

# DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH CALGARY ALBERTA

## CONSTITUTION



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## 1. **Preamble:**

- 1.1 In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.  
We, the members of the Danish Lutheran Church Calgary Alberta, sensible of our spiritual needs, and mindful of our Christian duties, in Jesus name, and with the hope of his blessing, adopt the following: Constitution of March 17, 1965
- 1.2 With amendments on:
  - 1.2.1 March 23 1987
  - 1.2.2 March 25 1991
  - 1.2.3 March 21 1993
  - 1.2.4 March 23 1997
  - 1.2.5 February 22 1998
  - 1.2.6 March 25 2001
  - 1.2.7 March 24 2002
  - 1.2.8 **April 28 2013**

## 2. **Declaration of Incorporation Pursuant to the Religious Societies Act**

The congregation of the Danish Lutheran Church Calgary Alberta, located at 210, 10 Avenue N.E. Calgary Alberta T2E 0W9, desires incorporation pursuant to the religious societies' lands act, upon the following terms:

- 2.1 The said congregation is affiliated with DSUK: (Danish Church Abroad/Danish Seamen's Church), which is working on an Evangelical-Lutheran basis and in affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark.
- 2.2 In order to join congregational activities and to receive pastoral care, membership is not required.
- 2.3 The proposed corporate name is: **Danish Lutheran Church Calgary Alberta.**
- 2.4 The corporation shall be incorporated as a not for profit corporation.
- 2.5 The rules to be complied with, before any of the property of the congregation shall be dealt with by the officers thereof, are as follows: Property of this congregation can be sold only if 60% of congregational members present at each of 2 consecutive congregational meetings, vote in favor of selling. No less than twenty members shall constitute a quorum of the congregation, who may deal with the matters coming before the meetings.

## 3. **Confession and Faith**

This congregation has through its affiliation with DSUK, and connection with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark its basis in:

- The canonical books of the Old and New Testament
- The three ecumenical Creeds
- The Augsburg Confession of 1530
- The large and small Catechisms of Martin Luther
- The service book and rituals for service and church ceremonies

## 4. **Objective**

The objective and purpose of this congregation shall be to glorify God and to help in the extension of his kingdom among men for their salvation by promoting and teaching the Christian religion as and to educate and strengthen them in true Christian faith.

## 5. **Power of the Congregation**

All schools, societies and other organizations within the church must be organized with the consent of the congregation and under its control.

## 6. **The Pastor**

The elected Church Counsel shall have the power to nominate its pastor.  
Before doing so, they shall seek help and approval from the board of DSUK: (Danish Church Abroad/Danish Seamen's Church).

## 7. **Legal Ownership in Case of Division**

Should a disagreement occur among members regarding separation in this congregation, then all property shall revert to those who adhere to this constitution. Should this congregation ever be dissolved, then all property, chattels and proceeds from any sale, shall revert to DSUK: (Danish Church Abroad/Danish Seamen's Church).

## 8. **The Laws of the Congregation**

- 8.1 Bylaws and articles of this congregation, may be changed or repealed, or new ones may be added, at any regular or extraordinary business meeting of the congregation, where quorum is established, by a vote of agreement with no less than 60% of the members present. No less than twenty members shall constitute a quorum of the congregation.
- 8.2 The subject matter is published to the congregation at the regular service on two Sundays immediately preceding the business meeting.
- 8.3 Amendment of Constitutions and Bylaws can only happen with the approval of the board of DSUK: (Danish Church Abroad/Danish Seamen's Church).

## 9. **Bylaws**

### 9.1 **The Pastoral Call:**

- 9.1.1 By his/her call, the pastor shall be held to teach, reprove and comfort in accordance with the Confession of Faith and the regulations of this congregation. In the call, the congregation shall bind itself, in accordance with the Word of God, to receive the pastor-elect as their pastor and spiritual advisor, to render the pastor Christian respect and obedience, to pray for him/her and show him/her all manner of goodwill.
- 9.1.2 The congregation shall provide their pastor with support, time and all that is necessary, in order to enable him/her to perform all pastoral duties and care to the benefit of the congregation at large.

### 9.2 **Membership:**

- 9.2.1 Persons who wish to be members of this congregation shall make their desires known to the pastor, who in turn shall bring the matter to the Church Council.
- 9.2.2 And all those baptized by the pastor in this community shall be members of this congregation.
- 9.2.3 All adults who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God can be members of this congregation.
- 9.2.4 Eligible for office and to vote: All individuals over 18 years of age, residing in the same residence, that has at least one individual who has donated at least \$25.00 or equivalent value, to Danish Lutheran Church in the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting.  
Donations in memory of a deceased person are excluded from eligibility.

## **10. Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**

- 10.1 The annual meeting of the congregation will take place no later than the last Sunday in May.
- 10.2 No less than twenty members shall constitute a quorum of the congregation, who may deal with the matters coming before the meeting.
- 10.3 The election of officers shall take place at the regular annual business meeting (AGM) and must be by ballot, unless elected by acclamation.
- 10.4 All voting taking place at the annual or any extraordinary general meeting shall be by valid voting members present at the meeting only.
- 10.5 The Church Council consists of 10 members serving 2-year terms.
- 10.6 The election shall be arranged in such a way, that only 5 Council members shall be elected at one regular annual meeting of the congregation.
- 10.7 If a council member resigns, the council may appoint a member from the congregation to fill the position for the remainder of the term.
- 10.8 The Church Council will constitute itself at the first business meeting after the election with a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 10.9 The term of any member serving on council can be renewed.

## **11. Church Council and Board of Trustees**

### **11.1 Structure:**

- 11.1.1 The pastor and the following officers of the congregation shall constitute the Church Council and board of trustees:
  - One President
  - One Vice President
  - One Secretary
  - One Treasurer
  - Two or more Deacons
- 11.1.2 The officers, who shall exercise the powers of the body corporate in any dealings with the property thereof, are any three of the following: The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 11.1.3 By virtue of their office, the pastor is a member of all boards and committees.
- 11.1.4 If a Church Council meeting falls short of a quorum (50%+1), all business transacted at such a meeting shall be ratified at the next Council meeting, having a quorum.
- 11.1.5 The duties of the Church Council shall be to counsel and support the pastor, and to see that all rules and regulations of the congregation are rightfully executed.

### **11.2 Absenteeism:**

If a Council member is absent without excuse for three consecutive regular Council meetings, that member shall be considered to have relinquished his/her position on the Council.

### **11.3 Voting Procedure:**

The president shall not vote at Council meetings, except where the quorum would consist of an even number of votes.

#### **11.4 Duties of Officers:**

The officers of this congregation shall give a good Christian example to the other members of the congregation, by regular participation in the divine services and by hearing and doing God's word.

#### **11.5 Special Duties:**

- 11.5.1 The President shall have charge of and watch over the property of the church, keep the same in good repair in consultation with the Church Council and in the best possible manner attend to all the matters pertaining to the interest of the congregation.
- 11.5.2 The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, take over the duties of the President.
- 11.5.3 The Deacons shall see to it that good order is kept during divine services.
- 11.5.4 The Secretary shall keep accurate records of all proceedings of the Church Council and the congregational meetings.
- 11.5.5 The Treasurer shall hold, in safekeeping, all moneys entrusted to him/her and belonging to the congregation. He/she shall only disburse funds upon orders from the Church Council. The treasurer shall also hand in a full report at the annual meeting of the congregation, including financial statements as prepared by a chartered accountant.
- 11.5.6 The church must, as an objective, seek to become economically self-sufficient.
- 11.5.7 All necessary funds for current expenses and for benevolence are to be raised through free will contributions.
- 11.5.8 The Church Council shall, as far as possible, operate within the limits of the budgeted amounts approved at the annual general meeting. In the event that expenditures will be in excess of said budgeted amounts, they must not exceed double the budget in any given category. The board does not have the authority to borrow money or indebt the church without approval of the congregation through a regular business meeting.