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PENINSULA LUTHERAN CHURCH CONSTITUTION
March 14, 1999

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PREAMBLE
Recognizing our unity in Christ and our common practice in the Christian faith; desiring to express our fellowship in worship and work; knowing our spiritual needs; mindful of our Christian privileges and duties; and wishing to observe orderly cooperation, we adopt the following constitution.

ARTICLE I - NAME AND INCORPORATION
The name of the congregation shall be Peninsula Lutheran Church. The congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington. The legal location of the congregation shall be Gig Harbor, the County of Pierce and the State of Washington.

ARTICLE II - CONFESSION OF FAITH
1. The congregation accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as a whole and in all their parts as the divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God and submits to this as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.

2. As brief and true statements of the doctrines of the Word of God, this congregation accepts and confesses the following Symbols, subscription to which shall be required of all its members: (1) the ancient ecumenical Creeds: The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian; (2) the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism.

3. As further elaboration of and in accord with these Lutheran Symbols, this congregation also receives the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580: the Apology, Luther's Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord; and recognizes them as normative for its theology.

4. This congregation accepts without reservation the symbolical books of the evangelical Lutheran Church, not insofar as, but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith of the evangelical Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSES
1. The purpose of this congregation shall be to proclaim and propagate the Christian faith through the Means of Grace, and to cooperate in the program approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ARTICLE IV - POWERS
1. All power in the congregation has its source in the Word of God, which is the norm for its faith and life. All individuals and groups within the congregation shall submit to the authority of the Word; and the life and activity of the congregation and its organizations shall conform to it.

2. All ministries, schools, societies, auxiliaries and other organizations within the congregation shall be organized only with the approval of the church Leadership and shall function in harmony with the policies of the congregation.

3. The powers of the congregation shall be those necessary to fulfill its purposes, as set forth in this constitution.
4. The powers of the congregation shall be vested in congregational meetings, called and conducted in such manner as is provided in this constitution, and, to the extent conveyed by this constitution or as assigned from time to time by congregational meetings.

5. In the fulfillment of its purpose, the congregation is empowered to:
   a) acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, bequest, purchase, or other lawful means;
   b) hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose.
   c) sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
   d) enter into contract;
   e) sue and be sued;
   f) elect the Leadership for the exercise of their powers and authority and require them to conduct their affairs in accordance with this constitution and its bylaws, and the resolutions of the congregation.

6. Real property shall not be purchased, disposed of, or encumbered in any manner except by resolution adopted by not less than a two-thirds majority ballot vote of the members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation.

7. Should the congregation cease to do business and be dissolved, all property and funds remaining after the payment of debts of the congregation shall be distributed to The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (or its successor) or a corporation, trust, foundation or other organization organized and existing for religious and/or charitable purposes which would then qualify under the provisions of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as now enacted or as may hereafter be amended.

ARTICLE V - RELATIONSHIP TO THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1. For the better attainment of its purpose the congregation shall be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor and shall be subject to the policy and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

2. The congregation claims for itself all the rights and privileges and accepts all the duties and obligations connected with such membership.

3. The congregation covenants to support with prayer, personal service, and offerings, the common work of the church.

4. Severance of membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members present and voting at a legally called and conducted meeting. Such a decision shall not be effective until at least ninety days after the bishop has been notified and until the initial action has been ratified by a two-thirds majority vote at a subsequent legally called and conducted meeting.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONGREGATION

1. Members of the congregation shall be those who are designated as such at the time that this constitution is adopted, and those who are admitted thereafter; and who maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its by-laws. There shall be no membership restrictions with respect to race or color.
2. Members shall be classified as (a) baptized; (b) confirmed; (c) voting.
   a) Baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by proper transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
   b) Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism, or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
   c) Voting members shall be those who are confirmed members in good standing, as provided in the bylaws, and who have attained the age of fourteen (14) years.

3. It shall be the privilege and duty of members of the congregation to:
   a) make diligent use of the Means of Grace, both Word and Sacraments;
   b) live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran Church;
   c) support the work of the congregation and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
   d) participate actively in the life of the congregation demonstrating high commitment to a Christ-centered community of faith.

ARTICLE VII - DISCIPLINE

1. A member who advocates doctrines which are contrary to Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Church, or who is guilty of conduct that is grossly unbecoming a member of the Body of Christ, shall be subject to discipline.

2. Discipline shall be administered by the Church Leadership on behalf of the congregation, with the right of appeal to the congregation.

3. Discipline in the congregation shall be exercised in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18.

ARTICLE VIII - WORSHIP

1. As an expression of the unity of the church in Christ the congregation recognizes the desirability of conforming to the practices of other member congregations in using forms of worship, including liturgies and hymn books, as are consistent with the theological beliefs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ARTICLE IX - PASTORS

1. A pastor of the congregation shall be a person whose soundness in the faith, aptness to teach, and educational qualifications have been examined and approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and who has been properly ordained; who accepts and adheres to the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and of the congregation; and who strives in life and conduct to be above reproach.

2. Authority to call a pastor shall rest in the congregation. Such authority to call shall be exercised by not less than a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a Call is issued, the officers, or a committee authorized by the congregation, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.
3. Only an ordained clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in good standing or one who is recommended for Call by the Church Leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be called as a pastor of the congregation.

4. In the event of a vacancy in a pastoral office, the Church Leadership shall, after notifying the bishop, provide for interim pastoral service.

5. If in the judgment of the congregation a pastor is no longer able to serve it satisfactorily, the pastor may be requested to resign. Before the resignation is requested, all parties, including the pastor, shall have the opportunity of being heard at a specially called meeting of the Church Leadership at which the bishop or his representative shall be present. After the hearing before the Church Leadership a special meeting of the congregation may be called to consider a request for the pastor's resignation. A resolution requesting a pastor's resignation must be adopted by a majority of those present and voting. Not less than ten days' notice of such meeting of a congregation must be given. If a pastor's resignation has been requested in the manner here provided, the pastor shall vacate the office at the time the congregation specifies. Should this not occur, the Church Leadership shall declare the pastoral office vacant.

6. In the event of alleged defection in doctrine or alleged conduct unbecoming a pastor, the matter shall be referred by the Church Leadership to the bishop for disciplinary action as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

1. The power and authority of the congregation shall be exercised through the congregation meetings, which shall be called and conducted in conformity with civil laws and the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the congregation.

2. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held each year as specified in the bylaws. Notice of the meeting shall be given as provided in the bylaws.

3. A quorum for any regular or special meeting of the congregation shall be five (5%) percent of the voting members.

4. A special meeting of the congregation may be called by action of the congregation by petition of at least five (5%) percent of the voting members, or by any one of the following: The Church Leadership, the president of the congregation, or the Lead pastor. The president of the Church Leadership shall call a special meeting upon the request of the Bishop. Official notice of a special meeting of the congregation shall be in writing and shall be posted conspicuously in the place where the congregation customarily worships. Such notice shall state the time, the place, and the purpose of the meeting. It shall be signed by the president and the secretary of the congregation, or by the person or persons who have called the meeting, as authorized by this paragraph. The notice of a special meeting shall also be read at all public services of the congregation held during the ten days preceding the date of the meeting. If no services are held during the stipulated time, not less than five days written notice of such meeting shall be given; and provided further that a meeting called to consider the purchase, disposition or encumbrance of real property must be called and held in conformity with such provision of civil law as may be applicable.

5. The pastor(s) shall be notified of the time and place at which a special meeting of the congregation is to be held.

6. Only the business for which a special meeting has been called shall be transacted at the meeting.
7. A meeting of the congregation may by majority vote recess to reconvene at a specified time and place. A meeting may also recess to reconvene upon call; provided, however, that the time and place of such a reconvened meeting must be announced at a public service of the congregation, or not less than three days' written notice be given of the reconvened meeting.

ARTICLE XI - OFFICERS AND BOARDS

1. At its annual meeting the congregation shall elect a Church Leadership of not less than five nor more than eight members for terms of three years each with approximately one-third of the terms expiring annually. No member shall be eligible for more than two consecutive terms. The pastors shall be advisory members of the Church Leadership by virtue the office, but without vote. At its first meeting following the annual meeting of the congregation, the Church Leadership shall:
   a) Elect from its own membership a president, a vice-president, and a secretary, who shall be president, vice-president, and secretary of the congregation; and appoint a treasurer and a financial secretary of the congregation, who need not be members of the Church Leadership. The duties of the officers of the congregation shall be those provided in the bylaws.
   b) The Leadership shall serve as the legal Board of Trustees of the congregation. The Board of Trustees shall be directly responsible to the congregation. The pastor shall be an advisory member of the Board of Trustees. All legal documents shall be signed by the president and secretary on behalf of the congregation.

2. The Church Leadership shall determine rosters of the baptized, the confirmed, and the voting members of the congregation.

3. The Church Leadership shall exercise such authority as is delegated to it by this constitution, the by-laws, and the resolutions of the congregation.

4. The Church Leadership shall have general oversight of the life and work of the congregation.

ARTICLE XII - BYLAWS

1. The congregation shall adopt such bylaws as may from time to time be necessary. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

2. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called and conducted meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

1. The doctrinal basis and the confessional subscription contained in Article II, and this paragraph of Article XIII, shall be unalterable; and no amendment to this constitution shall conflict there.

2. Any proposed amendments to this constitution must be:
   a) read at a public service of the congregation or mailed to the voting members, not less than thirty days before the legally called meeting at which it is to be considered;
   b) approved without change at the legally called meeting following its announcement, by a majority vote of those present and voting;
   c) ratified without further change at the next annual meeting, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.