

Constitution.
or
Regulations.
of
The Lutheran Congregation
of
St. Paul's Church.
at
Morrisburg.
Ontario.

Whereas the Lutheran Congregation of St. Paul's Church in the Village of Morrisburg and in the Province of Ontario is a religious society consisting of the minister, elders, deacons, trustees, and Members of the Church - The following Church Regulations set forth the nature of their connection and point out their respective Rights and duties in accordance with the principles customs and usages of that portion of the Christian Church which is denominated the Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Chapter 1. Of the Minister.

Section 1

Manner of his Election.

The Pastor of this Lutheran Congregation shall be chosen by ballot, by a majority of votes of the male members of this congregation and of the male contributors and supporters of this Lutheran Church.

Section 2

The Pastor shall be an ordained or licensed Minister of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Evangelical Lutheran Church (briefly denominated the Lutheran Church) He must be a man of Piety and good morals, of learning and merit.

Section 3

He, only, who has been duly elected and who has received and accepted a written Call or Vocation having the signature of the members of the Church Council, can be considered and acknowledged as the regular minister or Stated Pastor of the Lutheran Congregation.

Section 4

It shall be the duty of the minister to preach the word of God on Sundays and Festivals in pureness and unto the edifying of the People, in accordance with the confession of Augsburg as the same is adopted and interpreted by the most approved Divines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Section 5

As a steward of the mysteries of God, he shall, at the appointed times and seasons dispense the sacraments and administer the Rite of Confirmation to those who require the

and to those who according to the marks and evidences which come under human cognizance, in his opinion, are not unfit and unworthy.

Section 6

When requested, at a proper time, and under becoming circumstances, he shall, in his official capacity solemnize matrimony.

Section 7

It shall be his duty when requested and if circumstances permit, to visit, prove, instruct and comfort those, who are sick in body or spirit, and if they desire it, and he finds no just cause for refusal he shall administer to them the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

Section 8

It shall be his duty at stated times to catechise the Youth and to inaugurate publicly all the Ruling Officers of this Church.

Section 9

In a book furnished by the Trustees the Minister shall keep a Parochial Register in which he shall make a record of all Baptisms, Confirmations, Communion, Marriages, and Funerals with dates and names of persons. The said book though in his possession shall be and remain the property of this Church.

Section 10

The Minister is a member of the Church Council and ex-officio the President of that body.

Section 11

The minister shall be a member of a regular Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium or Synod or Convention in Germany or elsewhere and upon his accepting the call to this Congregation he shall

produce to the Council of this church his letters of orders.

Section 12

In cases of temporary sickness or other debility the minister shall be excused for the non-performance of his duties.

Section 13

It is and shall be one of the Professional Duties of the Minister to enhance the interests both temporal and spiritual of this Lutheran Church by honorable and christian means and measures.

Chapter II.
Of the Trustees.

Section 1

The Board of Trustees shall consist of three to be chosen by ballot or otherwise.

Section 2

Their Qualifications.

They must be discreet persons of the church by which they are elected. Take charge of the estate and property belonging thereto and transact all affairs relative to the temporalities thereof.

Section 3

The Trustees shall hold their office during the term of three years and at the expiration of which they may be re-elected.

Section 4

It shall be the duty of the trustees to cause records of their proceedings to be kept and report the same whenever required by the congregation.

Section 5

It shall be the duty of the trustees to

yearly and every year unto the congregation a written report of all their proceedings during the time of their administration of the temporalities of this Congregation or church.

Section 6

It shall be one of the official duties of the trustees to advance by honorable means and respectable measures the interests of this Lutheran Church.

Chapter III. Of the Elders.

Section 1

There shall be three elders to be chosen by ballot or otherwise.

Section 2

X They shall hold their office during the term of three successive years at the expiration of which they may be re-elected.

Section 3

- The elders shall be regular communicant members of the church of unblemished character
- able and willing to show good example unto the members of the church. They shall diligently
- visit the House of God and shall assist the minister in his endeavors to maintain the discipline and order of the church.

Section 4

- It shall be their duty to assist the minister in the visiting of the sick and if he be prevented from so doing, to visit such, to console them and to pray for them.

Section 5

It shall be their duty to mention to the pastor all such who are seriously inclined that he

may minister to their several wants and individual necessities.

Section 6

It shall be one of their official duties to advance by christian means and measures the interests of this congregation.

Chapter IV. Of the Deacons.

Section 1

There shall be four deacons to be chosen by ballot or otherwise.

Section 2

They shall continue in office for three years but at the expiration of which term they may be re-elected.

Section 3

- They shall be regular communicant members
- of the church, men of honest report exemplary
- in their conduct before God and the Congregation

Section 4

It shall be their duty to watch over the outward order of the church to take care that all things be done in order and decently and that the service of God's House be performed in a manner corresponding with the importance of this object and the purity and simplicity of the Gospel.

Section 5

It may be their duty to collect alms on Sundays to keep and render annually an account of the sums so collected unto the trustees.

Section 6

It shall be their duty to collect the Minister

salary and see that it be paid regularly and punctually to him according to his call and settle with him annually.

Section 7

It shall be the duty of the deacons to see that the church is kept clean to take care of the library and furniture of the church and be responsible for the safe-keeping of this as well as for the safe-keeping of the sacramental vessels used at the altar.

Section 8

It shall be their duty to take care that the church be comfortably warmed in the winter whenever open for Divine Service to be at hand to aid as the minister may direct, when persons are baptized or confirmed and to see that visitors and strangers be accommodated with seats.

Section 9

All expenses incurred by the deacons in their duties and offices to see that bread and wine be furnished for the Lord's Table that the church be properly cleaned and comfortably warmed in the winter and well lit up at an early hour when meetings are to be held in the evening shall be regularly stated to the board of Trustees and shall by the said board be paid out of the revenues of the church.

Section 10

When collections donations or appropriations are to be made for the relief of the distressed and the benefit of the poor - The Deacons shall receive them, report the amount to the vestry and make distribution of the same according to the direction of that body.

Section 11

It shall be their duty to advance the interests of this Church by lawful means and measures.

Chapter II.

Of the Members of the Church.

Section 1

A regular member of the Lutheran Congregation of Saint Paul's Church at ~~Minnabur~~ ^{Minnabur} and who is entitled to all our rights and privileges in the Church in the property and institutions of the same and to the regular services of the Minister viz:-

- 1) Must be baptized.
- 2) Must have received the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- 3) Must be a stated attendant on Divine worship in this Church.
- 4) Must contribute to the support of the Church and.-
- 5) Must have his or her name entered in the Ecclesiastical Register containing the names of the regular members.

Section 2

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to search conscientiously the Holy Scriptures and the motives of their actions to scan their moral conduct by the code of Morality of the Holy Bible to converse and to think discreetly, prudently, and virtuously, to act justly, uprightly and honestly at all times and under all circumstances, to be commiserating to their fellow-men, to love each other as brethren to acknowledge daily in prayer their dependence on

God, to be charitable and benevolent to all other Christian Denominations, to reverence everything that is sacred, to attend regularly and piously and devoutly on the public services in this Church and not to withdraw himself from the participation of the Christian Ordinances.

Section 3

X It is required of parents to hold family worship, to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to lead them to the knowledge of the duties they owe to God, to themselves and to their neighbors, to bring them to a consciousness of the necessity and importance of living godly, holy, righteously, soberly and chastely and obediently in this present world to send them to the Pastor to be catechised in the Lutheran Catechism X or any other work suited for the Catechisation of Lutheran Youths and to persuade them to be confirmed, to partake with them regularly of the Sacrament of the Lord's table and to be constant in their faith and faithful unto death in their attachment to the Lutheran Church.

Section 4

As the minister of this Lutheran Congregation in this Province is to receive his support and salary from the Congregation or congregations in which he is officiating as a Pastor and as the Minister according to the doctrine of Christ and his apostles and in compliance with his ordination vows is to devote himself entirely to the duties of the

ministry and to abstain from worldly entanglements but to live of the Gospel he preaches and of such works as may help to promote and propagate the cause he has therefore a claim on the church for a sufficient maintenance and it shall be the duty of every member of this congregation to compensate their officiating pastor for his services according to their several abilities and the measure of their faith, And not only to do that but also to promote his happiness and the arduous duties which he has to discharge, by obeying him cheerfully, by honoring him, and by loving him.

Section 5

The minister being obligated to judge conscientiously according to proper evidence whether the members of the church should be privately admonished or prohibited from partaking of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper or again admitted thereto, no member can for any time be debarred from the privileges peculiar to church membership without the minister's consent unless otherwise and specially provided for in this constitution, But if any member of this church should disregard the admonitions of the minister and of the elders and of the vestry and live in open wickedness and by evil doing inflict injury upon the church and subject the congregation to the scorn of unbelievers and thus make it necessary as a worthless and corrupt member to be put away from among the church and if the minister, vestry, and at least two thirds of the regular members present, at a meeting of the congregation

duly notified agree to the measure the name of such member shall be erased from the Register and such person shall forfeit all claims to the privileges of the church and no such person shall be restored or can be restored or re-admitted to the enjoyment of all and singular the rights and benefits of the church nor have again the name entered on the register without the consent of the minister, vestry, and at least two thirds of the qualified members of the congregation present at a meeting regularly notified.

Section 6

Entitled to vote.

None but male members or persons of full age who have been stated attendants on divine worship with this congregation at least three months previous and also have contributed to the support of the minister shall be entitled to vote in the election of trustees or in the choice of a Pastor or in fixing the salary of the minister.

Section 7

It shall be the duty of every member of this congregation to advance by christian means and honourable measures the interests and prosperity and Union and Peace of this Lutheran Church.

Chapter II. Of the Vestry.

Section 1

The vestry of the Lutheran congregation of St Paul's Church at Morrisburg shall consist of the minister, elders and deacons of the church.

Section 2

The Vestry as a body shall support the minister in the discharge of his duties and make

those things the object of their attention and administration which concern more immediately the worship of God, the dispensing of the sacraments the doctrine, the discipline and spiritual interests of the church and the regulating of all such church affairs as do not come within the Province of the Trustees.

Section 3

In the absence of the Minister the Senior Elder or Senior deacon shall preside at their meetings and of the proceedings of which records shall be kept in a book provided for said purpose which shall remain the property of the church.

Section 4

X It shall be their duty as a body to advance the interests, the prosperity the union and peace of the church.

Chapter III. Of the Church-Council.

Section 1

The Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Saint Paul's Church at Morrisburg (briefly denominated the Church-Council) consists of the minister, elders, deacons, and Trustees and Treasurer and Secretary of the Congregation.

Section 2

The Church-Council or a majority thereof may consult and deliberate on matters of general interest to the congregation and may by their resolutions make suggestions and recommend measures to the vestry, Trustees or congregation and to others concerned.

Section 3

In the absence of the minister such elder deacon or Trustee as the majority may appoint shall

preside at their meetings and the proceedings of which shall be recorded in a Book provided for said purpose which shall remain the property of the Church.

Section 4

It shall be the duty of the Church Council a body to advance the interests, the prosperity, the union, the peace, and the Harmony of the Church and all its members.

Chapter VIII.
Of Elections and Dismissions.

Section 1.

All elections of the ruling officers or otherwise denominated Vestry and the Church Council of this Congregation shall be made by ballot or otherwise and any qualified member receiving a majority of votes shall be considered duly elected and shall be accordingly inaugurated in the Church by the officiating pastor to his proper office,

Section 2.

X All elections of the ruling officers of this congregation shall take place at a public meeting duly notified.

Section 3

Any person may be elected to hold an office provided he possesses the necessary qualifications.

Section 4.

It shall be the duty of every ruling officer of this Church if he remove to another Township, County or Country or if he be willing to resign his office, to acquaint, in writing, the pastor of his intentions that measures may be taken to grant him an honorable dismissal.

ion and that such vacancy may be filled by an election of another member of the church at a meeting duly notified.

Section 5

No officer of the church may receive an honorable dismission as long as he owes the church anything, i.e. has any of its property in his hands or stands accused of any crime.

Section 6.

The Church Council shall have power to grant an honorable dismission to an applicant provided two thirds of the Council agree thereto.

Section 7

Elections may take place at any time to fill such vacancy as may occur by the absence or resignation of any member of the church council and the person so elected shall serve during the remainder of the term on which his predecessor has entered.

Chapter IX. Of Committees.

Section 1

The minister of this congregation shall have power to appoint such committees as the times and seasons and circumstances and emergencies may require.

Section 2

It shall be the duty of such committees individually as well as collectively to advance the interests, prosperity, union, peace and concord of this church and its members.

Chapter X. Of Reports.

Section 1

It shall be the duty of the officers of the church to render annually to the congregation a written report of the transactions which took place within the province of their respective offices which report having been read to the congregation shall be deposited in the archives of the church.

Section 2.

The archives of the church shall be kept by the pastor of the congregation and for the safe-keeping of the same he shall be responsible to the congregation.

Chapter XI.

Of Stated meetings.

Section 1.

It shall be the duty of the church council X to hold annually two meetings at a time and at a place to be appointed by the pastor.

Section 2.

The minister shall have power to appoint extra meetings to be called and held at a time and in a place as he may deem fit.

Section 3.

The vestry shall hold two meetings every year at a place and at a time to be appointed by the pastor.

Section 4.

The congregation shall hold annually one general meeting at a time and in a place to be appointed by the pastor. At which meeting the minutes of the congregation kept by the pastor shall be read and all officers shall report.

Chapter XII

Of Books.

Section 1 X

X As the Holy Bible is the charter of our salvation and as the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are variously understood and explained by the various Branches of the Christian Church It is hereby declared that the Augsburg Confession of faith which is the Creed of all Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Europe and elsewhere is likewise the Creed of this Lutheran Congregation.

Section 2.

X Dr. Luther's Catechism or any other book suited for the Catechisation of Lutheran Youths shall be used in the English language when the Youth of this Lutheran Congregation are to be catechised and instructed in the Doctrines and practice of the Holy Bible.

Section 3.

With amendments in regard to Localities, The Hymn Book edited by the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New York shall be the Hymn Book of this Lutheran Congregation.

Section 4.

With amendments in regard to Localities The Liturgy edited by the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New York shall be the Liturgy of this Lutheran Congregation till another one if better be composed and printed and can be obtained

Chapter XIII

Of Confirmation.

Section 1

No Catechumen shall receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper until confirmed except in cases of emergency.

Section 2.

Confirmation shall take place at the pleasure of the pastor.

Section 3.

No person shall be admitted into full communion by the Rite of Confirmation under the year of fourteen of his age.

Section 4.

It is the duty of every person after confirmation to partake for the first time of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Chapter XIV.

Of Miscellaneous Subjects.

Section 1.

All collections of alms &c. &c. shall be made in the church and the proceeds shall be appropriated toward such object or objects as the Church Council shall point out.

Section 2.

* Should a member of the Church Council, whether a trustee, elder, Treasurer or deacon be guilty of disorderly conduct, and, after the degrees of admonition have been pursued according to the doctrine of Christ and a reasonable time has been allowed for probation and amendment still continue in immorality, such person hereby excludes himself from the Church Council and vacates his seat and the vacancy shall be filled according to the provision made in this constitution.

Section 3.

All expenses incurred by the Trustees for keeping in repair and well-condition the church,

the parsonage, the burying-places, and the estate and its fences and appurtenances belonging to this congregation shall be defrayed from the revenue of the church arising from collections made for such purpose.

Chapter XV.

Section 1.

Of Amendments.

There shall be no alteration or addition to this constitution without the consent of three-fourths of the members present at a general meeting of the Congregation provided always that no alteration in, or addition to, this constitution shall be made that may in any wise effect encroach upon, interfere or be inconsistent with the call or vocation of the minister unless his voluntary assent shall have been given in writing to the vestry or trustees or congregation.

Chapter XVI.

Remarks.

Section 1.

In Chapter I. and section 1. it is said "by ballot". This mode is to be adopted when two or more candidates for the ministerial office of this church shall present themselves to the congregation otherwise the choice may be made viva voce as it has as yet been done.

Section 2

In Chapter I and Section 4 and in Chapter XII. and Section 1. The Augsburg confession of faith is spoken of as the Creed of this Lutheran Congregation by which is meant that it is its Creed in as far as it agrees with the sacred scriptures correctly explained To consider it there,
Hear! obtains in Germany.

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