

The Constitution of King of Kings Lutheran Church

Preamble

God requires that a Christian congregation shall conform to the divine Word in doctrine and practice (Psalm 119:105; Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 1:6-8; 2 Timothy 4:1-5) and that all things be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40). Therefore, we, the members of King of Kings Lutheran Church, located at Kansas City North, Missouri, 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 I – Name

The name of this congregation shall be King of Kings Lutheran Church.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this congregation shall be to seek the honor and glory of God, to carry out His will, to manifest the unity of our faith in Jesus Christ as God and Savior, to spread the kingdom of God and to foster Christian fellowship and love, by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments, and by the religious instruction of all its members, according to the confessional standard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Article III).

Article III – Doctrinal Standard

- A. This congregation acknowledges and accepts all of the canonical books of the Old Testament and New Testament as the revealed and inerrant Word of God, verbally inspired, and submits to them as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.
- B. This congregation acknowledges and accepts all of the confessional writings of the evangelical Lutheran church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as true and genuine expositions of the doctrines of the Bible. These confessional writings are the three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Large and Small Catechisms and the Formula of Concord.

Article IV – Membership

The membership of this congregation includes the following:

A. Baptized Membership

1. Definition – Baptized members are all members who have been baptized in the Name of the Triune God and who are under the spiritual care of the Pastor of this congregation, including the children who have not yet confirmed their baptismal vow.
2. Reception – Baptized members are received through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, through transfer, or with the consent of one or both parents or guardians in the case of children who have been baptized in another Christian congregation.
3. Duties – Baptized members shall conform their lives to their baptismal vow.

4. Termination – Baptized members, who have not been received as communicant members, shall have their membership terminated for the same reasons that communicant membership is terminated; insofar as these reasons are applicable.

B. Communicant Membership

1. Definition – Communicant members are those baptized members who have been confirmed in the Lutheran faith, accept the doctrinal standards of Article III of this constitution, are familiar, at least, with the contents of Luther's Small Catechism, and who are not members of organizations whose principals and conduct conflict with the Word of God.
2. Reception – Communicant members are received through the rite of confirmation, by transfer from a sister congregation, upon profession of faith, or by reaffirmation of faith, provided they conform to the requirements for membership in this congregation. Pastor's actions shall be approved by the Board of Elders, and reported to the Board of Directors, and the Voters' Assembly.
3. Duties – Communicant members shall conform their entire lives to the rule of God's Word and to that end make diligent use of the means of grace, exercise faithful stewardship of God's gifts, and impart and accept fraternal admonition as the need for such admonition becomes apparent.
4. Termination –
 - a. Communicant members in good standing may be transferred by the Pastor to sister congregation immediately upon request. Pastor's actions shall be reported to the Board of Elders, the Board of Directors, and to the Voters' Assembly. Members who move out of the community and thereby become inactive shall be encouraged to transfer their membership to the sister congregation nearest to them.
 - b. Communicant members who join congregations outside of our fellowship thereby terminate their membership. Their names shall be removed from the membership list by the Board of Elders, and reported to the Board of Directors, and the Voters' Assembly.
 - c. Communicant members whose whereabouts are unknown and whose addresses cannot be established shall have their names reported by the board of Elders to the Board of Directors for ratification at the next Voters' Assembly before removing their names.
 - d. Communicant members, who conduct themselves in an Unchristian manner, shall be admonished according to Matthew 18:15-20; if they remain impenitent after proper admonition, they shall be excommunicated. If such member deliberately absents himself from the meetings at which his case is to be discussed, or in some other manner makes it impossible to deal with him, he thereby excommunicates himself. Pastor and the Board of Elders would make recommendations to the Board of Directors for ratification at the next Voters' Assembly.

C. Voting Membership

1. Definition – All communicant members of the congregation (see Article IV, who have reached the age of 18) shall receive a copy of the Constitution and shall have the right of suffrage; those who have reached the age of 21 shall be eligible to hold an elective office. Those who have the right of suffrage constitute the Voters' Assembly.
2. Duties – Voting members shall attend the meetings of Voters' Assembly regularly, participate in the work of the congregation, and willingly accept responsibility according to ability.
3. Termination – Termination of Communicant Membership automatically terminates Voting Membership.

Article V – The Offices of Pastor and Called Workers

The pastoral office of this congregation, as well as that of other called workers, shall be conferred only on such ministers and called workers, who profess and adhere to the confessional standard set forth in Article III of this Constitution and who are qualified for their work. Pastors and workers shall be pledged to this confessional standard.

Article VI – Authority of the Congregation

- A. General – The Voters' Assembly, through their elected Board of Directors, shall be the governing body of this congregation. The establishment and conduct of all organizations and societies within the congregation shall be subject to the approval and supervision of the Board of Directors.
- B. Right of Calling – The right of calling pastors or workers shall be vested in the Voters' Assembly and shall never be delegated to a smaller group or to an individual.
- C. Decisions – All matters of doctrine and of conscience shall be decided only by the Word of God. All other matters shall be decided by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors, within the total approved annual budget/works plan, unless otherwise specified by this Constitution or Bylaws.
- D. Removal from Office – Any pastor, called worker or officer may be removed from office by the Voters' Assembly by a two-thirds majority ballot vote, in Christian and lawful order, for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, or willful neglect of duties.
- E. Removal from Membership – The Voters' Assembly shall have the authority to exclude any communicant member according to Matthew 18:15-18. The person, so excluded (excommunicated), shall forfeit all rights of a member (See Article IV-B-d).

Article VII – Officers

- A. The officers of this congregation shall be such officers, boards, or committees as the Bylaws of this Constitution may prescribe.
- B. Congregational officers or committees, whether elected or appointed, shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them, and whatever authority may have been delegated to them, may at any time be altered or revoked.

Article VIII – Division

If, at any time, a division should take place on account of doctrine, 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 Article III of this constitution. If division takes place for any other reason, the property shall remain with the majority of the communicant members. In the event the congregation should totally disband, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to that District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod of which the congregation has been a member at the time of disbanding.

Article IX – Doctrinal Conformity

Only such hymns, prayers and liturgies shall be used in public services of the congregation and in all ministerial acts as conform to the confessional stand of Article III.

Article X – Synodical Membership

This Congregation shall hold membership in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as long as this Synod remains true to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. It shall send its pastor(s), called worker(s), and a lay delegate to the district Convention of the Synod.

Article XI – By-Laws

This congregation may adopt such By-laws as may be required for the accomplishment of its purpose.

Article XII – Changing the Constitution

- A. Unalterable Articles: Articles II, III, V, and IX of this Constitution shall not be subject to change or repeal.
- B. Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted at a regular Voters' Assembly provided:

1. That they do not conflict with the provisions laid down in Article III, or with any other article that pertains to a Scriptural doctrine and practice; and
2. That the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting of the Voters' Assembly and published prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be acted upon.
3. That an affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the voters present is secured.