

CONSTITUTION
OF
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2955 Pineda Causeway #122
Melbourne FL 32940
January 10, 2010

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Hope Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE II: ARTICLES OF FAITH

SECTION 1 Holy Scripture

This congregation accepts and confesses all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God and submits to this Word as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life (II Timothy 3: 15-17)

SECTION 2 Creeds and Confessions

This congregation accepts and confesses all the symbolical books of the Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as true statements of Scriptural doctrine. They are the three ecumenical Creeds, the Small and Large Catechism, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smallcald Articles, The Treatise on Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord (as found in the Book of Concord).

SECTION 3: Doctrine at Variance

Hence no doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation which is in any way at variance with these symbolical books and the Holy Scriptures. Likewise, all controversies that may arise in this congregation shall be decided and adjusted according to this norm of doctrine and practice (I John 4:1).

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

The overall purpose of this congregation, as a gathering of God's people, is to serve all people in God's world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This congregation is to gather God's people around Word and Sacrament as the early church did in Acts 2:42 in order to "devote themselves to the apostle's teaching, to the breaking of bread, to the fellowship, and to prayer."

ARTICLE IV: CHURCH AFFILIATION

This congregation shall affiliate itself with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod as long as that church body holds to all the truths of God’s Word in doctrine and practice and is bound to the confessions of faith as set forth in Article II.

ARTICLE V: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- A. Baptized Members of the congregation are those who have been baptized into the Christian faith in the name of the Triune God.**
- B. Communicant members are those baptized who confess the chief parts of the Christian faith as taught in Martin Luther’s Small Catechism.**
- C. Privileges and responsibilities of members include:**
 - 1. Hear and receive God’s Word diligently.**
 - 2. Provide and promote opportunities for Christian education.**
 - 3. Frequently partake of Holy Communion.**
 - 4. Continually remember that all their possessions, time, and abilities are really a trust from God. Thus they will cheerfully decide in their hearts (I Cor. 9:7) the portion of their possessions, time and abilities that they will regularly devote to the Lord for use in carrying his mission.**
 - 5. Not live in obvious acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21) but lead a Christian life.**
 - 6. When they have erred, permit themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected according to Matthew 18:15-18.**

ARTICLE VI: POWERS OF CONGREGATION

- A. In all matters of Christian faith and life, the Word of God is supreme.**
- B. In all matters not decided by the Word of God, the congregation, represented by the Voter’s Assembly, shall have the right of decision.**
- C. The Church Council, or any officer within the congregation, shall have no power beyond that conferred upon them by the Voter’s Assembly. However, the Church council in an emergency may act**

in the name and for the welfare of the congregation. Such action must be submitted for approval at the next Voter's Assembly.

- D. No group or society may be organized within the congregation without the approval of the congregation. The congregation shall assure that the aims of such a group are in harmony with the congregation's aims before it grants its approval.**

ARTICLE VII: MINISTRY

- A. Right to call.** The congregation has the exclusive right to call Pastors, DCEs, teachers and other rostered church workers.
- B. Qualifications of Pastor.** The pastor of this congregation shall be conferred upon such men who are qualified for the ministry as certified by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.
- C. Other church worker Qualifications.** The church workers called by this congregation shall be such as are accord with the confessional standard of the congregation (Article II).
- D. Vacancies.** In case of a vacancy in the office of Pastor or other called position, the congregation shall notify the president of the district so that he may assist in temporarily filling the vacancy and in giving his counsel in regard to the calling of a new worker.
- E. Removal from Office.** Any pastor, teacher or other called servant may be removed from office by the voter's assembly, by ballot, in Christian and lawful order, for one of the following causes: persistent adherence to false doctrine; scandalous life; willful neglect of duties (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9). In such cases, the advice and counsel of the district president shall be sought.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Meetings of this congregation shall be held at such times and in such manner as stated in the Bylaws. The meetings shall give the voters of this congregation the opportunity to hear, discuss, and take necessary action in matters pertaining to the welfare of the church here and at large.

ARTICLE IX: SEPARATION OR DISSOLUTION

- A. If at any time a separation should occur in this congregation – may God graciously prevent it – the property and all possessions of this congregation shall remain with the portion of the membership that adheres to this constitution, regardless of number.**
- B. In the event of termination or dissolution of the congregation, the Church Council shall, after paying or making provision for all liabilities of the congregation, dispose of its remaining assets, if any, by distributing those assets to the SELC District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, or the administrative unit of the LC—MS of which the congregation is a member of.**

ARTICLE X: REPEALS

- A. Proposals to alter or repeal any other article of this constitution shall be submitting in writing to the church council, and shall be publicly announced on two Sundays preceding a regular meeting of the voter's assembly and written notification sent to each family before the meeting.**
- B. A two-thirds vote of the voting members present shall be required to alter or repeal any article of this constitution, or add an article.**
- C. Any and all Bylaws may be repealed or amended by a majority of the voting members present at any Voter's meeting, provided notice of this proposed action be given to the congregation at least two Sundays prior to the time of meeting, and provided the substance of the proposed amendment has been submitted to the church council for its study and recommendation.**