

**Constitution for Prince of Peace Church--Lutheran  
December 8, 2019**

Mission Statement

Preamble

01 Name and Incorporation

02 Confession of Faith

03 Nature of the Church

04 Statement of Purpose

05 Powers of the Congregation

06 Church Affiliation

07 Membership

08 The Pastor

09 Congregation Meeting

10 Officers and Congregation Council

11 Discipline of Members and Adjudication

12 Bylaws

13 Amendments

14 Continuing Resolutions

15 Indemnification

16 Interrelationship of Governing Documents

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is to sow FAITH IN CHRIST,  
strengthen FAMILIES, serve our COMMUNITIES.

**PREAMBLE**

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ARTICLE 1  
NAME AND INCORPORATION**

- C1.01. The name of this congregation shall be Prince of Peace Church—Lutheran.
- C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of Prince of Peace Church is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."
- C1.03. This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois.

**ARTICLE 2  
CONFESSION OF FAITH**

- C2.01. This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C2.02. In keeping with our identity as a Lutheran congregation, we confess sola scriptura, that is, we believe the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centered in Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are the sole source and norm of teaching and faith of the Church.
- C2.03. This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the Christian faith. We further accept the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology [or Defense] of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise [that disputes the claims of the Roman Catholic Church] on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as valid expositions of the faith of the Church.

**ARTICLE 3  
NATURE OF THE CHURCH**

- C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under His rule and authority.
- C3.02. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as a local congregation gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations.
- C3.03. Our Lord Jesus Christ passes authority to the baptized to be exercised in the world. Employing its authority, this congregation as an assembly of priests sharing in the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9) calls pastoral ministers to exercise Christ's authority through the Word and Sacrament ministry among us.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
- C4.03. This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws.

**ARTICLE 5**  
**POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

- C5.01. The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose and are vested in the voting members assembled in a Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.
- C5.02. The annual congregational meeting shall be held pursuant to the methods in the bylaws and a 2/3 majority vote shall be required to change the bylaws relevant to the annual congregational meeting.
- C5.03. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. Among the actions the Congregation has authority to exercise are:
- a. call or terminate a pastor;
  - b. amend the constitution or bylaws;
  - c. approve the annual budget;
  - d. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
  - e. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
  - f. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
  - g. elect its officers and Congregation Council, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions;

- i. affiliate with a like-minded Lutheran body
- j. decision to disband.

## **ARTICLE 6 CHURCH AFFILIATION**

- C6.01. This congregation is affiliated with the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) or its successor and shall act in accordance with it.
- C6.02. This congregation affirms the LCMC biblical view of marriage between one man and one woman, and requires pastoral staff to affirm this position, and not perform any same-sex marriages.

## **ARTICLE 7 MEMBERSHIP**

- C7.01. Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
- C7.02. Members shall be classified as follows:
- 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 certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
  - b. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have confirmed their faith as a result of Confirmation instruction, those who have been received by adult baptism, or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or by affirmation of faith through the new member process of this congregation.
  - c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, shall have communed and made a contribution of time or financial support to this congregation during the previous 12 months.
  - d. Associate members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council.

**ARTICLE 8  
THE PASTOR**

- C8.01. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of at least six voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.
- C8.02. For this congregation to call or contract a pastor requires at least a two-thirds majority vote by ballot at a meeting constitutionally called for that purpose.
- C8.03. Only a member of the clergy roster of the LCMC or a candidate from a roster of certified LCMC ministers may be called as senior pastor of this congregation.
- C8.04. Among the many activities that may advance the kingdom of God, a called and ordained minister shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, conduct public worship, provide pastoral care, and speak publicly in the world proclaiming God's justice and love; and with the advice of the church council, administer discipline.
- C8.05. Please see the by-laws for specifics about pastoral roles and responsibilities.

**ARTICLE 9  
CONGREGATION MEETING**

- C9.01. There shall be an annual Congregational Meeting.
- C9.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called for a special purpose.

**ARTICLE 10  
OFFICERS AND CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

- C10.01. The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer and shall be voting members of this congregation. The officers shall be elected by the congregation by written ballot with a term of two years. The term shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31. No officer shall hold more than one position at a time and shall not serve more than three consecutive terms in the same position.
- C10.02. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and not more than 9 (nine) nor fewer than 5 (five) members of the congregation. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member (hereafter called 'Deacon'), ceases to be a voting member of this congregation, or is absent from an excessive number of regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause, in the reasonable opinion of the Congregation Council.

- C10.03. The Deacons shall be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation. Their term of office shall be for two years, with the term of office beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31. Deacons may serve three consecutive terms.
- C10.04. Should any position on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor who will serve the term of that position.
- C10.05. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God.

## **ARTICLE 11 DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION**

- C11.01. A member, who advocates doctrines that are contrary to Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Church, or who is guilty of conduct grossly unbecoming of a disciple of the Body of Christ, may be subject to discipline. The Church Council, on behalf of the congregation will administer discipline in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18.

## **ARTICLE 12 BYLAWS**

- C12.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.
- C12.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at an annual Congregational Meeting or any special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose with a quorum present by a majority vote of votes cast.
- C12.03. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Congregation Council notify the members of the proposal with its recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.

## **ARTICLE 13 AMENDMENTS**

- C13.01. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least 5% of voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

C13.02. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:

- a. be approved at a legally called meeting according to this constitution by a majority of the votes cast;
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.

#### **ARTICLE 14 CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**

C14.01. The Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.

C14.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

#### **ARTICLE 15 INDEMNIFICATION**

C15.01. Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt provisions providing indemnification for each person who, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Congregation Council member, officer, employee, agent, or other member of any committee of this congregation, was or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.

**ARTICLE 16  
INTERRELATIONSHIP OF GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**

The relationship between Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions is as follows:

<b>Element</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>To Invoke Changes</b>	<b>Paragraph Designation</b>
Constitution	What we stand for	Requires 2/3 majority of 2 Congregational votes	"C" prefix ahead of paragraph number
Bylaws	How we go about ministry. Cannot contradict Constitution.	Requires a 2/3 majority of 1 Congregational vote	"B" prefix ahead of paragraph number which should be a sub-paragraph of the Constitutional paragraph it is supporting
Continuing Resolutions	Clarifications or additional detail. Cannot contradict Constitution or Bylaws.	Requires a majority of 1 Council vote	"CR" prefix of paragraph number which should be a sub-paragraph of the Constitutional or Bylaw paragraph it is supporting. If not a sub-paragraph, simply assign sequential number.

**Bylaws for Prince of Peace Church - Lutheran  
December 8, 2019**

**CHAPTER 5  
POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

- B5.01. In the event this congregation elects to sever its ties to the LCMC, it may at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a 2/3 majority of the votes cast sever its affiliation and the secretary of this congregation shall inform the LCMC that it has terminated its affiliation in writing within 10 days of the congregational vote.*
- B5.02. If this congregation decides to disband, title to indisposed assets shall pass to the charitable organizations of this congregation's choosing after liabilities have been satisfied.*

**CHAPTER 6  
CHURCH AFFILIATION**

- B6.01. This congregation may choose from the voting members laypersons to serve as delegates to the LCMC national convention. The number of delegates to be elected by the congregation may be as prescribed under guidelines established by the LCMC.*

**CHAPTER 7  
MEMBERSHIP**

- B7.01. Applications for membership, privileges, and duties of the members and termination of membership is as follows:*
- a. All applications for membership shall be submitted and shall require the approval of the Congregational Council.*
  - b. It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:*
    - 1. make regular use of the means of Grace, both Word and Sacraments*
    - 2. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God*
    - 3. support the work of this congregation, through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.*
  - c. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:*
    - 1. death;*
    - 2. resignation;*
    - 3. transfer or release;*
    - 4. disciplinary action by the Congregation Council;*
    - 5. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the constitution and bylaws.*

*Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.*

## **CHAPTER 8 THE PASTOR**

- B8.01. Among many activities that advance the kingdom of God in the world, a called and/or contract pastor may seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to ministries and missions outside the congregation consistent with the congregation's beliefs and purposes.*
- B8.02. The senior pastor, as head of staff, shall be responsible for the appointment, hiring, and supervision of all salaried and contracted lay employees of this congregation, with the advice and consent of the Congregation Council.*
- B8.03. The senior pastor shall be responsible for the supervision of interns, and all other pastors, associates in ministry, or other employees who serve this congregation*
- B8.04. The pastor(s) may participate in the meeting of any organization, committee, team, task force or group of the congregation as an ex officio member (s).*
- B8.05. At a time of an extended pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor may be appointed by the Congregation Council.*
- B8.06. During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance during a vacancy must refrain from influencing the selection of a pastor.*
- B8.07. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor or candidate shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment. This relationship may be terminated for cause:*
- 1) by mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;*
  - 2) by resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it is submitted;*
  - 3) with an inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without prejudice regarding the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;*
  - 4) by persistent physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;*

- 5) *by disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of teaching false doctrine, immorality, or persistent neglect of duty;*
- 6) *by suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.*

*B8.08. When allegations of physical or mental incapacity of a pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office have come to the attention of the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall investigate. During an investigation, the Council may temporarily suspend a pastor with pay and without prejudice.*

## **CHAPTER 9 CONGREGATION MEETING**

*B9.01. The annual Congregational Meeting will be held between November 15 and December 31.*

*B9.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregational Council, the president of this congregation or shall be called by the president of this congregation upon the written request of 10% of the voting members.*

*B9.03. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.*

*B9.04. The procedure for holding a special congregational meeting is*

1. *At least one informational presentation of the issue, with open discussion, must be presented 14 days or more prior to the special congregational meeting.*
2. *Schedule of special congregational meeting must follow guidelines as set forth in Bylaw 9.05.*

*B9.05. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by regular mail or email to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.*

*B9.06. Ten percent of voting members shall constitute a quorum.*

*B9.07. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.*

*B9.08. All actions by the congregation shall be by majority of votes cast except as otherwise provided in this constitution.*

*B9.09. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.*

## **CHAPTER 10 OFFICERS AND CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

*B10.01 Primary duties of the officers are:*

- a. President – shall preside at meetings of the congregation and congregation council*
- b. Vice President – shall preside at meetings of the congregation and congregation council upon the president's absence*
- c. Secretary – shall take minutes at the meetings of the congregation and the congregation council, keep copies of and care for the policies and records of this congregation*
- d. Treasurer – shall oversee the accounting of the congregation's finances, present financial reports at meetings of the congregation and congregation council*

*B10.02. The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.*

*B10.03. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when the pastor or interim pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council.*

*B10.04. The duties and responsibilities of the Congregation Council shall include the following:*

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.*
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in the life and mission of this congregation.*
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.*

- d. *To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.*
- e. *The Congregation Council shall be the board of trustees of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of Illinois, except as otherwise provided herein.*
- f. *The Congregation Council may incur obligations of up to 3% of the annual budget for items not included in the budget.*
- g. *The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation and shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption.*
- h. *The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations.*
- i. *The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.*
- j. *The Congregation Council shall provide for annual financial audits of all financial books of the congregation.*
- k. *The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws and continuing resolutions are carried out.*
- l. *The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster, including removal of members due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws.*
- m. *The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.*

*B10.5. Committees and teams shall be created as determined by the Congregation Council. A recommended team structure of six Core Teams each represented by a deacon, follows:*

- a. *Fellowship – fostering belonging and involvement through mutual accountability*
- b. *Discipleship – developing spiritual maturity through life-long learning, loving and learning.*
- c. *Service – giving the best of what we've been given to meet the needs of those inside and outside the church.*

- d. *Witness – helping the unbelieving know Christ through consistent testimony and lifestyle.*
- e. *Worship – celebrating and participating in the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives.*
- f. *Stewardship – encouraging personal and corporate management of resources of time, talent, and treasure for God’s glory*

**CHAPTER 11**  
**DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION**

*B11.01. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of a) evidence that injustice has been done or b) evidence of repentance and amendment.*

*B11.02. Adjudication: When there is disagreement among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation shall have opportunity to consult with the Congregation Council. If consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the matter may be referred to the Lutheran Congregations for Mission in Christ (LCMC) for assistance.*

## **Continuing Resolutions for Prince of Peace Church--Lutheran December 8, 2019**

Continuing Resolution #1: The Wedding Policy for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Rockton (adopted February 8, 2016):

- a. At least one of the couple is a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Rockton
- b. When neither bride nor groom is a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Rockton, it is at the pastor's discretion. A consensus of the congregational council must be sought for refusals.
- c. When others use the building for a wedding, the minister performing the ceremony must be ordained, a Christian, and each of the couple must be active in membership in a Christian church. The senior pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Rockton must give his/her permission to the couple and the visiting pastor.
- d. Only those couples who agree to 3 sessions of counseling by the senior pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Rockton and/or those whom the pastor appoints, unless the couples receive equivalent counseling from another pastor or counseling source which is acceptable to the senior pastor.
- e. The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Rockton congregational council affirms the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ's biblical view of marriage between one man and one woman, and requires pastoral staff to affirm this position, and not perform any same-sex marriages, subject to discipline by the church council.