

# The Constitution of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Crosby Crosby, Minnesota



**Amended:** October 25, 2015  
**Ratified:** February 7, 2016



**THE CONSTITUTION OF  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CROSBY  
Crosby, Minnesota**

**PREAMBLE**

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Chapter 1 NAME AND INCORPORATION**

- C1.01. The name of this congregation shall be Immanuel Lutheran Church of Crosby.
- C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the Immanuel Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."
- C1.03. This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

**Chapter 2 CONFESSION OF FAITH**

- C2.01. This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C2.02. This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe:
  - a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
  - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
  - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
- C2.03. This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life.
- C2.04. This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.

- C2.05. This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- C2.06. This congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism and the Formula of Concord as further valid interpretations of the faith of the church.
- C2.07. This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.
- C2.08. We believe and confess that the Holy Spirit makes all who believe in Jesus Christ to be priests for service to others in Jesus' name, and that God desires to make use of the spiritual gifts he has given through the priesthood of all believers.
- C2.09. This congregation upholds the Biblical norms for marriage, family and sexuality as stated in the Common Confession. We believe and confess that the marriage of male and female is an institution created and blessed by God. From marriage, God forms families to serve as the building blocks of all human civilization and community. We teach and practice that sexual activity belongs exclusively within the Biblical boundaries of faithful marriage between one man and one woman.

## Chapter 3 NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- C3.02. The church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations.

## Chapter 4 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:

- a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness and service.
- b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.

- c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith
- d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.
- e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

C4.03. To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:

- a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and these sacraments are administered.
- b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry.
- c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.
- d. Teach the Word of God.
- e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.
- f. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
- g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of this country and the world.
- h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations.
- i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with God's Word.

C4.04. This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational groups and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions in the section of the Congregation Council.

C4.05. This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific directions for its missions and ministries.

**Chapter 5****POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

C5.01. The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.

C5.02. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.

C5.03. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:

- a. call a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
- b. terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
- c. call or terminate the appointment of associates in ministry;
- d. approve the annual budget;
- e. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- f. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- g. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- h. elect its Congregation Council and require them to carry out their duties in accordance
- i. terminate its relationship with any affiliated organization as provided in Chapter 6.

C5.04. This congregation annually shall choose from among its voting members, laypersons to serve as representatives of the congregation as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member.

**Chapter 6****CHURCH AFFILIATION**

C6.01. This congregation may enter into full partnership or membership with Lutheran denominations, associations, or ministries. Full membership in Lutheran denominations, associations, or ministries shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation; at least thirty (30) days notice shall be given for calling such a meeting. Severance of such membership shall require at least ninety (90) days notice by the Congregation Council to the membership of the congregation and to the denomination, association, or ministry of the intent to sever membership, followed by a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation.

## Chapter 7

## PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

C7.01 Should a majority of this congregation choose to join a denomination which does not embrace and adhere to the Confessions of Faith, as set forth in Chapter 2, or become an organization that does not embrace and adhere to the Confession of faith, title to all land and other assets, both real and personal, shall remain with the largest minority faction wishing to continue to embrace and adhere to the Confession of Faith.

C7.02 Upon dissolution of the organization (church) assets of the corporation (church) shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

## Chapter 8

## MEMBERSHIP

C8.01. Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

- a. **Baptized** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
- b. **Confirmed** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
- c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.
- d. **Associate** members are persons holding membership in other Lutheran (Christian) congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the congregation Council of this congregation.

C8.03. All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Congregation Council.

C8.04. To the member of the church, the congregation promises to:

- a. Provide regular opportunities for worship centered in the Word and Sacraments;

- b. provide resources for your personal devotional life and pastoral care as desired;
- c. give opportunities for fellowship and growth through Bible Study, classes and small groups;
- d. be good stewards of financial gifts with a significant emphasis on reaching out into the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- e. equip members to use their unique spiritual and personal gifts in the ministry of Christ and His Mission.

C8.05. In response to God's grace each member will seek to discipline their life in Christ in the following ways:

- a. worshipping regularly with the congregation;
- b. Inviting other people they know to worship and warmly welcome those who visit;
- c. Praying daily for this congregation and its growth;
- d. Supporting the leadership of the church;
- e. Gathering regularly for fellowship and growth with other Christians;
- f. Acting in love toward other members;
- g. Supporting the mission of the church financially;
- h. Discovering unique gifts and talents and becoming equipped to participate in one or more ministries.

C8.06. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. Death;
- b. Resignation;
- c. Transfer or release;
- d. Disciplinary action by the Congregation Council; or
- e. Removal from the rolls due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws. Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the church has a continuing pastoral concern.

C8.05.01 **Inactive members** are those who failed to receive Holy Communion and to make a contribution of record for a period of two (2) consecutive calendar years. Inactive members may be removed from the roll of members by the Congregation Council. This procedure will take place after such members have been counseled about the matter, if possible

#### C8.06. Dismissal by Disciplinary Action

- a. The purpose and goal of all matters of church discipline will be to restore those who have sinned.
- b. Principles found in Matthew 18:15-17 will be followed with the Congregation Council as the Church noted in verse 17.
- c. If the Congregation Council deems it necessary, a member may be removed from this congregation's membership.
- d. All members of this congregation recognize that they are under the spiritual authority of the congregation and will not have recourse to the decision of the council.

## Chapter 9 THE PASTOR

C9.01. Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by a least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by the Congregation Council to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the leadership of any Christian ministry this congregation has affiliated with in accordance with Chapter 6.

C9.02 Only a person with theological training and who adheres to the confession of faith in Chapter 2 may be called as a pastor of this congregation. This congregation will only call ordained pastors or professional lay ministers who are in a heterosexual marriage or, if single, are celibate.

C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Lutherans confessions as expressed in Chapter 2:

- a. Every ordained minister shall:
  - 1) Preach the Word;
  - 2) Administer the sacraments;
  - 3) Conduct public worship;
  - 4) Provide pastoral care; and
  - 5) Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
- b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
  - 1) Offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;

- 2) Same sex blessing will not be performed at Immanuel Lutheran Church;
- 3) Supervise all schools and organizations of congregation.
- 4) Install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council, and;
- 5) With the Congregation Council administer discipline.

c. Every pastor shall:

- 1) Strive to extend the kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
- 2) Seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the Gospel.
- 3) Impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
- 4) Endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to missions and benevolent needs and organizations.

C9.04. The specific duties of the pastor, compensation and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call.

C9.04.01. The pastor shall have voice and vote on the Congregation Council; and with regard to all committees, organizations and auxiliaries, the pastor has a voice.

C9.05. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only for the following reasons:

- a. Mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
- b. Resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, (30) days after the date on which it was submitted;
- c. Inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;
- d. The physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
- e. Disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;
- f. The dissolution of the congregation.
- g. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the congregation may dismiss the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting after consultation with three (3) other active Lutheran pastors from within the congregation's affiliation

h. When the congregation has a pastor, but the pastor is unavailable because of sickness or temporary absence from the parish:

- 1) The congregation president or vice president shall assume the pastor's responsibility for the administration of the congregation;
- 2) In the event of emergency requiring pastoral services, the congregation's president or vice president shall be responsible for contacting a neighboring pastor with whom prior arrangements have been made by the congregation's pastor to respond in such emergencies;
- 3) If the pastor is unable to lead or to arrange for the leadership of worship services, the congregation's president or vice president shall be responsible for seeing that such worship services are held and properly conducted.

C9.06. This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former Pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation

C9.07. When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, and the Congregation Council.

C9.08. The congregation may depart from C9.05. and call a pastor for a specific term of years. details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of C9.05.

C9.09. The pastor shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation and shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the congregation; and become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

## **Chapter 10                    CONGREGATION MEETING**

C10.01. The Annual Meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.

C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of this congregation upon the written request of ten percent (10%) of the voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.

C10.02.01. The minutes of all meetings of the congregation will be ~~approved by the Congregation Council at its next regular meeting~~ reviewed by the Congregation Council at its next regular meeting with any corrections noted for final approval by the congregation at the next annual meeting.

C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two (2) consecutive Sundays and by mail to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.

C10.04. Ten percent (10%) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

C10.06. All actions by the congregation shall be by majority vote of those members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution.

C10.07. **Robert's Rules of Order**, latest edition, shall govern the parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

## Chapter 11                    OFFICERS

C11.01. The officers of this congregation shall be president, vice president, and secretary. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.

- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws and or continuing resolutions.
- b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- c. Officers of this congregation shall serve similar offices of the Congregation Council and shall be voting members of the Congregation Council.
- d. At its first meeting of the calendar year, the Congregation Council shall elect its officers to serve a one year term or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the Council meeting at which they are elected. The president, vice president and secretary shall be elected from the voting members of the Council and shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. The treasurer and / or financial secretary may or may not be voting members of the Council; but, if they are not members of the Council, they shall be accorded the privilege of voice without vote at Council meetings. They are eligible for reelection without limit as to the number of terms.

## Chapter 12

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) and no more than twelve (12) members of the congregation including the officers of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member:

- a. ceases to be a voting member of the congregation, or
- b. is absent from four (4) successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause, or
- c. by resignation.

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council, except the pastor(s), shall be elected to serve for three (3) years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals;
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor (s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate their fulfillment of their calling, appointment or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation:

- a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of trustees of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of Minnesota, except as otherwise provided herein.
- b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.
- c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to 5% of the current year's annual budget for items not authorized in the budget.
- d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of five percent 5% or more of the current year's annual budget for items not included in the budget only after approval by a Congregational Meeting.
- e. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

C12.06. The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution, its bylaws and the continuing resolutions are carried out.

C12.07. The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.

C12.08. The Congregation Council oversees the work of the personnel and/or executive team or the employment and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this congregation, but the Congregation Council may delegate the day to day supervision of its employees to its designated representative(s).

C12.09. The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.

C12.10. The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called at the request of at least one half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

C12.11. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when such pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council.

## Chapter 13 CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

C13.01. **The Executive Committee shall be the officers and the pastor of this congregation.**

C13.02. A **Nominating Committee** of not more than six (6) voting members of this congregation including the pastor, two (2) of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one (1) year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive re-election. Members of the nominating committee shall be the out going council members and two at -large members of the congregation, who will be elected at the previous annual meeting.

C13.03. An **Audit Committee** of three (3) voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. The Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office shall be three (3) years, with one (1) member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for re-election.

C13.04. A **Staff Support Committee** (in the absence of a Staff Support Committee, their duties shall be fulfilled by the Executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two (2) years, three (3) members to be appointed each successive year. Committee members will hold no other office in the congregation during their term.

C13.05. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a **Call Committee** of six (6) voting members shall be elected by this congregation. Term of office will terminate at installation of the newly-called pastor.

C13.06. Other committees of this congregation may be formed as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.

C13.07. Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in the bylaws and/or continuing resolutions.

## Chapter 14 ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

C14.01. All organizations and auxiliaries within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation's life, the organizations and auxiliaries are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its annual meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work and finances.

## Chapter 15

## DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

C15.01. Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps:

- a. private admonition by the pastor;
- b. admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses; and
- c. citation to appear before the Congregation Council.

C15.02. A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregation Council having received a written notice, specifying the exact charges that have been made against the member, at least ten (10) days before the meeting.

C15.03. Members of the Congregation Council who participate in the preparation of the written charges or who present evidence or testimony in the hearing before the congregational Council are disqualified from voting upon the question of guilt of the accused member. should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Congregation Council, who are not disqualified but who are present and voting, and renewed admonition prove ineffectual, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. censure before the council or congregation;
- b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
- c. exclusion from membership in this congregation. Disciplinary actions b and c shall be delivered to the member in writing.

C15.04. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of:

- a. evidence that injustice has been done, or
- b. evidence of repentance and amendment.

## **Chapter 16 BYLAWS**

C16.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

C16.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with A quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.

C16.03. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least sixty (60) days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Congregation Council notify the members of the proposal with its recommendation at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.

## **Chapter 17 AMENDMENTS**

C17.01. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least ten percent (10%) of the voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council (60) days before formal consideration at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.

C17.02. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. be approved at a legally called meeting according to this constitution by a majority of those present and voting;
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.

## **Chapter 18 CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**

C18.01. The Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions which describe the function of the various committees or organizations of this congregation.

C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council