



Constitution

Of

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

5236 54 Street

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

T4T 1E7

Revised Articles adopted at the Voter's Meeting on November 25, 2018

Chairman of Congregation:

Archie Richardson

Church Council Secretary:

Lisa Block

1. PRE-AMBLE

Praise to our Lord and Savior who has chosen us to be a “royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9). Therefore, with thankful and joyful hearts we witness to His grace by dedicating ourselves, together with our time, talents, and energies, to the up building of His Kingdom and the proclamation of His Gospel in accord with His stated will that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all peoples (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8). So that our Savior’s mission might be carried out according to His will, and to His glory, we subscribe to His command to unite in worship (Heb. 10:24-25), practice fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42), witness to all (Acts 1:8), help each other to grow in the Word (Eph. 4:11-14), serve the needs of all in Christian love (Eph. 4:7-16; Mark 10:42-44; John 13:35; Gal. 6:10), administer the Office of the Keys as His Church (John 20:21-23; Matt. 18:15-20) and maintain decency and order (1Cor. 14:40) in the Church.

We adopt as our mission that Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is a Christ centered family united in worship, and service, committed to sharing the Gospel so the Holy Spirit may bring people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

We, the members of this congregation, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and bylaws, in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation will be governed.

II. ORGANIZATION

Article 1 Name

The name of this congregation will be Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada.

Article 2. Confession

A. This congregation accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired and revealed Word of God, and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as the correct presentation and true exposition of Christian doctrine drawn from the Holy Scriptures, viz:

- 1) The three Ecumenical Creeds – Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian.
- 2) The Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- 3) The Apology of the Augsburg Confession.
- 4) The Smalcald Articles.
- 5) Luther’s Large Catechism & Small Catechism.

The Formula of Concord.

B. No doctrine or practice in conflict, or inconsistent, with the above norms of our faith and life shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation. Only such hymns, prayers and liturgies shall be used in the public services of the congregation, and in all ministerial acts, as to conform to the confessional standard of Article 2. Likewise in all instruction in Christian Doctrine, only such books shall be used that conform to this standard. Teaching materials used as examples of non-Christian practices may be used only with the approval of the Pastor and/or the Board of Elders.

Article 3 Synodical Affiliation

This congregation shall be affiliated with Lutheran Church-Canada as long as their confessions are in accord with the Confession and Constitution of this congregation as laid down in Article 2.

This congregation shall send its pastor, and a lay delegate to the Convention of the Synod and to the best of its ability, collaborate with said Synod and assist it in effecting all sound measures intended for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Article 4 Membership

A. Baptized membership in this congregation is held by all those who are baptized in the name of the Triune God with water, and are under our pastoral care.

B. Communicant membership in this congregation may be held only by those who:

1. are baptized in the name of the Triune God.

2 have declared their acceptance of the confessions of this congregation as contained in Article 2 of the constitution.

3 have been accepted into communicant membership in accordance with the bylaws of this congregation and shall remain faithful to the responsibilities of membership as contained in these bylaws.

4 do not live in manifest works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), but lead a Christian life.

5 are not members of a secret society or any other organization conflicting with the Word of God and the conduct of a Christian (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

C. All rights and privileges of Communicant Membership in the congregation cease upon termination of Communicant Membership.

D Voting membership: All communicant members of this congregation who are of legal age in the province of Alberta and have been accepted by the Voter's Meeting, shall be entitled to vote and hold office.

Article 5 Pastors and Deacons

Only such candidates who profess acceptance of and pledge faithful adherence to the confessions of this congregation as set forth in Article 2 of the Constitution shall be called and elected to serve as Pastors or Deacons.

In the absence of adequate cause for dismissal as defined in the bylaws of the congregation, the tenure of office of a called or elected Pastor or Deacon shall be the remainder of his active life, or until the Lord calls him to another field of service.

Article 6 – Powers of the Congregation

A. General: The congregation as a body, through the voting members shall have supreme power to administer and manage all its external and internal affairs. No individual or group of individuals shall exercise any authority over the congregation, except, it be given them by the congregation. The congregation, however, shall not be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church (Article 2), and any such decision shall be null and void.

B. Right of Calling: The right of calling Pastor(s) & Deacon(s) shall be vested in the voting membership of the congregation and shall never be delegated to a smaller body or to an individual.

C. Decisions: Matters of doctrine or conscience shall be decided by the Word of God; other matters shall be decided by the Voter's Meeting by a majority vote unless otherwise specified by the Constitution and By-Laws.

D. Power of Officers: Congregational officers or committees whether elected or appointed by the Voter's Meeting shall have no authority beyond that which is delegated to them, and whatever power delegated to them may at anytime be altered or revoked by the Voter's Meeting.

E. Removal from Office: Any officer, Pastor, Deacon, or Teacher, may be removed from office by the congregation, by ballot, in Christian and lawful order, for one of the following causes; persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, inability to perform official duties or willful neglect of them.

Article 7 Property Rights

If, at any time a separation should take place with this congregation, the advice of the officers of Lutheran Church Canada shall be sought. If despite all efforts to compose differences in peace and love, a division into factions of the congregation shall occur, the property of the congregation and all benefits therewith connected shall remain with those members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Articles 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this Constitution. In the event of total disbandment, the property and all rights connected with it shall be transferred to the Lutheran Church-Canada or a Mission of Lutheran Church Canada as approved by the Voting membership.

Article 8 Amending the Constitution

Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 of this Constitution shall be irrevocable. Amendments to other parts of the Constitution may be adopted at a regular Voters' meeting provided:

1. that the proposed amendment has been published at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be acted upon, and.
- 2 that the amendment be accepted by three-fourths majority of the votes cast.