

Constitution
Northwest District
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, (LCMC)

Preamble

As members of the priesthood of all believers, called by the Holy Spirit to confess the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in its purity, we give thanks for Gods continual faithfulness and, by adopting this constitution, form this fellowship and district of congregations, uniting to carry out Gods mission in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Article 1 - Name and Incorporation

- 1.01. The name of this district shall be Northwest District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. The official abbreviation of this district shall be NW-LCMC. Northwest District may also be designated as "Northwest."
- 1.02. Northwest is a geographical district in the Northwest United States.
- 1.03. Northwest shall be incorporated and its Articles of Incorporation will be filed under the laws of the State of Washington.

Article 2 - Statement of Faith

- 2.01. We believe, teach, and confess the Triune God; Father; Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2.02. We believe, teach, and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe in him.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
 - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both law and gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy in the person and work of Jesus Christ through whom God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself.
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

2.03. We believe, teach, and accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the sole authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life.

2.04. We accept the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the scriptural faith we believe, teach, and confess.

2.05. We believe, teach, and accept the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and the Small Catechism as true witnesses to the Word of God, normative for our teaching and practice. We acknowledge that we are one in faith and doctrine with all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

2.06. We believe, teach, and confess the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

2.07. We believe, teach, and confess the gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the priesthood of all believers for God's mission in the world.

Article 3 - Ministry

3.01. This district affirms the priesthood of all believers. All baptized members of our congregations are priests called by God to ministries in their daily lives.

3.02. God's call of a particular man or woman to the office of public ministry is confirmed by the call of a congregation. All calls to the public ministry will be issued by a congregation of this district. A congregation also may call a chaplain, missionary or pastor employed in another type of special ministry.

3.03. A called minister of Word and Sacrament shall subscribe to the confession of faith and otherwise comply with the ministry standards as established by LCMC and Northwest, and shall be subject to discipline as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by LCMC.

Article 4 - Membership

- 4.01. Northwest is a geographic district of LCMC congregations. Any LCMC congregation that subscribes in writing to this constitution, and is a member of LCMC, shall be a voting member of this district.
- 4.02. Any individual who subscribes in writing to this constitution may be a nonvoting associate member.
- 4.03. To participate in the life of Northwest, individuals who are not members of an LCMC congregation may organize themselves into chapters according to Paragraph 1.06 of the bylaws.

Article 5 - Governance

- 5.01. This district shall have an annual convention as provided in the bylaws. Other meetings may be called for from time to time as provided in the bylaws.
- 5.02. Other matters of governance, organization, and order shall be addressed in the bylaws of Northwest.

Article 6 Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws

- 6.01. An amendment to this constitution may be proposed in writing by any member congregation. The adoption of an amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the convention or meeting, provided that such amendment shall not become effective unless it is ratified in accordance with Section 6.02 below.
- 6.02. Amendments shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority of member congregations acting in and through properly called congregational meetings. Each congregation shall be entitled to one vote. Any proposed amendment must be ratified by the congregations within one year. Any proposed amendment not ratified within one year of the date of approval by the convention or meeting shall be deemed rejected.
- 6.03. Bylaws may be adopted or amended by a simple majority vote at any meeting of this district. All bylaw changes will take effect in one year unless rejected by a majority of the congregations through congregational or council vote.