



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Revised 8/10/2011

The Constitution

of

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Designation	Date	Explain Changes
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New	12-26-88	Update Release
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Revision	05-05-91	Update Release
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Update	07-15-97	
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Italicized scripture verses added for clarification from NIV Bible. Reformatted text and pages.

Revision	06-24-2001	
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Added Board of Parish Education. Changed name of previous Board of Education to Board of School Ministries. Changed name of previous Board of Young People's Work to Board of Youth Ministry.

Revision 9/1/09	Amendment to the constitution voted in on August 16, 2009:	
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PARAGRAPH 6: ORGANIZATION

In accordance with this church's Doctrine, the only authority of the Pastoral Office derives from the public ministry of the Word and Sacraments. It shall be the responsibility of the elected leadership of this congregation to assure that the Pastoral Office adheres to this Doctrine.

The remaining portion of this Paragraph shall be temporarily suspended until August 15, 2011. The Organizational Structure detailed in the By Laws shall be in effect during this time period.

(NOTE: All existing language in Paragraph 6 remains, but not in effect.)

These Items have been incorporated into the Constitution

CONSTITUTION CHANGES:

1) "Resolution: For legal purposes the terms 'Executive Director' and 'Assistant Executive Directors' shall be synonymous with 'President' and 'Vice Presidents' respectively." - (1980 ?)

2) 05\05\91-Voters)

a)

3) 05/05/91 Voters)

a)

b)

4)06/24/2001 Voters)

a)

1. A BOARD OF ELDERS
2. A BOARD OF EVANGELISM
3. A BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
4. A BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK
5. A BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
6. A BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES

7. A BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP
8. A BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
9. A BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY/HUMAN CARE

One member of each Administrative Board shall serve as the Director of that Board.”

to: “Responsibility and authority for the daily administration of congregational affairs shall be delegated to the following boards:

1. A BOARD OF ELDERS
2. A BOARD OF EVANGELISM
3. A BOARD OF SCHOOL MINISTRIES
4. A BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

5. A BOARD OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
6. A BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
7. A BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES
8. A BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP
9. A BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
10. A BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY/HUMAN CARE

One member of each Administrative Board shall serve as the Director of that Board.”

- b) Para. 6, Section D - **Change from** “The Parish Planning Council shall consist of the Pastor(s), the Executive Director, the Assistant Executive Director(s), and the Treasurer of the congregation, and the Directors of the nine Administrative Boards listed in Section B, of this paragraph, they shall hold a position on the Parish Planning Council by virtue of their call or election by the Voting Members of the congregation so long as their term of office continues.”

to “The Parish Planning Council shall consist of the Pastor(s), the Executive Director, the Assistant Executive Director(s), the Treasurer and the Directors of the ten Administrative Boards listed in Section B of this paragraph. They shall hold a position on the Parish Planning Council by virtue of the Call or election by the Voting Members of the congregation so long as their term of office continues.”

On August 17, 2008 The Voters' Assembly gave unanimous final approval to the proposed change in Paragraph 7.2 of the Constitution concerning qualifications for membership on the PTL Board.

REPLACE: Para 7.2 “Societies” which now reads: “...In the PTL, the President must be a member of the congregation...”

TO READ: “...In the PTL, a majority of the officers must be members in good standing of the Trinity congregation. If a Trinity congregation member cannot serve as President or VP, the positions may be filled by members in good standing of a Missouri Synod Lutheran church, and all officers must be active members of a Christian congregation...”

TRINITY CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT
APPROVED May 22, 2011

Paragraph 6: Organization (replace in its entirety with the following):

In accordance with this church’s Doctrine, the only authority of the Pastoral Office derives from the public ministry of the Word and Sacraments. It shall be the responsibility of the elected leadership of this congregation to assure that the Pastoral Office adheres to this Doctrine.

SECTION A: Voting Membership. This congregation shall be represented by, and administer all its affairs through, its Voting Membership. Only communicant members, who have qualified according to its membership provisions of the By Laws, shall be received as Voting Members of this Congregation.

SECTION B: Elected Officers of the Congregation. Elected officers of the Congregation shall consist of President, Vice President, Financial Officer, and President of the School Board. Their duties will be delineated as Attachments of the By Laws and may be amended by the normal By Laws Amendment process.

SECTION C: Leadership Council. The Congregation establishes a Leadership Council to conduct and perform all acts and affairs of the Congregation in its stead between meetings of the Voters' Assembly. Responsibilities and limitations of the Council will be detailed in the By Laws. The Leadership Council consists of the four Elected Officers of the Congregation (The President, the VP, The Financial Officer, and The President of the School Board), the Sr. Pastor, and four Council Members at large.

SECTION D: Nominations, Elections and Replacements. Procedures for nominating and electing officers, directors and elders, as well as selecting replacements, will be defined by the By Laws.

SECTION E: Governance Structure. The governance structure of the congregation will be detailed in the By Laws.

Amendment #1: Delete "Preamble" Paragraph beginning "Conditional Adoption and Application. These By Laws to the Constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church of Orlando, Florida, have been adopted by a simple majority"...etc.

Amendment #2: Technical Corrections

Section #1: Membership E4
Now Reads: (line 4) Section #2:C)
To Read: Section #1:C

Section #3C: Trinity Lutheran School Principal
Now Reads: (line 6) Section #4: B-1b
To Read: Section #3:B-2b

Section #3C: Trinity Lutheran School Principal
Now Reads: (line 7) Section #7
To Read: Section #7:A1

Section #3D: Trinity Lutheran Child Development Center Director
Now Reads: (line 6) Section #4:B-1c
To Read: Section #3:B-2c

Section #3D: Trinity Lutheran Child Development Center Director
Now Reads: (line 8) Section #7
To Read: Section #7:A2

Section #5: Governance
Now Reads: (line 3) but
To Read: and

Section #5-B1 Regular Meetings of the Voters' Assembly
Now Reads: (line 6) Section #5: B6
To Read: Section #5: C6

Section #5-B2 Special Meetings of the Voters' Assembly
Now Reads: (line 2) Chairman

To Read: President

Section #5-C Leadership Council

Now Reads: (line 4) Section #5: A6

To Read: Section #5: B6

Section #7-B Accounting Administration

Now Reads: (line 4) Bookkeeping

To Read: Accounting

Section #7-B Accounting Administration

Add: (line 5)(comma after “Operations”)

Procedure for Selection of Elders and Sr. Elder

Section #4-B1 Elder Ministry Team.

Now Reads: 1

To Read: C

Section #4-B1 Elder Ministry Team

Now Reads: (line 4)...”All will be recommended...succession.

To Read:

- 1. Elder Selection.** Each Elder will be selected by the congregation to serve in this capacity through the following four steps:
 - a. Identification. Any member, including officers and staff members, may recommend any qualified member for consideration at any time by written note to the Pastor or the President.
 - b. Spiritual Qualification. Pastor will conduct an evaluation of the candidates’ spiritual leadership qualities and, if recommended, so advise the President and the Senior Elder.
 - c. Congregation Nomination. The President will forward the candidate’s name to the Nominating Committee (either Annual Election Committee process or Leadership Council for interim action) to be considered for nomination.
 - d. Nomination. If the Nominating Committee nominates the candidate to the Voters’ Assembly for consideration, such name will be posted at least one week prior to a vote of the Voters’ Assembly. A majority vote is required to elect the candidate to the Elders Ministry Team.

- 2. Elder Terms.** All Elders will be elected to complete two-year terms. Additional or replacement Elders will have terms that end June 30. They may be re-elected up to three times in succession.

Paragraph now beginning “Elders’ will provide Pastoral...etc. will now be delineated 3

Paragraph now beginning “The Elders will provide an honest...etc.” will now be delineated 4

In this new “paragraph 4, line 4, add the word “the” at the end of the line.

Amendment #3: Procedure for nominating officers (both “annual” and “interim”)

Section #5: C6 - Nominating Committee and Elections.

Now Reads: a. Two months prior to the election...etc.

To Read: **a. Annual Elections.** Two months prior to the election...etc.

Now Reads: (line 5) Section #4-B1

To Read: Section #4-C1

Section #5: C6-b1b

Now Reads: "after the initial 2009 -2010 one year term"

Delete Phrase: "after the initial 2009-2010 one year term"

Section #5: C6-b1c

Now Reads: "after the initial 2009-2010 one year term"

Delete Phrase: "after the initial 2009-2010 one year term"

Section #5: C6d

Now Reads: "Interim vacancies,...etc."

To Read: **6. Interim Vacancies.** When mid-term vacancies occur, the Leadership Council will publish for one week, the vacancy, and congregation members may recommend qualified candidates who have indicated a willingness to serve in the position to the President in writing for consideration.

The Leadership Council, acting as Nominating Committee, will select one or more qualified candidates and nominate at the next meeting of the Voters' Assembly (Regular or Special if called for that purpose). There will be no further nominations and a majority vote prevails. (Should more than one nominee be offered, a paper ballot will be used for voting purposes.)

CONSTITUTION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

PREAMBLE

The Word of God requires that a Christian congregation shall conform to this Divine Word in doctrine and practice (Ps. 119:105 “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*”; Matt. 28:18–20 “**Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**”; Gal. 1:6–8 “**I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!**”; 2 Tim. 4:1–5 “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. and that all things be done decently and in order.”; 1 Cor. 14:40 “***But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.***”) Therefore, we accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and By-Laws.

PARAGRAPH 1: NAME AND PURPOSE

The name of this congregation shall be the TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ORLANDO, FLORIDA. The purpose of this congregation shall be to minister to its members and to extend the Kingdom of God through the preaching of the Word of God, the administration of the Sacraments, the religious instruction of youth and adults, and the administration of Christian charity according to the confessional standard (see Paragraph 2) of the Lutheran Church.

PARAGRAPH 2: CONFESSIONAL STANDARD

This congregation accepts and acknowledges all the canonical books of the Old and the New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the book of Concord as a true and sound exhibition of Christian doctrine taken from and in full agreement with the Holy Scriptures; and in this congregation no doctrine shall be taught or tolerated which is in variance with these Symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, viz.:

1. The three Ecumenical Creeds, the Apostolic, and Nicene, and the Athanasian;
2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession;
3. The Apology of the same;
4. The Smalcald Articles;
5. Luther's Large Catechism;
6. Luther's Small Catechism; and
7. The Formula of Concord.

According to this norm of doctrine all doctrinal controversies which may arise in this congregation shall be decided and adjudicated.

PARAGRAPH 3: MEMBERSHIP

No one can be or remain a member of this congregation, hold an office in same, or enjoy or exercise the rights and privileges of a member, but such as:

1. Are baptized
2. Declare their adherence to all the canonical books of the Old and the New Testaments as the only divine rule and the norm of faith and life and
3. While they yet may be deficient in the knowledge of all the Lutheran symbols, are familiar at least with the unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism and declare their acceptance thereof;
4. Do not live in manifest works of the flesh (**Gal. 5:19–21** “*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*”), but lead Christian lives;
5. Together with the congregation partake of the Lord's Supper at least once a year, if they be of sufficient age;
6. Permit themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected when they have erred; and
7. Are not members of an ungodly society.

PARAGRAPH 4: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

It shall be the duty of every member of this congregation to contribute according to his ability toward the maintenance of the church and school and in general to assist in bearing the burdens of the congregation.

PARAGRAPH 5: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It shall be the duty of such members of this congregation as have the parental care of unconfirmed children incumbent upon them to commit such children to the parochial school of the congregation, or otherwise to provide for their proper training in pure Christian doctrine.

PARAGRAPH 6: ORGANIZATION

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SECTION E: Governance Structure. The governance structure of the congregation will be detailed in the By Laws.

PARAGRAPH 7: SOCIETIES

Societies may be organized within the congregation only with the expressed approval of the Voting Membership, and all such societies shall be under the supervision of the Pastor(s) and the appropriate Administrative Board under those jurisdiction they function.

With the exception of the PTL, only communicant members of this congregation shall be officers of such societies or groups. In the PTL, a majority of the officers must be members in good standing of the Trinity congregation. If a Trinity congregation member cannot serve as President or VP, the positions may be filled by members in good standing of a Missouri Synod Lutheran church, and all officers must be active members of a Christian congregation. Any decision, enactment, or performance of or by societies or groups shall be invalid if they conflict with this Constitution and its associated By-Laws. The Pastor(s), by virtue of his office, shall be the advisor for such societies or groups within the congregation.

PARAGRAPH 8: (none)

PARAGRAPH 9: DECISIONS

In matters of doctrine and conscience, unanimity shall be required for a final decision; other matters shall be disposed of by the votes of a majority of the voting members present at a meeting properly convened.

PARAGRAPH 10: RIGHT OF CALLING

The right of choosing and calling ministers and school teachers and of electing all other officers of the congregation shall ever be vested in the congregation and shall never be delegated to an individual or a minor body or a circle within the congregation.

PARAGRAPH 11: ELIGIBILITY OF PASTORS AND TEACHERS

The pastoral office of this congregation shall be conferred upon such ministers of candidates only as profess their acceptance of an adherence to all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, and all the Symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church enumerated in Paragraph 2 as derived from such Word of God, and Pastors as well as school teachers shall be pledged to faithful adherence to the Word of God and the Symbols of the Lutheran Church by the call extended to and accepted by them.

PARAGRAPH 12: DOCTRINAL LITERATURE

In the church and public services of this congregation purely Lutheran hymns, and in all ministerial acts purely Lutheran forms only shall be used. Thus, also, in the parochial school, besides the Holy Scriptures and Luther's Small Catechism, such books only as are purely Lutheran shall be introduced and used for

instruction in Christian doctrine, and all other books used in the school shall be free from everything which is in variance with Lutheran doctrine.

PARAGRAPH 13: AUTHORITY OF VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The congregation as a body shall have supreme power in the external and internal administration and management of its own ecclesiastical and congregational affairs. No decision, enactment, or performance in behalf of the congregation or with reference to a member thereof as such shall be valid, whether it have proceeded from an individual or from a body within the congregation, unless it shall have been enacted or performed according to a general or special power conferred by the Voters' Assembly; and whatever may have been ordered or decided by individuals or minor bodies within the congregation under a power conferred by the Voters' Assembly, shall always be subject to revision and final decision by the Voters' Assembly. But not even the Voters' Assembly shall be empowered to order, enact or decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the Symbols of the Lutheran Church, and any such ordinance, enactment, or decision shall be null and void.

PARAGRAPH 14: AUTHORITY OF ELDERS

The Elders at any time in office shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them by the Voters' Assembly, and whatever power may have been delegated to them shall be at all times liable to change or rescission by the Voters' Assembly.

PARAGRAPH 15: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

All the officers of the congregation may, in Christian and lawful order, be removed from office. Sufficient and urgent cause for deposing a pastor or a school teacher are persistent adherence to false doctrines, scandalous life, or willful neglect of official duties.

PARAGRAPH 16: EXCOMMUNICATION AND SELF-EXCLUSION

When a member of the congregation, after fruitless admonition in the various grades and prescribed by the Word of God (Matt. 18:15–20 *“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”*) where the observance of such grades has been possible, shall have been expelled from the congregation, such excommunicated person shall then have forfeited all rights of a member of this congregation, all claims upon the property of the congregation

as such or upon any part thereof. Same shall also hold good with reference to such members as may have refused to submit to church discipline and thus excommunicated themselves, as also of those who may sever their connection with the congregation by removal to another place.

PARAGRAPH 17: PROPERTY RIGHTS

If at any time a separation shall take place in this congregation on account of doctrine, the property of the congregation and all the benefits therewith connected shall remain with those members who shall continue to adhere to Paragraphs 2 and 11 of this constitution.

PARAGRAPH 18: CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

To alter or repeal any alterable or repealable paragraph of this constitution, it shall be requisite that in two consecutive constitutional meetings of the voters two-thirds of all the voting members present cast their votes in favor of such alteration or repeal.

PARAGRAPH 19: UNALTERABLE PARAGRAPHS

Of this constitution, paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 19 shall be unalterable and irrepealable.