

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
BYLAWS**

Amended and approved August 14, 2011

CHAPTER 1 - MISSION STATEMENT

- B1.01 Our joy is to connect to God and one another, to grow in maturity in Christ and to serve in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 2 - COMMUNION PARTICIPATION

- B2.01 This Congregation invites all people who believe and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to receive the sacrament and to participate regularly in Holy Communion.
- B2.01.01 Sacraments are special ways God allows us to experience his loving presence and power (grace). There are two sacraments commanded by Jesus and recorded in Scripture: Baptism (Matthew 28:19) and Holy Communion (Matthew 26:26-30). Sacraments use physical elements like wine, bread and water. When received with faith (Augsburg Confession, Article 13), they convey God's blessing and presence.
- B2.02 Martin Luther read the Bible carefully and saw the idea of *real presence* clearly expressed in I Corinthians 10:16-17: ¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. (NIV)
- B2.02.01 The idea of participation is central to understanding *real presence*. I Corinthians 10:16 teaches we participate in the blood and body of Christ as we drink of one cup and eat from one loaf together. There is a great mystery here and unbelieving persons cannot understand how Jesus is really present in this eating and drinking. As we obey his command to eat and drink, we can experience a powerful sense of his presence. Participation means that we trust and often feel his presence. The altar is his table and he is the host of our feast. We receive from him forgiveness, joy, peace, and power for growing obedience as we eat and drink together with him.
- B2.02.02 I Corinthians 10:17 tells us we partake of the one loaf of bread, and Luther observed that the bread remains bread. With this observation he rejected the Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation (in which the bread changes material substance and actually becomes flesh), and affirmed the doctrine of consubstantiation (in which the body and blood of Christ are truly present with the bread and wine).
- B2.02.03 I Corinthians 10:17 teaches also that we demonstrate we are one body (one with Christ and one with each other) as we partake together of one loaf. This idea is the key to properly understanding the Apostle Paul's teaching in I Corinthians 11:17-34.
- B2.03 Christian churches have often taught that individuals must be worthy to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. This teaching is grounded in a misunderstanding of I Corinthians 11:27-29, and terrifies the conscience of many tender-hearted saints. Those who believe they are worthy demonstrate profound arrogance.
- B2.03.01 In and of ourselves, we can never be worthy of receiving Holy Communion. We come to the table as sinners. We receive communion only as sinners in the process of repentance and on-going conversion. We believe all of our worthiness is a gift from God. We receive this as we trust in Christ as Savior and Lord. Jesus shares his righteousness with us as we grow in our relationship with Him.
- B2.03.02 I Corinthians 11:27-29 encourages the examination of one's heart in preparation to receive the sacrament. We affirm this Biblical teaching, but ask people to carefully consider the context. Paul is reaching back to I Corinthians 10:17 and understands that we demonstrate we are one body (one with

Christ and one with each other) as we break one loaf together. He is angry with the Corinthian congregation for forgetting this, and he chastises them in I Corinthians 11:17-22 for making a mockery of this unity. In the context of I Corinthians 11, we act in an unworthy manner (verse 27) when we fail to recognize and honour our unity in Christ. The body of the Lord in verse 29 is not the bread, but all people joined together with Christ. Communion is with Christ and with one another, and so we should examine ourselves and reconcile with one another (Matthew 5:23-24). We pass the peace before communion as an opportunity to express this forgiveness and unity. It prepares us to participate in a worthy manner in Holy Communion.

- B2.04 Parents will be responsible to make a decision regarding the readiness of their children to receive communion. Instruction in Scriptural teaching and sacramental theology will be given regularly by the Pastoral Office as a basis for parental decision making.

CHAPTER 3 - MEMBERSHIP

B3.01 Baptized and Received Members:

- a. A baptized adult, not previously a confirmed member of a Lutheran congregation, shall become a confirmed Member of this Congregation after having received instruction, having given evidence of adequate understanding of the teachings of the Word of God as confessed by the Lutheran Church, and having publicly affirmed his or her faith.
- b. Applicants for baptized and received Membership in this Congregation shall consult the Senior Pastor who shall determine whether such applicants are eligible for Membership in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Constitution. Applicants not familiar with the doctrines and confessions of the Lutheran Church shall be required to attend a course of instruction and to make a profession of the faith either before the Congregation or, at the Senior Pastor's discretion, before witnesses who are members of the Ministry Council of Elders, before being received as Members.
- d. Applicants from other congregations may submit a letter of transfer from their former congregation. Re-instruction may be necessary and required at the discretion of the Pastoral Office before acceptance of application.
- e. New Members shall normally be received publicly by affirmation of faith.

B3.02 Youth Members

A youth member is a person under age 16 who has been accepted for Membership in accordance with the provisions of paragraph B3.01 of the Bylaws. Youth members may participate in the affairs and activities of the Congregation but shall not have the right to hold office.

B3.03 Termination of Membership

- a. Resignation: The resignation of any Member of the Congregation shall be acknowledged in writing by the Pastoral Office.
- b. Transfer: A Member desiring transfer to another Lutheran congregation shall apply to the Pastoral Office. Upon approval a letter of transfer shall be issued. The Board of Trustees shall report all transfers to the Congregation.
- c. Joining other churches: In cases where Members of the Congregation have joined a non-Christian congregation or association, they shall be deemed to have terminated their Membership in this Congregation, forfeiting all rights and privileges of such Membership. Their name(s) shall be removed from the Membership list.
- d. Whereabouts Unknown: The names of Members whose whereabouts are unknown and cannot be established within an eighteen (18) month period shall be removed from the Membership list and placed in a file designated "whereabouts unknown." Such Membership is terminated and shall be reported at the next Congregational meeting.
- e. Self-Exclusion by Inactivity: Inactive Members, other than those who are debilitated or shut-in, shall be encouraged to become active by the Pastoral Office and/or the Ministry Council of Elders. If, however, after exhausting such procedures, a Member declines to worship, commune or make a contribution of record for eighteen (18) months, such a person has indicated by his/her behavior a lack of obedience Jesus Christ and an indifference to church Membership, privileges and responsibilities, and their Membership shall be terminated. The individual shall be notified of such

- action.
- f. Breaking of Fellowship: If attempts by the Church leadership to restore a Member of this Congregation are unsuccessful, steps of reconciliation modeled after Matthew 18:15-20 shall be applied:
- (1) An individual one-on-one private meeting between the Pastor and a member of the Support Committee.
 - (2) If Step 1 above is not successful in restoring fellowship, then a small group meeting between the Pastor, a member of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the Support Committee.
 - (3) If Step 2 above is not successful in restoring fellowship, then a large group meeting between the Pastor and another member of the Pastoral Office, three members of the Board of Trustees, and the Staff Support Committee.
- If these steps are unsuccessful, the Board of Trustees may, by majority vote, terminate the Membership of the Member and remove him/her from the rolls of the Congregation.

CHAPTER 4 - THE PASTORAL OFFICE

B4.01 The Pastoral Office

- a. The Pastoral Office is the authority conferred upon Pastors by God through the call of the people of God, and is exercised in a relationship of mutual ministry with the members of this Congregation.
- b. Within the Pastoral Office, we recognize both ordained Pastors who function in word and sacrament, and those commissioned to have pastoral oversight of specific age groups or major ministries of the Congregation.
- c. If a member of the Pastoral Office receives a letter of call to another ministry, this member of the Pastoral Office will consult with the Board of Trustees before reaching a decision. Thereafter, the Senior Pastor will announce a decision to the Congregation within twenty-one (21) days. Following acceptance of the call, the ministry of this member of the Pastoral Office in this Congregation shall usually terminate within an additional thirty (30) days.

B4.02 Procedure for Securing a Pastor:

- a. In the event of (i) a vacancy in the Pastoral Office, or (ii) a need to increase the Pastoral Office, it shall be the duty of the President of the Congregation to see that the call process is carried out according to the Constitution and By-laws.
- b. Candidates may be proposed by any Voting Member of the Congregation.
- c. The Call Committee shall select a candidate to recommend to the Congregation.
- d. Election of a Pastor by written ballot shall require a two-thirds total of the votes cast by voting Members of the Congregation. Compensation arrangements shall be determined by the Board of Trustees.
- e. After the Congregation has voted to Call a Pastor, it shall send a letter of Call to the Pastor-elect. The letter of Call shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the Congregation.
- f. The Call shall normally be for an indefinite time.
- g. 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, the Congregation, and the Board of Trustees. As occasionally required, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

B4.03 Procedure for Securing a Minister:

- a. The Board of Trustees shall appoint Ministers to serve non-ordained positions within the Congregation.
- b. As a member of the Board of Trustees, and as head of staff, the Senior Pastor may ask for additional involvement from the Call Committee in identifying and verifying candidates.
- c. The terms of Call, compensation, etc., will be set in accordance with the needs of the Minister and Congregation.

B4.04 Performance Review of the Pastor(s) and Minister(s)

The Board of Trustees shall conduct a performance review of the Pastor(s) in accordance with the Personnel Handbook of the Church.

B4.05 Steps of Reconciliation for the Pastoral Office

In the event a Pastor is subject to leadership disqualification, under the provisions of this Congregation's Constitution or Bylaws, the following Steps of Reconciliation will be followed:

- a. The Steps of Reconciliation shall be modeled after Matthew 18:15-20 which shall include at least a three-step process:
 - (1) An individual one-on-one private meeting between the Pastor and a member of the Board of Trustees,
 - (2) If Step 1 above is not successful in resolving the issue or issues of disqualification, then a small group meeting between the Pastor and the Staff Support Committee or the Board of Trustees and another member of the Pastoral Office or Board of Trustees,
 - (3) If Step 2 above is not successful in resolving the issue or issues of disqualification, then a large group meeting between the Pastor and another member of the Pastoral Office, the Board of Trustees and the Staff Support Committee.
- b. If necessary, after the above Steps of Reconciliation have been applied and were unsuccessful in resolving the issue or issues of disqualification, a final step shall be a meeting between the Pastor and the Congregation in a specially called meeting. Such a meeting is undesirable and should be called only in rare and extreme circumstances.
- c. If these steps are unsuccessful in resolving the issue or issues of disqualification, the Congregation may act to terminate the Call of the Pastor in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20. Such termination shall be recommended by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The termination of the Call of a Pastor must be approved by the Congregation by at least a 2/3 majority on a written ballot. Should both the Board of Trustees and the Congregation vote to terminate a Pastor's Call, the Human Resources Trustee shall terminate the employment of the Pastor in compliance with then current federal and state employment law.

B4.06 Steps of Reconciliation for Ministers

- a. In the event a Minister is subject to disqualification, the steps of Reconciliation are as follows:
 - (1) An individual one-on-one private meeting with the Senior Pastor.
 - (2) If Step 1 above is not successful in resolving the issue of disqualification, then a small group meeting between the Minister, the Senior Pastor and the Human Resources Trustee
 - (3) If Step 2 above is not successful in resolving the issue of disqualification, then a large group meeting between the Minister, the Pastoral Office and the Board of Trustees.
- b. If these steps are unsuccessful in resolving the issue of disqualification, the Minister's employment may be terminated by consensus of the Pastoral Office and the Board of Trustees.

B4.07 The Congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial and property obligations to a former Pastor or Minister before calling a successor. Upon separation from this Congregation a Pastor or Minister shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial and property obligation to this Congregation.

CHAPTER 5 - MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

B5.01 Congregational Meetings

- a. At least two Congregational Meetings shall be held each year: the Regular Meeting of the Congregation and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The Board of Trustees shall give notice of the Regular Meeting, the Annual Meeting, and any properly called Special Meeting in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 12 of the Constitution and these Bylaws.
- b. All Members in the Congregation may attend Congregational Meetings and participate in a discussion of any given item of business before the Congregation.
- c. The current roster of Voting Members (as defined in Section C6.03 of the Constitution) shall be available at each Congregational Meeting.

- d. All actions by this Congregation shall be decided by majority vote except:
 - (1) In accordance with Section C8.01 of the Constitution, authority to call or dismiss a pastor shall require a two-thirds majority vote.
 - (2) In accordance with Section C14.02 of the Constitution, ratification of a proposed amendment to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote.
- e. In the following cases voting shall be by ballot:
 - (1) To elect members of the Board of Trustees;
 - (2) To elect members of the Call Committee
 - (3) To adopt or amend the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution or Bylaws of the Congregation;
 - (4) To call a Pastor or request his resignation;
 - (5) To sever affiliation with the present Lutheran organization;
 - (6) To dispose of, encumber, or purchase real property; or,
 - (7) When requested by ten (10) or more Voting Members present.

B5.02 Regular Meeting of the Congregation

- a. The Regular Meeting of the Congregation shall be held in the Spring of each year, wherein reports from all the Committees, Councils and Board of Trustees of the Congregation shall be given.
- b. Unless varied by the acting chair in the interest of efficiency, the order of business at the Regular Meeting of the Congregation shall be:
 - (1) Scripture Reading and/or Prayer
 - (2) Determination of Quorum
 - (3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s) including Special Meetings.
 - (4) Unfinished Business
 - (5) Reports of Board of Trustees
 - (6) Reports from the Pastoral Office
 - (7) Special Reports
 - (8) New Business
 - (9) Treasurer's Report
 - (10) State of the Congregational Records Report by Pastor(s)
 - (11) Adjournment

B5.03 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

- a. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation shall be held on Reformation Sunday and shall include elections and consideration and acceptance of the budget for the following year.
- b. Unless varied by the acting chair in the interest of efficiency, the order of Business at the Annual Meeting shall be:
 - (1) Scripture Reading and/or Prayer
 - (2) Determination of Quorum
 - (3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s) including Special Meetings
 - (4) Unfinished Business
 - (5) Treasurer's Report
 - (6) Report of Board of Trustees and Pastoral Office on Measurements of Growth
 - (7) Report from Financial Review Committee
 - (8) Presentation of the proposed Budget
 - (9) Discussion of the proposed Budget by any Voting Members of the Congregation
 - (10) Consideration and approval of the proposed Budget
 - (11) Election of the Call Committee
 - (12) Election of the Board of Trustees
 - (13) Adjournment

B5.04 Special Meetings

- a. Special Meetings of the Congregation shall be held when properly requested, called, and noticed in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Constitution.
- b. Unless varied by the acting chair in the interest of efficiency or nature of the special issue at hand, the order of business at the Special Meeting shall be:

- (1) Scripture Reading and/or Prayer
- (2) Determination of Quorum
- (3) Minutes of the Previous Special Meeting(s), if appropriate
- (4) Special Reports, if appropriate
- (5) Discussion of special issue at hand
- (6) Ballot on special issue at hand
- (7) Adjournment

CHAPTER 6 - ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES & APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

B6.01 Members of the Board of Trustees - Election Procedures:

- a. The Call Committee, elected in accordance with Chapter 11 of these Bylaws, together with the Senior Pastor, will meet at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the year following their election, to select a chairperson for the Call Committee and begin the process for recommending Members for pending vacancies on the Board of Trustees to the Congregation. The Call Committee will also publish a request to the Congregation for names to be considered in the recommendation process. Any Voting Member may present either himself/herself, or another Voting Member, to the Call Committee for consideration, provided that candidates shall not be called professionals, members of the Board of Trustees, or paid Staff members of the Congregation.
- b. The Call Committee shall review all candidates whose names have been presented. The recommendation process shall include evaluation of the candidates through a process that at a minimum includes:
 - (1) Establishing that the candidate meets the requirements listed in Section C6.03 of the Constitution for a Voting Member of the Congregation, and
 - (2) An interview or interviews with the Call Committee, a member of the Board of Trustees, and the Senior Pastor, and
 - (3) An affirmation by the candidate that he or she wishes to serve in the position for which he/she is being considered.
- c. After the recommendation process detailed above has been completed for all such candidates, the Call Committee shall prepare a list of all such qualified candidates for whom this process has been successfully completed (the "Candidates").
- d. A list of the Candidates shall be submitted for publication and be mailed to all Members of the Congregation at least five (5) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
- e. The newly elected Members of the Board of Trustees shall be installed on the first Sunday after the Annual Meeting of the Congregation at which they were elected.

B6.02 Officers – Appointment Procedures, Term of Office

- a. At the first meeting of the Board of Trustees after the Annual Meeting of the Congregation the Board of Trustees shall appoint, from its current members, the following officers:
 - (1) A President (the elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees as per B7.01 (e) below).
 - (2) A Vice President
 - (3) A Secretary
 - (4) A Treasurer
- b. The term of office for all Officers shall be two (2) years, unless the officer is serving a partial term, terminating at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees after the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the second year of their terms. All Officers may succeed themselves in the same capacity only once. No Officer shall hold more than one office at a time.

CHAPTER 7 - DUTIES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

B7.01 The Board of Trustees

- a. Terms of office for Members of the Board of Trustees shall be three (3) years. Members of the Board of Trustees shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms.
- b. Terms of office for Members of the Board of Trustees shall be staggered such that two (2)

- c. members of the Board of Trustees are elected each year.
- d. A quorum for any Regular or Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be at least one half of its membership.
- e. Should a member's place on the Board of Trustees be vacant, the Call Committee shall appoint a successor until the next Annual Meeting.
- f. A designated Chairman shall be elected by majority vote within the existing Members of the Board of Trustees. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall serve as the President of this Congregation

B7.02 Meetings of the Board of Trustees

- a. The Board of Trustees shall normally meet monthly, on the third Tuesday of each month. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Senior Pastor or the Chairman of the Board of Trustees or at the request of at least one-half of this Congregation's voting Members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all members of the Board of Trustees, posted at the church in the Narthex and posted online at the GSLC website at least one (1) week prior to the date of the special meeting.
- b. Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be open to attendance and observation by any Voting Member(s) of the Congregation.
- c. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall call and preside over all meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- d. The Board of Trustees shall meet quarterly with the Ministry Council of Elders on the second Thursday of January, April, July, and November. The joint meeting will be chaired by the President and/or Vice-President of this Congregation and shall include ministry and financial reports from the Ministry Council of Elders.

B7.03 Officers

- a. President
 - i. The President of the Congregation shall preside at all meetings of the Voting Members and, with majority consent of the Board of Trustees, enforce the Constitution and Bylaws of this Congregation.
 - ii. The President shall call and preside over the meetings of the Board of Trustees.
 - iii. All Committees, Boards, Auxiliaries, Councils, Groups, etc. in the Congregation shall be responsible to the President of the Congregation. The President shall be welcomed at any and all meetings of such groups, either in person or as represented by such appointed person or persons.
- b. The Vice President shall be available for whatever duties the President shall assign him/her as his/her representative. The Vice President shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees in the absence of the President.
- c. The Secretary shall be present at all Regular, Annual and Special Meetings of the Congregation and at all meetings of the Board of Trustees, and shall enter the minutes of all meetings of said groups in a permanent record book over the Secretary's signature. The Secretary shall perform all of the duties normally pertaining to the office and such additional duties as the Voting Membership shall delegate.
- d. The Treasurer shall perform the duties of the Financial Trustee as set forth in this Chapter.

B7.04 The Board of Trustees shall be accountable for the personnel, ministry, financial, legal and property matters of this Congregation. It shall be the specific function of the Board of Trustees to:

- a. Support the Pastoral Office, staff, Council of Elders, Committees and Congregation with daily prayer, encouragement, and counsel.
- b. Assist the Pastoral Office, staff, Council of Elders and Committees in promoting the overall well-being of the Congregation.
- c. Serve as the point of liaison between the Pastoral Office, Council of Elders and the various Committees in planning the total work of the Congregation.
- d. Present to the Congregation at its Annual Meeting a yearly plan of activities for the entire Congregation as well as long-range plans for the development and expansion of Christ's work in our

- midst.
- e. Ensure the financial affairs of this Congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations.
 - f. Prepare an annual budget for submission to the Congregation at its Annual Meeting, and supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption. The annual budget shall be presented in writing to the Congregation at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting, and members of the Board shall make themselves reasonably available to receive comment from the Congregation after presentation of the budget.
 - g. Ensure that the Treasurer and others who have access to the funds of the Congregation are trustworthy and have put adequate procedures in place to prevent the misuse of these funds.
 - h. Prepare an agenda for the meetings of the Congregation.
 - i. Set the dates and time for the Congregational meetings.
 - j. Fill vacancies in Standing Committees by appointment unless otherwise required by the Constitution or Bylaws.
 - k. Conduct at least an annual review of the Congregational Records in cooperation with the Pastoral Office to determine which members are active or non-active and what appropriate follow-up action should be taken or communicated.
 - l. Keep a permanent set of recorded minutes for each meeting, and such records shall be the property of the Congregation.
 - m. Conduct with the Pastoral Office the long term planning of the Congregation in areas of programs, facilities, major equipment items, and real estate sale or purchase. Select delegates to any group or meeting in which the Congregation is entitled to representation.
 - n. Select delegates to any group or meeting in which the Congregation is entitled to representation.
 - o. The Board of Trustees may incur obligations in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting.
 - p. Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws, the Board of Trustees may enter into contracts for items not included in the budget, provided the said contracts do not exceed three percent (3%) of the budget approved for the current year. Revenue-exceeds-expenses ventures sanctioned by the Board of Trustees and operating under this Congregation's 501(c)(3) designation are exempt from this provision.

B7.05 Trustee Areas of Responsibility

Each Trustee shall have been elected to a designated area of responsibility: Facilities, Financial, Human Resources, Legal, Marketing and Mission/Ministry.

- a. The Facilities Trustee shall coordinate the general use, maintenance, and repair of the buildings and premises of the Congregation. Should groups or individuals not associated with the Congregation desire to use such property, application shall be made and, in cooperation with the Pastoral Office, decisions made based on the approved facility use policy. The Facilities Trustee shall coordinate the acquisition of real property on behalf of the Congregation, and present to the Congregation opportunities for such acquisition. Any acquisition of property and funding for same shall be approved by the Congregation at any properly called congregational meeting.
- b. The Financial Trustee shall serve as the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. In that capacity, the Financial Trustee shall ascertain that the Congregation's expenditures are within the budget approved by the Congregation. Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws, any expenditure in excess of three percent (3%) of the total voted budget must be approved by the Congregation. In addition, the Financial Trustee shall:
 - i. Appoint annually a Financial Review Committee composed of three (3) members, none of which are presently serving on the Board of Trustees, which shall audit the fiscal records of the Congregation and report its findings in writing to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
 - ii. Be responsible for this Congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

- iii. Review congregational receipts, disbursements, budgeted and actual expenditures according to proper accounting procedures, and as deemed advisable, shall suggest for Congregational consideration to the Board of Trustees improved methods and systems for keeping financial records.
 - iv. Present written, duplicated financial reports at both the Regular and Annual Meetings of the Congregation and a preliminary financial report at the Board of Trustees meetings.
 - v. Submit permanent financial records for annual audit.
 - vi. Make monthly remission of offerings for missions and church agencies, the prompt payment of salaries and bills authorized by the Congregation, or the Ministries as duly constituted sources.
 - vii. Coordinate the flow of monies for the treasury to the various vendors such that an adequate balance is retained for the payment of salaries and other regular recurring expenses.
 - viii. Remit to the professional workers or lay members of the church for documented expenses while attending professional workshops, conventions, conferences, etc., approved by the Ministry under whose jurisdiction they function.
 - ix. Receive from the Accounting Manager a report of all monies received through worship services, special offerings, or any other source and duly record same, according to agreed upon receipt reporting formats.
 - x. Sign all checks for payment of bills, salaries, or other financial commitments of the Congregation of any sort. In the absence of the Treasurer, the President or the Vice President may sign checks.
 - xi. Make available for all Ministries a current record of their accrued disbursements and budget allotment.
 - xii. Provide the salaried staff of the Congregation a breakdown of the employee's total compensation into salary and fringe benefits as the employee requests.
 - xiii. Advise the Board of Trustees if short-term anticipated income might result in a short-term cash flow problem.
 - xiv. Timely prepare and submit all tax and corporate reports and filings as required by local, State, and Federal government agencies.
 - xv. Make timely payment of all insurance premiums required for the protection of members and property belonging to the Congregation.
 - xvi. Maintain the integrity of the dedicated accounts.
- c. The Human Resources Trustee shall secure necessary staff other than the Pastor(s) in accordance with Chapter 8 of these Bylaws, review annually the salary(s) of the Pastoral Office and make Adjustments from time to time within the limits of the budget approved by the Congregation, and with the assistance of the Senior Pastor, review and update the Personnel Handbook. The Board of Trustees shall set salary ranges, establish hiring, evaluation and firing guidelines for the salaried lay workers of this Congregation.
 - d. The Legal Trustee shall advise the Board of Trustees (if the Trustee is a member of a local or regional Bar Association), or secure legal counsel to advise the Board of Trustees, regarding legal matters that arise in the regular course of the Congregation's business.
 - e. The Marketing Trustee shall coordinate and supervise the Congregation's overall communication strategy, including interaction with and approval of external advertising (newspaper, Yellow Pages, all forms of social media) and internal marketing and branding activities.
 - f. The Mission/Ministry Trustee shall coordinate the ministry and missions efforts of the Congregation and serve as the primary liaison between the Board of Trustees, Ministry Elders, and Missions Committee, including working with the pastoral office to appoint and maintain the Elders and their teams. The pastoral office shall maintain direct supervision of the staff and called ministers (i.e. Youth, Children, Worship).

CHAPTER 8 – ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

- B8.01 The Board of Trustees, as set out in these Bylaws, will aid in the communication and coordination of the administration and Staff of the Congregation.
- B8.02 The Staff shall report ultimately to the Senior Pastor and may consist of:
- a. Associate Pastor(s), or others in the Pastoral Office
 - b. Director of Youth Ministries
 - c. Office Manager
 - d. Accounting Manager
 - e. Communications Director
 - f. Director of Music
 - g. Custodian
 - h. Intern(s)
 - i. Secretary(s)
 - j. Receptionist
- B8.03 The Staff requirements may change from time to time depending on the needs of the Congregation, programs and budget constraints. However, each person on the Staff shall be compensated fairly and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing employment. Staff positions may be full or part time.
- B8.04 Members of the Congregation, the Senior Pastor, and other Staff leaders may suggest additions to Staff to the Board of Trustees for its consideration. All Staff additions must be considered and approved in writing by the Board of Trustees prior to any prospective candidate receiving an offer of employment. The Board of Trustees shall use available market analyses to determine fair and reasonable compensation for the position and shall consult with the Senior Pastor as to compensation, reporting lines and duties.
- B8.05 The hiring, employment and review of Staff members shall be carried out under generally acceptable good business practices. Specific policies and practices shall be governed by the Personnel Handbook of the Church, which shall be updated from time to time.
- B8.06 The Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Senior Pastor and the Office Manager (as appropriate) shall ensure performance reviews, compensation and fringe benefits (as appropriate for Staff and budget) are administered properly.

CHAPTER 9 – STAFF DISCIPLINE AND REMOVAL PROCEDURES

- B9.01 The Pastors and other Staff leaders shall exercise and administer careful, loving and consistent leadership of all employees and ministry leaders. The attention of the leadership of the Church shall be directed toward successful performance of each employee, which starts with a clear description of expectations and acceptance by each employee of those expectations.
- B9.02 From time to time an employee may not meet expectations, and in such cases formal steps for identifying and managing areas of improvement shall be instituted together with, if necessary, progressive discipline as outlined in the GSLC Employee Handbook. Such mentoring and discipline shall be consistent with scriptural teachings and conducted in a spirit of love. The final resolution for the Church and the employee is termination. Termination shall only be imposed with the prior approval of the Senior Pastor, except in the case of termination of another Pastor, which will also require the approval of the Board of Trustees.

CHAPTER 10 - MINISTRY COUNCIL OF ELDERS

- B10.01 The Ministry Council of Elders shall be organized to facilitate the connection, growth, and service of our members in this community and world to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- B10.02 The Ministry Council of Elders shall be structured into four (4) Councils, each targeting a specific age group, i.e., Children's Council, Youth Council, Young Adult Council, and Adult Council.
- B10.03 Each Council shall be organized under the direction of The Assigned Member of the Pastoral Office with ideally 6 members.
- B10.04 A Member of the Pastoral Office shall be assigned to a Ministry Council and will serve as convener and Chair of that Council's monthly meetings. Each Ministry Council will appoint a secretary to record minutes and action items to be submitted to the church office.
- B10.05 The Ministry Council of Elders shall see that the teachings of Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the provisions of this congregation's Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions are carried out, and perform its duties as specified in these Bylaws.
- B10.06 The Ministry Council of Elders shall be responsible for the care and nurture of this Congregation's members and the ministry of the Church in the areas of prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, missions, and leadership development within their assigned age group.
- B10.07 The Ministry Council of Elders shall seek specific authority of the Board of Trustees for direction to administer a financial budget for their assigned ministry age group.
- B10.08 The Ministry Councils shall submit quarterly ministry and financial reports to the Board of Trustees at their joint meeting with the Board of Trustees on the second Thursday of January, April, July, and November.
- B10.09 The Joint Meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Ministry Council of Elders will be chaired by the President and/or Vice-President of this Congregation.

CHAPTER 11 - CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

- B11.01 Our Lutheran understanding of the Church sees ministry as being shared by all baptized people of God. At no time can we assume that only the Pastors are responsible for ministry. The whole people of God have a ministry with and to one another, and it is for these reasons the various committees exist.
- B11.02 Call Committee
- a. The Call Committee will consist of six (6) certified voting Members of the Congregation.
 - b. The Call Committee shall:
 - (1) Review, test, and prove all nominees for election to pending vacancies on the Board of Trustees in accordance with general standard of maturity in faith as described in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3 (the "Standard");
 - (2) The proving process shall include the following:
 - i. Establish that the nominee meets the requirements of the Standard
 - ii. Background check (criminal)
 - iii. Known substantial and material conflicts between a nominee and any member of the Call Committee are required to be disclosed by the member and nominee. The Call Committee shall determine how to handle such conflicts, if any, and whether such committee member should be recused from the deliberations concerning a nominee.
 - iv. Interview, deliberations and consensus vote:
 - (i) The interview will be arranged in advance and communicated to the nominee as part of the proving process for a pending vacancy on the Board of Trustees. A follow up interview, if necessary, may also be arranged for. Interviews or consultations with their persons nominating the nominee may also be conducted. Additionally, the Senior Pastor and other third parties may be consulted.
 - (ii) The interview with the nominee will begin and end in prayer.
 - (iii) The Chair's responsibility will be to move the evaluation to completion,

B11.06 Missions Committee

- a. The Missions Committee will be appointed by the Board of Trustees and will consist of five (5) to eight (8) Voting Members who are not members of the Board of Trustees. Members of the Board of Trustees may serve as additional Missions Committee members if desired or appropriate. The Senior Pastor will have an advisory relationship with the Missions Committee.
- b. The Missions Committee shall review requests for mission grants and award such grants from the dedicated mission funds supplied by the Congregation. Such grants shall be reviewed by the Financial Trustee and subject to the veto of the Board of Trustees.
- c. The Missions Committee shall distribute the Congregation's benevolence. Such awards shall be reviewed by the Financial Trustee and subject to the veto of the Board of Trustees.
- d. The Missions Committee shall report directly to the Financial Trustee, furnish a monthly report to the Board of Trustees, and report to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- f. Terms of service for members of the Missions Committee shall be two (2) years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment by the Board of Trustees upon review.

B11.07 Other congregational committees may be formed as the need arises, by decision of the Board of Trustees and in accordance with this Constitution, the Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions.

CHAPTER 12 - CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS AND GROWTH MEASUREMENTS

B12.01 The records of this Congregation shall be properly stored and be available to the Congregation for review upon request.

B12.02 The Pastoral Office shall assure the regular maintenance of the Congregational Records. Upon the termination of the service of the Senior Pastor to the Congregation, he/she shall assure that the Congregational Records are current prior to his/her departure.

B12.03 The records of the Congregation shall consist of:

- a. The roster of Baptized, Confirmed, and Voting Members and include:
 - (1) general family name
 - (2) street address, phone number, fax number, cell number, e-mail address
 - (3) individual dates of birth
 - (4) emergency contact
 - (5) interests, talents and/or trade
 - (6) member status, i.e. active or non-active
 - (7) financial contribution
 - (8) level of education or interest in Seminary studies
- b. The date, time, and location of ministerial acts performed by the Pastoral Office including:
 - (1) Baptisms
 - (2) Confirmations
 - (3) Funerals or Memorial Services
 - (4) Marriages or Renewal of Vows
 - (5) Visitations (hospital, hospice or home)
- c. The minutes of the meetings of the Congregation and the Board of Trustees, for which the Secretary of the Congregation shall be responsible.
- d. The financial records of the Congregation, for which the Treasurer of the Congregation shall be responsible.

B12.04 The Senior Pastor shall annually report to the Congregation a summary of ministerial acts.

B12.05 Should the Congregation be dissolved, the official records of the Congregation shall be deposited with the national office of the organization of Lutheran Churches to which the Congregation is then affiliated.

B12.06 Measurements of Growth:

- a. The success of the Church will be measured and evaluated by the Board of Trustees, the Senior Pastor and the Pastoral Office according to many kinds of measurements, both objective and subjective. The definable measurements of growth may include:
 - (1) Membership including existing Members, new Members, transferring Members and exiting Members
 - (2) Attendance of Members and others
 - (3) Amount contributed from Members and others
 - (4) Number of new Members
 - (5) Positive Results from a Satisfaction Survey
- b. Other measurements of growth may be adopted by the Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Senior Pastor, from time to time.

B12.07 The Board of Trustees and Senior Pastor will report their findings with respect to these measurements to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

CHAPTER 13 – AMENDMENT OF THESE BYLAWS

- 13.01 This Congregation is a dynamic community and strives to achieve sufficient flexibility to meet the needs of its Members and its missional goals in the Kingdom of God. These Bylaws are intended to reflect current ministry practice and administration of the Congregation's business.
- 13.02 These Bylaws may be amended as follows:
 - a. Amendments may be proposed by at least five percent (5%) of voting Members in signed petition or by the Board of Trustees. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Board of Trustees 60 days before formal consideration by this Congregation at its Annual Meeting, Regular Meeting, or a Special Meeting called for that purpose. The Board of Trustees shall notify the Members of the proposal with their recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.
 - b. A proposed amendment to these Bylaws shall be passed by a simple majority vote of those present and voting.
 - c. Amendments to these Bylaws approved by this Congregation shall take effect immediately.