

Revision Date 2-21-24

## CONSTITUTION OF ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Major Revision overview:

- Adoption of all ELCA Model Constitution (August 2022) changes since last update of St. Paul's constitution in 2012. Areas designated with a \* cannot vary from the model constitution.
- Incorporated all St. Paul's current bylaws and continuing resolutions into the body of constitution as directed by the Model Constitution.

### Highlighted changes:

- Add doing business as St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School to Name. Chapter 1
- Update St. Paul's Faith Forever Endowment Fund language to the constitution and added the continuing resolution of the Endowment as well as listing the categories that gifts can be designated to. Chapter 5
- Revise the method to determine the quorum of voting members for a congregation meeting to be ten percent (10%) of the average weekly number of those attending regular worship services in person and online for the previous calendar year. Chapter 10.
- Add remote communication options for meetings. Chapter 10 & 12.
- Add the office of past-president who will serve on council for a third year following terms as president-elect, and president. Chapter 11 & 12.
- Reduced the Church Council authority to incur obligations not covered in annual budget without congregation approval from 10% to 2% of annual budget. Chapter 12
- Combine the Family and Youth Board and the Parish Education Board and create a new Faith Formation Board. One member of Faith Formation Board will be a high school youth elected annually and will also serve on the church council. Chapters 12 & 13.
- Updated descriptions to Parish Life Board, School Board, Finance Committee, Mutual Ministry Committee, Personal Committee, and Property Committee. Chapter 13.

### Process:

Constitution Committee of John Meyer, Ron Zelle and Shoshanna Coon appointed by Church Council in May of 2023 to make comparisons to Model Constitution research other changes needed and incorporate them into St. Paul's proposed constitution.

September to December 2023 revisions and updates were refined and incorporated to St. Paul's Constitution document.

January 2024 St. Paul's boards and committees met to make recommendations for changes to the constitution and shape the Call Committee directions for the job description for the new Associate Pastor. These recommendations were forwarded to the Constitution Committee to draft and incorporate into St. Paul's Constitution.

The draft constitution revisions were reviewed by Pastor Dave, proof readers, Executive Committee and the Northeastern Iowa Synod staff.

Corrections and changes were incorporated into the document and presented to the Executive Committee in February 2024.

Executive Committee reviewed and presented to the Church Council the final revision to review and verify the document.

The Church Council moves to forward the revisions to the congregation for review and approval at the Church Councils February 26 meeting. This is 62 days prior to the Annual meeting. The constitution requirement of 60 days presented to council before is met. No Later than March 29 the 30 days' notice to congregation electronic

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and mailed methods that the constitution revision vote will be occurring during the congregational annual meeting on April 28, 2024

Constitution document is available for download as a PDF to review by members.

Budget meetings updates will include time to review constitution revisions prior to the annual meeting. Usually held in late March and early April

Annual meeting will have a resolution to adopt the constitution revisions as presented.

If adopted, then forwarded to Synod for implementation approval.

Assuming it is approved as presented the actions will be effective the close of the Annual meeting in April of 2024.