

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Mission Statement

We, the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, are members of the Body of Christ and the priesthood of all believers.

As children of the Triune God we seek to live out our baptismal vows and minister to one another in love.

Through Word and sacrament we are strengthened and enabled to witness and proclaim the Gospel to all in words and deeds.

ARTICLE II

Membership

- A1. All members of the congregation in good standing shall be entitled to the use of the church for weddings and funerals. Others may use the building on such occasions at the discretion of the Congregation Council.
- A2. Free-will offerings shall be regarded as the proper means of financial support for the congregation and all auxiliary bodies. Members who indicate to Church Council their financial inability to meet such an obligation may be excused by action of Congregation Council.
- A3. Only members in good standing may vote on matters of real estate and church indebtedness.
- A4. "Inactivity" as cited in C8.05.e. is defined as any confirmed member who has not communed and made a contribution of record at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church during the current or preceding year.

ARTICLE III

Congregational Meetings

- B1. An annual congregational meeting shall be held in October to vote on the annual budget and elect council members for the ensuing year, and another in June to review the financial progress of the church in regard to the church's finances. The days and times of these meetings shall be determined by Congregation Council and publicized at least one month prior to each meeting. In addition, special meetings may be called by the Pastor, Council President or the Congregation Council, if needed.

ARTICLE IV

Elections

- C1. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees for consideration for each vacancy to be filled. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual congregational meeting.

ARTICLE V

Revised 7/2014

Congregation Council

- D1. The Congregation Council members shall serve as liaisons between standing church committees and church council. They will communicate any situations that require council action and refer back to committees any situation that requires committee action. This communication shall take place soon after council meetings and prior to committee meetings. The Council President shall appoint these liaisons for all committees. Liasons shall report to Council regarding the activities of their appointed committee. If there is a council vote concerning action requested by a committee, the appointed Liason shall abstain from voting. In the event of a tie, it shall be broken by vote of the President. If the President is not available, the tie shall be broken by vote of the Pastor. If neither are available, the tie shall be broken by vote of the Vice-President.
- D2. The president shall be chairman of the congregation and the congregation council. In the event of the president's inability to perform his duties, the vice-president shall serve in his stead.
- D3. The president and the vice-president shall be chosen from the membership of the congregation council.
- D4. The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the congregation and of the council in a volume provided by the congregation, which shall be preserved permanently in its archives.
- D5. The financial secretary, if such an office is activated, shall receive and keep record of all income from contributing members and other sources.
- D6. The treasurer shall keep the books of account of the congregation. He/she shall receive (from the financial secretary) all funds and disburse them on proper orders, making monthly remittance of benevolence receipts to the treasurer of the synod.
- D7. The treasurer (and the financial secretary) shall make written report of all his/her (their) transactions to the church council monthly and to the congregation, together with a satisfactory audit, at its annual meetings. All financial officers shall give corporate surety, in amounts determined by the [church] congregation council, for which the premium shall be paid by the congregation or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.