

Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church Houghton, Michigan

“Alive in Christ!”

Constitution and Bylaws Q. & A.

#1 Q. When did Saints Peter and Paul draft its first Constitution and Bylaws?

A. 1868

#2 Q. How many times has our Constitution and Bylaws been revised?

A. Seven times; 1903, 1949, 1975, 1978, 1999, 2003, and 2006.

#3 Q. I've heard that we are revising our Constitution and Bylaws as a part of the current restructuring effort. Is that true?

A. Yes.

#4 Q. Why is it necessary to revise a church Constitution and Bylaws?

A. There are many reasons that a congregation may need or want to revise its Constitution and Bylaws. Our changes are necessary to clarify board membership, board functions, and structural changes. As a church grows and evolves, like ours has in the recent past, their Constitution and Bylaws must be revised to meet changing needs.

#5 Q. How are Constitution and Bylaw revisions done?

A. In many cases, a Constitutional committee may be appointed, or the task given to an existing Board or the Church Council. The Design Team who is overseeing our restructure effort with the assistance of consultant Kurt Bickel did our revision. We were able to accomplish this effort in a timely manner through the input gathered from the congregation at a variety of meetings and workshops.

#6 Q. Do Constitution and Bylaw revisions need Synod approval?

A. Yes. The approval process for the LCMS requires that any proposed changes to a member church's Constitution be submitted to their District office for review, editing, and approval. Our draft revisions were submitted to the North Wisconsin District office for review by their

Constitution committee. It was then presented to the North Wisconsin District Board of Directors and approved at their meeting on May 11, 2015.

#7 Q. What changes have been made to Saints Peter and Paul's Constitution and Bylaws in this most recent revision?

A. You can see a copy of the final draft of the revised Constitution online by going to copperluth.org/structure. A hard copy will be made available to anyone who wishes to have one. It is important to note that we preserved the vast majority of content from our former Constitution. These details remain unchanged: Our existing Constitution's Preamble, Section I. Name, Section II. Mission, Section III. Confessional Standard, Section IV. Synodical Membership, Section V. Division, Section VI. Membership, Section VII. Authority of the Congregation, and Section VIII. Pastors and Teachers. The following are *minor* changes; Hancock>Houghton, SS Peter and Paul>Saints Peter and Paul, Church Council>Board of Directors, and two spelling corrections in the Preamble footnotes. In Section IX. Officers and Boards, Chairman was changed to Chair, and a Board of Directors takes the place of the Church Council. The Bylaws have been revised to empower the Board of Directors in their role as the governing body, and to accommodate the new operational structure.

#8 Q. Does the congregation need to approve these Constitution and Bylaw revisions?

A. Yes. The revised Constitution and Bylaws will be placed before the voter's assembly on August 23, 2015 @9:45am for their approval. After ratification by 2/3rds of the members present, the revised Constitution and Bylaws will then become effective.

#9 Q. What if I have other questions not included here?

A. If you have any questions about the Constitution and Bylaw revisions or the restructure process, not included in this Q. and A., please contact any of the Design Team members!

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