

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES
(As Amended October, 1968)

P R E A M B L E

We Lutheran Christian in the Republic of the Philippines do hereby establish and intend to maintain, with God's help, a corporate body united in faith and love.

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

The name of this corporate body shall be: THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES.

ARTICLE TWO: CONFESSION

Section 1. Every congregation and clergyman of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall accept without reservation the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the divinely inspired, written Word of God and as such the only rule of faith and norm of life and practice..

Section 2. Every congregation and clergyman of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall also accept without reservation the following Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as true and accurate statements and expositions of the Word of God:

- a. The three universal Christian Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed):
- b. The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther;
- c. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

ARTICLE THREE: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall be:

A. In Terms of Witness:

1. Christians who actively demonstrate their faith in God and their concern to fellowmen by testifying to that faith in word and deed.
2. Christians who pray and work for the extension and coming of God's Kingdom throughout the world.
3. People confronted with the demands of God's law and His gracious offer of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

B. In Terms of Fellowship:

1. Christians who worship and serve God both individually and corporately.

2. Christians who continue in the study of God's Word, are engaged in the training of the young, and promote growth in Christian knowledge.
3. Christians who recognize the bonds of faith which unites all believers in Christ, and express that unify in cooperation with each other.

C. In Terms of Service:

1. Individual Christians who recognize and respond to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of others.
2. Congregations whose members serve their society and nation by active participation in community affairs and specific acts of mercy and love.
3. A church group which both by itself and through united action with others endeavors to fulfill its obligation to the suffering and needy of this world.

ARTICLE FOUR: DUTIES AND POWERS

The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall:

Section 1. Purchase, hold title to, administer, and dispose of all corporate property of every description in the interest of the corporate membership.

Section 2. Accept, hold, administer, or dispose of legacies, donations, and every document entrusted into its care in the interest of the corporate membership.

Section 3. Protect the rights and interests of its members.

Section 4. Assist its members in carrying out their local responsibilities and the organization through which the fulfillment of the corporate responsibilities of the total membership is administered.

Section 5. Establish such offices, agencies, boards, departments, and committees as it may find necessary and abolish the same as it may find necessary.

Section 6. Call its officers to account and, if circumstances warrant, remove them from office.

ARTICLE FIVE: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall be acquired by congregations and clergymen who accept and confess the confessional basis in Article Two and who have met the requirements as prescribed in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE SIX: GOVERNMENT

The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall have a representative form of government. Delegates and officers are given the authority to act on behalf of the members and to make decisions in their stead. Therefore, not under coercion but in a spirit of Christian cooperation, all

members are expected to carry our official resolutions as long as they are in accord with the Word of God and the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE SEVEN: CONVENTION

Section 1. The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall meet in regular Convention during the month of October of all even numbered years.

Section 2. Two-thirds of the voting delegates shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Special sessions may be called as prescribed in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE EIGHT: REPRESENTATION OF CONVENTION

The members of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall be represented at Conventions by lay and clergy delegates from each District as prescribed in the By Laws. Representatives in Convention shall have the authority to elect officers and to act on behalf of the members.

ARTICLE NINE: OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall be:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

and such other officers as may be specified in the By-Laws.

Section 2. The President and Vice President shall be ordained clergymen of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.

Section 3. All officers shall be communicants of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.

Section 4. The term of service for all officers shall be two years or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

ARTICLE TEN: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LCP

Section 1. Election of Officers of LCP.

- a. Elections of officers shall be conducted at every regular Convention of LCP.
- b. The LCP Board of Directors shall appoint one of the floor committees of the Convention as "Committee on Elections."

- c. The Committee on Election shall conduct and supervise the elections according to parliamentary procedure.
- d. Laymen and clergymen who are not delegates to a Convention shall nevertheless be eligible for election to any office in LCP for which they qualify.
- e. A majority of votes cast shall be required to elect the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. For all other elections a plurality of votes is sufficient.
- f. The Vice President and Secretary shall be elected in Convention from among the members of the in-coming Board of Directors.
- g. If a District Officer is elected to the office of LCP President and accepts that office, he shall resign his District Office.
- h. Newly elected officers of LCP shall assume office immediately after Conventions.
- i. If an elected officer of LCP is unable to complete his term of office, the Board of Directors shall elect a replacement. The Vice President and Secretary shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Composition of the Board of Directors of LCP.

- a. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President of LCP and the President and Lay representative of each District.
- b. Newly elected members of the LCP Board of Directors shall assume their positions immediately after LCP conventions or the October LCP Board of Directors' meeting in the year in which they are elected.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

Section 1. In general: Officers of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall exercise such authority or powers as have been conferred upon them by this Constitution and its By-Laws. In everything pertaining to their rights and the performance of their duties, they are responsible to The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.

Section 2. In particular:

- a. Duties and Powers of the President:

The President shall be the spiritual shepherd, chide administrator, and official spokesman of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines; and as such he shall:

- 1) Be invested with executive powers and supervisory duties as prescribed in the By-Laws.

- 2) Be responsible for the supervision of doctrine in The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.
- 3) Serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors and see to it that resolutions of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines and of its Board of Directors are carried out.
- 4) Preside at all sessions of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines in Convention.
- 5) Give a report of his administration at each Convention of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.
- 6) Sign official papers and documents of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.
- 7) Perform any other duties which The Lutheran Church in the Philippines may assign to him through its By-Laws or by special resolution.

b. Duties and Powers of the Vice President

- 1) The Vice President of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- 2) In case the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office of the President.
- 3) The Vice President shall, upon request of the President advise, assist, or represent the President.
- 4) The Vice President shall perform any other duties which the Lutheran Church in the Philippines may assign to him through its By-Laws or by special resolution.

c. Duties and Powers of the Secretary:

- 1) The Secretary of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall also serve as Secretary of the Board of Directors.
- 2) The Secretary shall be responsible for the proper recording, printing, and distribution of Convention resolutions and resolutions of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.
- 3) The Secretary shall be responsible for drawing up official papers, instruments, and documents of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines for endorsement and signature by the President and shall attest such documents.

- 4) The Secretary shall keep on file all official papers, instruments, and documents of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.
- 5) The Secretary shall perform any other duties which The Lutheran Church in the Philippines may assign to him through its By-Laws or by special resolution.

d. Duties and Powers of the Treasurer:

The Treasurer is the custodian of all the moneys and negotiable papers of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines and shall:

- 1) Keep an exact record of all moneys received and expended by The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.
- 2) Administer the financial affairs of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines according to its instructions.
- 3) Submit to an examination of his books at any time by auditors designated by The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.
- 4) Serve as advisory member of the Board of Directors.
- 5) Perform any other duties which The Lutheran Church in the Philippines may assign to him through its by-Laws or by special resolution.

ARTICLE TWELVE: DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be the legal representative of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines and the custodian of its property.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall act for and in behalf of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines between Conventions with full authority in all official matters, limited only by the Constitution, By-Laws, and Convention resolutions of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet as prescribed in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: DISTRICTS

The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall be divided into administrative Districts in order to facilitate planning and the implementation of its objectives.

Section 1. The boundaries of each District shall be determined by The Lutheran Church in the Philippines in Convention.

Section 2. Each District shall be governed by this Constitution and its By-Laws.

Section 3. Each District may adopt additional by-laws as long as they do not conflict with this Constitution and its By-Laws.

Section 4. Each District may initiate plans and implement them in its own District, subject to the approval of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.

Section 5. Each District shall carry out the directive of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.

Section 6. The elective officers of each District shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and such other officers as may be specified in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Cases of church discipline shall be dealt with as prescribed in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: AMENDMENTS, CHANGES OR ADDITION TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Section 1. Amendments, changes, or additions to this Constitution may be made, provided that they are not in conflict with Article Two of this Constitution nor with the laws and Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

Section 2. Proposed amendments, changes, or additions must be submitted in writing to all members three months before the Lutheran Church in the Philippines meets in Convention. For adoption, two-thirds of all registered delegates must vote in favor of a proposal to amend, change, or make additions to this Constitution.

Section 3. Immediately after adoption by The Lutheran Church in the Philippines in Convention, any amendments, changes, or additions shall be made known to all members through the publication of official resolutions.

Section 4. Unless one-third of the members of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines file a vote of dissent with the President of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines within a period of six calendar months following adjournment of the Convention, any amendments, changes, or additions shall become effective and shall be announced by the President.

BY-LAWS
OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES

ARTICLE ONE: NAME AND OFFICERS

Section 1. The Lutheran Church in the Philippines may be designated by the initial LCP in official documents, resolutions, minutes, and communications.

Section 2. The main offices of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines shall be located in Manila.

Section 3. LCP shall be incorporated as a religious, non-stock, non-profit corporation in accordance with the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

ARTICLE TWO: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A congregation shall be received into the membership of LCP as follows:

- a. It shall consist of a group of Christians who regularly gather about Word and Sacraments.
- b. It shall accept the Constitution and By-Laws of LCP, shall be willing to cooperate with LCP in carrying out its objectives, and shall seek to attain these objectives in its own area.
- c. Applications for membership shall be acted upon at district Conferences. The President of LCP shall announce at the following Convention new members accepted into LCP by the Districts since the previous Convention.
- d. A congregation accepted into LCP membership shall sign the Constitution of LCP (kept in LCP Book of Records) after the announcement of its membership. Such signing shall be accomplished at the Convention by the lay delegate of the congregation or by the pastor of the congregation or by its District President.

Section 2. A clergyman shall be received into the membership of LCP as follows:

- a. He shall accept the Constitution and By-Laws of LCP and be willing to promote their objectives.
- b. He shall be ordained by LCP or by a Lutheran Church in formal fellowship with LCP.
- c. A clergyman shall apply for membership in LCP through the District in which he is assigned. A clergyman who serves LCP at large (professor, specialized work) shall apply for membership through the Board of Directors of LCP.

- d. Having been accepted into membership by a District or by the LCP Board of Directors, he shall sign the Constitution in person or by proxy at the following LCP Convention after the announcement of his membership by the LCP President.

ARTICLE THREE: CONVENTION

Section 1. Regular Convention shall be held as provided for in the Constitution.

Section 2. The exact date of regular Convention shall be determined by the LCP Board of Directors and shall be announced at least six months in advance.

Section 3. The LCP Board of Directors shall be responsible for all Convention arrangements.

Section 4. All reports, memorials, and names of official delegates to LCP shall be submitted to the Secretary of LCP by July 1 of each Convention year. The LCP Board of Directors shall appoint all necessary floor committees and assign work to these committees for inclusion in the Book of Reports and Memorials, which shall be in the hands of all delegates at least one month before the Convention.

Section 5. The disposition of unprinted memorials shall be determined by the LCP Board of Directors.

Section 6. Resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority vote, unless otherwise specified by the Constitution or by special resolution of the Convention.

Section 7. The LCP Board of Directors may call a special Convention.

Section 8. The President of LCP shall serve as the presiding officer at Conventions.

Section 9. In the absence of specific house rules, the President of LCP shall conduct the sessions in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 10. Each Department Executive Director, and the Dean of the Seminary may attend LCP Conventions as advisors. The LCP Board of Directors, through the LCP President, may invite observers to Conventions.

ARTICLE FOUR: REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION

Section 1. Each District shall be entitled to three lay delegates and three clergy delegates, plus one additional lay delegate and one additional clergy delegate for each 300 communicants in the District (or major fraction hereof), based on the current Statistical Report. All delegates shall be communicants of LCP congregations and resident in the District they represent.

Section 2. Each District may select its delegates in the manner it finds most expedient. However, a District shall give representation to as many congregations in the District as possible and shall include among its delegates its representatives on the LCP Board of Directors.

Section 3. If a delegates is unable to attend the Convention, the District President shall have the authority to appoint substitute.

Section 4. Congregations or Districts shall not require delegates to vote in accordance with specific instruction, but every delegates shall be permitted to vote according to his own conviction.

Section 5. Delegates to Conventions shall register upon arrival at Convention and be duly accredited.

ARTICLE FIVE: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LCP

Section 1. The officers of LCP shall be elected as provided in the Constitution.

Section 2. The Board of Directors of LCP shall be composed as provided in the Constitution.

ARTICLE SIX: DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The President of LCP shall be given the following executive powers and supervisory duties:

- a. The President may call special meetings of the LCP Board of Directors.
- b. The President with the approval of two other members of the LCP Board of Directors, may authorize the release of surplus funds in emergencies or in cases of sudden need.
- c. The President may appoint individuals committees to make special studies for LCP or to serve as his representatives.
- d. The President may serve as an advisory member of LCP committees or boards.
- e. The President in his supervision over LCP shall keep himself well informed concerning the affairs of LCP; therefore he shall visit Districts, congregations, etc., as he deems necessary.
- f. The President shall acquaint himself with the work of other Christian Churches in the Philippines.

Section 2. The Board of Directors of LCP

- a. The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly during the months of January, April, July and October.

- b. Two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum, provided all Districts are represented and provided the LCP President or Vice President is present.
- c. The Board of Directors shall prepare the Annual Budget of LCP.
- d. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for an annual auditing of all LCP accounts and may initiate special auditing at anytime.
- e. The Board of Directors shall review for approval, disapproval, amendment, or remand all resolutions and reports of Districts, Boards, Committees, and such other agencies as LCP may establish.
- f. When it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that it is not possible or expedient to carry out a Convention resolution, the Board of Directors shall inform all members of LCP concerning this opinion, stating their alternate plan and giving the reasons for it. Unless one-third of the members file a vote of dissent within two months, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to follow their alternate plan.

ARTICLE SEVEN: DISTRICTS

Section 1. The Lutheran Church in the Philippines, at the time of adopting this Constitution and By-Laws, is divided into three districts, namely the North Luzon District (NLD), the South Luzon District (SLD) and the Mindanao District (MDD).

Section 2. LCP in Convention may form additional Districts as it sees fit.

Section 3. LCP may establish and maintain special ministries and programs, which need not be under the jurisdiction of the District in which they are geographically located.

Section 4. District conferences shall be held at least once each year.

Section 5. Districts shall stagger the election of their representatives on the LCP Board of Directors. The MDD President, NLD President, and SLD lay representative shall begin their term of service immediately following the October LCP Board of Directors' meeting in odd-numbered years. The SLD President, NLD lay representative, and MDD lay representative shall begin their term of service after LCP Conventions.

Section 6. The District President and Vice President shall be ordained clergymen of LCP and resident in the District they represent. Any lay District officer or lay representative shall be communicant of LCP and resident in the District he represents.

Section 7. Each District shall form a District Board of Directors which shall consist of at least its President, Vice President, Secretary, and lay representative on the LCP Board Directors.

Section 8. Duties and Powers of the District President

- a. He shall serve as the spiritual shepherd and chief administrator of his District and as such shall be responsible to the President of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines
- b. He shall perform either in person or by proxy the ordination of candidates and the installation of pastors who have accepted calls in his District.
- c. He shall see to it that the resolutions of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines are carried out in his District.
- d. He shall submit an annual report of his administration to the President of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines and at his District Conferences.
- e. He shall be invested with executive powers and supervisory duties as may be prescribed in the By-Laws or resolutions of his District.

Section 9. Duties of the District Vice President

- a. In case the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office of President.
- b. The Vice President shall, upon request of the President, advise, assist, or represent the President.
- c. The Vice President shall perform any other duties which the District may assign to him through its by-laws or by special resolution.

Section 10. Duties of the District Secretary

- a. The Secretary shall be responsible for the proper recording, printing, and distribution of the resolutions of the District Conferences and District Board of Directors' meetings.
- b. The Secretary shall be responsible for drawing up official papers, instruments, and documents of the District for endorsement and signature of the President and shall attest such documents.
- c. The Secretary shall keep on file all official papers, instruments, and documents of the District.
- d. The Secretary shall perform any other duties which the District may assign to him through its by-laws or by special resolutions.

Section 11. Duties and Powers of the District Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall act for and in behalf of the District between Conferences in all official matters, limited by District by-laws and resolutions.
- b. The Board of Directors shall meet as prescribed by its District.

Section 12. Districts shall conduct Pastoral Conferences which meet at least once a year to carry out the function of spiritual, theological, and social fellowship.

ARTICLE EIGHT: CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Members of LCP and individual members of LCP congregations who confess contrary to Article Two of the Constitution or who are living in manifest and unrepented sin shall be dealt with in accord with Matthew 18:15-22 in a spirit of Christian love and concern.

Section 2. In order to provide prompt and effective help to those who are in need of discipline, the following groups shall carry out their responsibilities in those areas which are assigned to them:

- a. The local congregation shall discipline its own erring members.
- b. The District Board of Directors shall deal with and if necessary expel from LCP those congregations which do not carry out their responsibilities to discipline their erring members.
- c. The District Board of Directors shall discipline erring evangelistic missionaries who are not directly associated with an established congregation.
- d. The LCP Board of Directors shall deal with those District Board of Directors which do not carry out their responsibility to discipline their erring congregations or clergy.
- e. The LCP Board of Directors shall deal with and if necessary remove from office those clergymen who teach contrary to Article Two in the performance of their special ministries in LCP.

Section 3. Any party affected by disciplinary action shall have the right to appeal. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the next higher authority within thirty days of the date on which the party received notice of the action.

- a. Any party affected by the disciplinary action of a congregation may appeal the case to the District Board of Directors. In the meantime, the action of the congregation shall be respected.
- b. Any party affected by the disciplinary or review action of a District Board of Directors may appeal the case to the LCP Board of Directors. In the meantime, the action of the District Board of Directors shall be respected.

- c. Any party affected by the disciplinary or review action of the LCP Board of Directors may appeal the case of LCP in Convention. In the meantime, the action of the LCP Board of Directors shall be respected.
- e. When an appeal is made to LCP in Convention, the procedure shall be as follows.
 - a. The case shall not be debated on the floor. Instead LCP in Convention shall elect a Committee of Review composed of three pastors and two laymen, who have in no way been involved in the case
 - b. During the Convention the Committee of Review, on the basis of the decision of the LCP Board of Directors, the objections filed by the appellant, and any other pertinent information, shall determine whether error was made in procedure. It is therefore not the duty of this Committee of Review to hear and adjudge the entire case.
 - c. If the Committee of Review discovers error in the procedure, it shall remand and case to the LCP Board of Directors and report to the Convention that the case has been remanded.
 - d. If the Committee to Review discovers no error in procedure, it shall report the same of the Convention and the action of the LCP Board of Directors shall stand. No further appeal to LCP shall be entertained.

Section 4. Individual who are excommunicated or for any reason sever themselves from an LCP congregation shall forfeit any claim to the property of that congregation. Likewise, individuals, congregations or Districts which are expelled or for any reason sever themselves from LCP shall forfeit any share in the property of The Lutheran Church in the Philippines.

ARTICLE NINE: AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

Change and additions to the By-Laws may be made, provided they:

1. Are not contrary to the Constitution of LCP or to the laws and Constitution of LCP or to the laws and Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.
2. Are presented in writing to LCP in Convention through its Book of Reports and Memorials.
3. Are separately considered and acted upon.
4. Are passed by a majority vote of the Convention delegates.