly placed and cared for;
10. Enlist work crews, when necessary, for special repairs, improvements, cleaning, painting, decorating, landscaping, and other projects;
11. See that all valuable papers of the congregation (deeds, insurance policies, certificates of incorporation, cancelled notes, etc.) are kept securely;
12. Serve as the corporate officers of the congregation and represent the congregation in all legal matters;
13. Submit a report, preferably written, to each meeting of the Church Council and the Voters' Assembly.

### G. The Directors of Trinity Lutheran School

The term of each school director shall be for three years, one being elected each year. The third-year member shall serve as the chairman of the School Directors unless otherwise determined by the board. The School Directors shall meet each month with the principal and the pastor: The Directors of Trinity Lutheran School Shall

1-16 remain the same

17. Submit a report at each meeting of the Church Council and Voters' Assembly.

*(Currently Reads)*

### G. The Directors of Trinity Lutheran School

The term of each school director shall be three years, one being elected each year. The School Directors shall elect one of their number to serve as Chairman of the School Directors. The School Directors shall meet each month with the principal and the pastor.

The Directors of Trinity Lutheran School shall

1. Organize, manage, and supervise the activities of Trinity Lutheran School;
2. Study and discuss the program of the school;
3. Carry out all resolutions of the Voters' Assembly in regard to the school;
4. See that the aims of Christian education are achieved in and by the school;
5. See that Christian discipline prevails in the school;
6. See that the proper courses of study are carried out;
7. See that relations among staff members and between teachers and students are satisfactory;
8. Consider and act upon proposed changes in the course of study, textbooks, equipment, and existing school regulations;
9. Exercise leadership in properly calling teachers;
10. Assist the principal and the teachers in their work by word and deed whenever possible and, if necessary, remind them of their duties;
11. Help to maintain and increase within the congregation proper esteem for the school;
12. Solicit pupils for the school;
13. Study and take advantage of mission opportunities open to and through the school;
14. Cooperate with the Central Illinois District Commission on Education and the Administrative Assistant to the President of the District in the Area of Education as well as the Regional Superintendent of Public Education as much as possible by furnishing all reports requested and considering seriously their recommendations for local adoption;
15. Investigate and endeavor to resolve any complaints made by faculty members, parents, or other members of the congregation that seemingly cannot be settled without its counsel;
16. Keep an accurate record of the minutes of each meeting of the School Directors;
17. Submit a report, preferably written, to each meeting of the Church Council and the Voters' Assembly.

**I. Chairman of the Board of Stewardship and Missions**

The term of the Chairman of the Board of Stewardship and Missions shall be one year.

He shall select and enlist members for the board in accord with Articles VI and IX of these Bylaws.

He shall see that the board carries out its duties as stated in Article IX of these Bylaws.

He shall submit a report, preferably written, to each meeting of the Church Council and the Voters' Assembly.

He shall be the Chairman of the Endowment Committee and shall preside at all Committee meetings.

A. The endowment committee shall consist of five members of Trinity Lutheran Church, two of whom will be the Stewardship Chairman and the Evangelism Chairman, elected by the church council. The three additional members of the congregation shall be appointed by the Chairman of the congregation with a rotating staggered three-year term.

a. Actions of the committee must be agreed to by at least 3 of the voting members. The committee shall meet at least 4 times a year.

b. The Stewardship Chairman, or a member designated by the Chairman, shall preside at all Committee Meetings.

c. The secretary shall maintain complete and accurate minutes of all meetings of the committee and supply a copy of the minutes to each member before the next meeting.

d. The Chairman of the Congregation shall have the authority to appoint members to the committee to fill vacancies that occur on the committee.

B. The duties of the endowment committee are:

a. To educate the church about the importance of the Trinity Lutheran Church and School Foundation.

b. To promote the funds and periodically arrange for members of the congregation to meet with professional counselors in the areas of charitable giving, wills, bequests, insurance, etc.

c. To solicit donations in an appropriate manner.

d. To assist donors in the process of making gifts to the funds.

e. To review proposed gifts by donors with final authority to accept or reject.

- f. To report at least annually to the church new gifts received, investment returns earned by the fund, the size of the funds, and details of all disbursements.
  - g. To act as the designated advisor of the Trinity Lutheran Church and School Foundation with respect to all operational matters, including requests for distribution of funding.
- C. Annually, the Endowment Committee may recommend to the Council a distribution(s) be made from the Endowment Fund in an amount not to exceed the investment income earned. Distribution(s) may be used for normal operating expenses. The council may approach the committee to request funds for special projects. There is no obligation to make distributions from the Endowment Fund in any given year.
- D. In the event that Trinity Lutheran Church or its successor(s) cease to exist, then the Trinity Lutheran Church and School Endowment fund shall be allocated for the support of projects, programs and activities of Lutheran Legacy Foundation.

*(Currently Reads)*

I. Chairman of the Board of Stewardship and Missions

The term of the Chairman of the Board of Stewardship and Missions shall be one year.

He shall select and enlist members for the board in accord with Articles VI and IX of these Bylaws.

He shall see that the board carries out its duties as stated in Article IX of these Bylaws.

He shall submit a report, preferably written, to each meeting of the Church Council and the Voters' Assembly.

**Article X – Committees**

**A. Financial Review Committees**

The President, with the approval of the Voters' Assembly, shall appoint a member of the congregation at the January meeting of the Voters' Assembly to audit the records of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. This audit should be completed the following year.

*(Currently Reads)*

**ARTICLE X - COMMITTEES**

**A. Financial Review Committee**

The President, with the approval of the Voters' Assembly, shall appoint two men at the January meeting of the Voters' Assembly to serve as the Financial Review Committee for that year. This committee shall review the books and records of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary in January,

(If Proposed Amendment 3 Passes by a 2/3 Majority)

**Article V – Officers**

The elected officers of this congregation shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Financial Secretary, a minimum of three Elders, a minimum of three Trustees who shall also be the corporate officers of the congregation, three directors of Trinity Lutheran School, a Chairman of the Board of Evangelism and Public Relations, a Chairman of the Board of Stewardship and Missions, and Chairman of Congregational Life. All elected officers shall be voting members of the congregation. In adherence to First Timothy 2:12, the offices of President and Elder must be held by male members of the Voters' Assembly.

*Currently Reads*

**ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

The elected officers of this congregation shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Financial Secretary, three Elders, three Trustees who shall also be the corporate officers of the congregation, three Directors of Trinity Lutheran School, a Chairman of the Board of Evangelism and Public Relations, a Chairman of the Board of Stewardship and Missions, and a Chairman of the Board of Congregational Life. All elected officers shall be voting members of the congregation.

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