

## **Proposed Church Constitution Changes Swamp Lutheran Church - 2011**

**Constitution Committee:** Pastor Dennis Trout, Council President Lori Gockley, Dave Sauder, Mike Mixell, Guy Templin, Bob Christy

**Date Committee Approved Changes:** 4/4/11

**Date Council Approved Changes:** 10/26/11

At the annual congregational meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the congregation will vote on proposed changes to our Swamp Lutheran Church constitution. A full copy of the constitution will be available for review on the Swamp Lutheran Church website, or by contacting Dave Sauder for a hardcopy of the document. Listed below are the significant changes that were proposed & approved by church council, and will be voted on by the congregation at the December meeting.

### **REVISION 1**

Update Chapter 11 of the constitution to include voting power & terms for Co-Treasurers. The Chapter 11 changes also include making the Financial Secretary an officer of the congregation, and state the Financial Secretary does not need to be a member of Congregation Council.

### **Chapter 11.**

#### **OFFICERS**

**C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, financial secretary, secretary and co-treasurers.

- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
- b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- c. The Congregation Council will elect its officers and the president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council. If the financial secretary is not selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council, the financial secretary shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.

**C11.02.** The president, vice president, secretary & financial secretary shall be elected by the Congregation Council by written ballot and shall serve for one year. The term shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

**C11.03.** The Co-Treasurers shall be nominated by the Congregation Council, elected by the Congregation and shall serve a term of 3 years, beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> of their elected year. The Co-Treasurers shall serve no more than 2 consecutive terms, without a break of one year between future terms. For the initial Co-Treasurer election, one Co-Treasurer will be nominated for 2 consecutive terms, and the other for a single term so we will not have both Co-Treasurers leaving office at the same time. The Co-Treasurers shall have both voice & vote at meetings of the Congregation Council.

**C11.04.** Should a position of the Co-Treasurer become vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting. If the vacated position has remaining years on the term at the end of current year, at the next annual meeting, a successor shall be elected to complete the remaining term of the vacated Co-Treasurer position.

**C11.05.** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.

## **REVISION 2**

Changed section 12.03 to provide more specific wording around replacement of council members:

**C12.03.** Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting. If the vacated position has remaining years on the term at the end of current year, at the next annual meeting, a successor shall be elected to complete the remaining term of the vacated Council position.

## **REVISION 3**

Place By-laws into the Constitution that were accidentally dropped from the prior constitution. The new by-laws include defining the date for the congregational meeting, nominations for council members, the church mission statement and further definition for officers of the congregation.

## **CHANGE 4**

Added continuing resolutions to the constitution that list the church committees along with the mission & responsibilities for each committee.

Thank You,

Swamp Lutheran Church Council & Constitution Committee