

THE CONSTITUTION
OF
WOODLANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LAKE COUNTY, INC.

1.0 NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Woodlands Lutheran Church of Lake County, Inc.

2.0 CONFSSIONAL STANDARD

This congregation accepts and acknowledges without reservation:

2.1 All the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of life,

2.2 All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord (1580) as true and genuine exposition of the doctrines of both testaments, to wit:

2.2.1 The Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian)

2.2.2 The Unaltered Augsburg Confession

2.2.3 The Apology of the Augsburg Confession

2.2.4 The Smalcald Articles

2.2.5 Dr. Martin Luther's Large Catechism

2.2.6 Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism and

2.2.7 The Formula of Concord

2.3 According to this Confessional Standard all matters of doctrine, conscience, and Christian Life shall be decided.

3.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation shall be: To provide for the spiritual welfare of its members and to win the unchurched for the Kingdom of God by conducting divine services, proclaiming the Word of God, administering the Sacraments, providing Christian education, and performing such other acts incident to the conduct of a Christian congregation.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Membership

The membership shall be classified and defined as follows:

4.1.1 Baptized Member

Any person shall be eligible to become and remain a baptized member:

4.1.1.1 Who has been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

4.1.1.2 Who is under the spiritual care of the congregation.

4.1.2 Communicant Member

Any person shall be eligible to become a communicant member of the congregation:

4.1.2.1 Who has been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19);

4.1.2.2 Who declares adherence to the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the only rule and norm of faith and life (John 8:31);

4.1.2.3 Who has a basic understanding of the Holy Bible as taught by the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Matthew 28:20a);

4.1.2.4 Who regularly attends divine worship services (Hebrews 10:25), frequently partakes of the Sacrament of the Altar (Acts 2:42), practices Christian principles of the stewardship of life (2 Corinthians 9:6-7);

4.1.2.5 Who strives to live a Christian life of love (Matthew 22:37-39) in contrast to the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-25);

4.1.2.6 Who welcomes fraternal admonition (Galatians 6:1); and

4.1.2.7 Who is not a member of an organization, the doctrines and practices of which are in conflict with the Word of God (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

4.1.3 Associate Communicant Member

Associate Communicant Membership is open to seasonal residents, while living in the area, who are members in good standing of a Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod at home.

4.1.4 Voting Member

Any communicant member or associate communicant member who has passed his eighteenth birthday shall be a voting member of the congregation.

4.2 Reception

Members as defined in Section 4 are received:

- 4.2.1** Through the *Sacrament of Holy Baptism* (through the consent of one or both parents in the case of children who have been baptized in another Christian congregation),
- 4.2.2** Through the *Rite of Confirmation*,
- 4.2.3** Through *Transfer* from a sister congregation,
- 4.2.4** Through *Profession or Reaffirmation of Faith*, or
- 4.2.5** Through *Appropriate Application* in the case of associate communicant members.

4.3 Termination

4.3.1 Membership shall be terminated upon:

- 4.3.1.1** Transfer to a sister congregation,
- 4.3.1.2** Death,
- 4.3.1.3** Joining a congregation outside the fellowship of this congregation,
- 4.3.1.4** Severing contact with this congregation (self-exclusion), or
- 4.3.1.5** Excommunication as described in Section 4.3.2 of this Constitution.

4.3.2 The Voters Assembly, upon recommendation from the Board of Elders, may terminate membership through Excommunication after:

- 4.3.2.1** A patient and loving application of Matthew 18:15,
- 4.3.2.2** A humble and prayerful spirit (Galatians 6:1), and
- 4.3.2.3** A recognition that this extreme action is a final step to regain the erring brother or sister.
- 4.3.2.4** A two-thirds majority vote of those present at a properly called meeting.

5.0 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

The congregation shall have the following officers and chairs, which make up the Governance Board, in addition to any ministries which the congregation shall authorize from time to time. (The duties of the officers and chairs are defined in the Bylaws):

5.1 Officers

5.1.1 President

5.1.2 Vice President

5.1.3 Secretary

5.1.4 Treasurer

5.2 Ministries

5.2.1 Chair, Elders Ministry

5.2.2 Chair, Christian Education Ministry

5.2.3 Chair, Support Ministry

6.0 SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

This congregation shall be a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as long as the Synod conforms to the congregation's confessional standards set forth in Section 2 of this Constitution as determined by a majority vote of the congregation at a meeting called for that purpose.

7.0 PROPERTY

This congregation, through its governing body as established in the Bylaws, may acquire, hold title to, mortgage, sell, transfer, convey and otherwise dispose of property, real, personal and mixed,

8.0 BYLAWS

This congregation may adopt such Bylaws as may be required for the accomplishment of its purposes, and that are in conformity with Section 2 of this Constitution.

9.0 AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing at any properly called meeting of the Voters Assembly. Adoption of proposed amendments shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present at a properly called subsequent meeting. The revised Constitution shall, as a condition of continued membership in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, be submitted to the Florida-Georgia District's Constitution Committee for review and favorable action by the District's Board of Directors before being implemented by the congregation.

10.0 DIVISION

If at any time a division of the congregation should take place for any reason, the following principles will govern.

- 10.0.1** The property of the congregation and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with those communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to the confessional standards set forth in this constitution.
- 10.0.2** In the event that the congregation dissolves, all property shall be disposed of by the final voter's assembly for the payment of debts and all just claims against the congregation and any and all surplus and all rights connected therewith shall be conveyed to and become the property of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.