

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

In response to the love of God the Father in Christ Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, each member of this congregation does the work of the church. The vocation of every Christian is service. A believer serves the Lord by serving brothers and sisters in Christ and by serving a world of neighbors. Each member, as a new creation in Christ, is endowed with the fruit of the Spirit. The Lord also gives to each member gifts of the Spirit and natural talents as He sees fit for our specific time and place. Further, our Lord promises that, as a group, this congregation possesses all the gifts of the Spirit and natural talents necessary to fulfill His mission for this congregation.

The Word of God requires that a Christian congregation shall conform to this Divine word in doctrine and practice (Ps. 119:105, Matt. 28:18-20, Gal. 1:6-8, 2 Tim. 4:1-5) and that all things be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40, Col. 2:5). Therefore, we, the members of First Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church of Las Vegas, NV, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and Bylaws, in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation shall be governed.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this congregation shall be First Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church of Las Vegas, NV, Inc.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of the congregation is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, invite people to know Jesus Christ, build them in Christian faith and equip them for life-long service to Christ. Such purpose shall be accomplished by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments, and by the teaching of all its members, according to the confessional standard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Article 3).

ARTICLE 3: CONFESSIONAL BASIS

This congregation as a body and all its individual members accept without reservation:

- The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired, inerrant, written Word of God and as the only rule and norm of faith and practice.
- All the Symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, including:
 - The three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed);
 - The Unaltered Augsburg Confession;
 - The Apology of the Augsburg Confession;
 - The Smalcald Articles;
 - The Large Catechism of Luther;
 - The Small Catechism of Luther; and
 - The Formula of Concord.

ARTICLE 4: SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

This congregation shall be a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and shall exercise all rights associated with membership as long as the Synod conforms to the congregation's confessional standard set forth in Article 3 of this constitution. Conformity to confessional standard shall be determined, if challenged, by a two-thirds majority vote of the Voters' Assembly at a meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP

Members shall include Baptized Members, Communicant Members, and Voting Members as described in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE 6: MINISTERS OF RELIGION (ORDAINED OR COMMISSIONED)

Only such candidates shall be called who profess acceptance of and pledge faithful adherence to, the confessions of this congregation as set forth in Article 3 of this constitution; and have been certified and endorsed by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as eligible for a call as a minister of religion (ordained or commissioned).

ARTICLE 7: DIVISION

7.1 **Division for any reason:** If, at any time, a division should take place for any reason, the property of this congregation shall remain with those communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article 3 of this constitution, as determined by the adjudication procedures of the Synod.

7.2 **Dissolution:** In the event that the congregation dissolves, all property shall be disposed of by the final voters 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 District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in which the congregation resides.

ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENTS

8.1 Amendments to Articles 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8

Notice of a proposal to amend these Articles shall be presented at one meeting of the Voters' Assembly before the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to receive action, with opportunity for discussion.

8.1.1 All Voting Members shall be provided notice of the intent to amend these Articles in the newsletter and bulletin.

8.1.2 Any changes in these Articles shall not destroy their essential meaning.

8.1.2.1 Whether or not the essential meaning of an Article has been destroyed shall be decided, if challenged, by consultation with the District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in which the congregation holds membership at the time of the proposal.

8.1.3 An affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of a quorum of Voting Members is required to amend any of these Articles.

8.2 Amendments to other articles of the constitution

Amendments to provisions of this constitution, except for Articles 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8, may be adopted at a meeting of the Voters' Assembly under the following conditions:

8.2.1 The proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting of the Voters' Assembly and has been published by mail prior to the meeting at which action will be taken on the proposed amendment; and

8.2.2 An affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of a quorum of Voting Members is secured.