

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, INC.
CONSTITUTION**

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**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, INC.
CONSTITUTION**

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the members of Faith Congregation are daily devoted to Almighty God to participate in the mission of making disciples, baptizing, teaching, and obeying all Christ's commands,

AND WHEREAS the members of Faith Congregation, empowered by the Holy Spirit in worship, witness, service, fellowship, and nurture; daily are fed by the Word, fueled by the Spirit, and serve the church by sharing their faith in Christ as Lord of all people:

THEREFORE we, the members of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cobb County, Georgia, Inc., do set forth this Constitution and Bylaws in accordance with which our congregational affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted, to the glory of God's Kingdom.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this congregation shall be: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cobb County, Georgia, Incorporated.

ARTICLE II: CORPORATE FUNCTION

The corporate function of this incorporated body shall be that of a Christian congregation organized to administer the divine means of grace by conducting public worship services, to give Christian instruction; to provide for the spiritual needs of the individual; to possess and administer such real estate as may be required for the church and school; and to administer other programs necessary in carrying out the aims of the organization.

To carry out this corporate function, we have bound ourselves to the Confessional Standard as stated in Article III of this Constitution, and to other Christian congregations in the following manner:

- A. This congregation shall be a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and shall support the work of such Synod to its utmost ability subject to the provisions of Item C of this Article.
- B. The authority of the Synod over this corporate congregation shall be advisory not legislative.
- C. The congregation will continue in its Synodical affiliation as long as it considers that association to be supportive of the congregation's ministry. If the question of dis-association of said affiliation should arise, a two-thirds majority vote of all confirmed members shall be required for approval of such dis-association. Any subsequent questions of property rights shall be in accordance with Article VIII of this Constitution.

Article II Item C of this Constitution shall be deemed unalterable.

ARTICLE III: CONFESSIONAL STANDARD

The congregation believes, accepts and confesses all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the inspired Word of God, and all the symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as a correct presentation and true exposition of Christian doctrine, drawn from, and in full agreement with, the Holy Scriptures; hence, no doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation which is in any degree at variance with the following symbols of the Lutheran Church:

- A. The Three Ecumenical Creeds: The Nicene, Athanasian, and Apostles' Creeds;
- B. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession;
- C. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession;
- D. The Smalcald Articles;
- E. Luther's Catechism, Large and Small;
- F. The Formula of Concord.

This Article III of this Constitution shall be deemed unalterable.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

To be a member of this congregation and enjoy the membership rights and privileges, a member must:

- A. Be baptized in the Name of the Triune God.
- B. Accept the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testament as the only divine rule and standard of faith;
- C. Adhere to the symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church;
- D. Have been accepted into membership in accordance with Article II of the Bylaws.

Classes, privileges and responsibilities of membership are defined in the Bylaws of this congregation.

ARTICLE V: ORGANIZATION, RIGHTS AND POWERS

- A. Organization: The organization of this congregation shall be made up of Voting Members, Board of Directors, Executive Board, Administrative Boards and Committees as defined in the Bylaws.
- B. Rights and Powers: The congregation as a body shall have the rights and power in the external and internal management of its congregational affairs. No decision, enactment, or performance on behalf of the congregation, or with reference to a member thereof, shall be valid when it proceeds from an individual or from an organization within the congregation, unless such individual or organization has been given the power by the Voting membership. The congregation shall always have the final decision. Such decisions, however, must always be in accordance with the confessional standards as stated in Article III.

ARTICLE VI: RIGHT OF CALL

The right of calling professional church staff members shall ever be vested in the congregation and shall never be delegated to an individual or to a minor body or circle within the congregation. Only such professional church staff members shall be called by this congregation who are in accord with the confessional standards of this congregation as stated in Article III, have been prepared for their work and are well qualified for it.

In the absence of adequate cause for dismissal, as defined in the Bylaws of the congregation, the tenure of office of called professional church staff members shall be the remainder of their active lives, or until the Lord calls them into another field of service.

This Article VI of this Constitution shall be deemed unalterable.

ARTICLE VII: WORSHIP SERVICES AND BOOKS

In the public worship services, in the educational agencies and in all ministerial acts of the congregation, forms in accordance with the confessional standard as stated in Article III shall be used.

This Article VII of this Constitution shall be deemed unalterable.

ARTICLE VIII: PROPERTY RIGHTS

- A. 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, as determined by the adjudication procedures of the LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD.
- B. If division takes place for any other reason, the property shall remain with the majority of the communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article III of this Constitution, as determined by the adjudication procedures of the LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD.
- C. In the event the congregation should dissolve, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to that District of the LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD in which the congregation holds membership at the time of dissolution.
- D. This Article VIII of this Constitution shall be deemed unalterable.

ARTICLE IX: AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Auxiliary organizations may be organized within the congregation only with the expressed approval of the Voting Membership. Any decisions, enactment or performance of or by auxiliary organizations shall be invalid if they conflict with the Constitution and its associated Bylaws. The pastors, by virtue of their office, shall be the spiritual advisors for such auxiliary organizations within the congregation.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

- A. Amendments to provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws, except Articles II C, III, VI, VII and VIII of the Constitution, may be adopted at a regular or special Voters Meeting, as provided:
1. That the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting of the Voters Meeting; and either be published in the Sunday Bulletin for two weeks prior to or delivered by mail or e-mail to all congregation members two weeks prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be acted upon.
 2. That an affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the voters present is secured.
- B. In addition to the above requirements, proposals to amend Articles II C, III, VI, VII and VIII of the Constitution shall require that previous notice of such amendment and discussion of the same shall be presented at two regular or special meetings of the Voters Assembly before the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be voted upon. Due notice of the fact that a vote will be taken shall be given to all voting members of the congregation by mail two weeks prior to the meeting. Any changes in these articles shall not alter the essential meaning of the article. Upon a challenge by any member of the alteration of these specified articles, the decision will be appealed in accordance with the adjudication procedures of the LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, whose findings will prevail.
- C. Prior to submission of revisions of the Constitution and Bylaws to the congregation, proposed revisions are to be submitted to the appropriate District and Synodical office for review.

Adopted January 1981
Amended March 1986
Amended April 1991
Amended October 1999
Amended April 2009 (final proposed version)