

Changes as of
11/15/93 by LP

KING OF KINGS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

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CONSTITUTION OF KING OF KINGS EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW JERSEY

PREAMBLE

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- C1.01. The name of this congregation is King of Kings Evangelical Lutheran Church of Middletown, New Jersey.
- C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the King of Kings Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation is hereinafter designated as "this congregation".
- C1.03. This congregation is incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey.

Chapter 2.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

- C2.01. This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C2.02. This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in

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the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

- C2.03. This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life.
- C2.04. This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.
- C2.05. This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.
- C2.06. This congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.
- C2.07. This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 3.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- C3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- C3.02. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service.

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Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This Church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

Chapter 4.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

C4.01. The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and set to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:

A. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.

B. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.

C. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

D. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.

E. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.

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F. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

C4.03. To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:

A. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.

B. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry.

C. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.

D. Teach the Word of God.

E. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.

F. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.

G. Motivate its members to provide financial support for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

H. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

I. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy.

C4.04. This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational groups and shall review their actions. Such description shall be contained in continuing resolutions of the Congregation Council.

C4.05. This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

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Chapter 5.

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- C5.01. The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.
- C5.02. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.
- C5.03. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in the congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:
- A. Call a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
 - B. Terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
 - C. Appoint or terminate the appointment of associates in ministry in conformity with the applicable policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
 - D. Approve the annual budget;
 - E. Acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase or other lawful means;
 - F. Hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
 - G. Sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
 - H. Elect its Congregation Council, boards, and committees, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution and bylaws; and
 - I. Terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Chapter 6.

Chapter 6.

CHURCH AFFILIATION

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C6.01. This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C6.02. The congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the Purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.

C6.03. This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in which:

A. This congregation agrees to be responsible for its life as a Christian community.

B. This congregation pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C. This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod.

D. This congregation agrees to consider associates in ministry for appointment to other staff positions in the congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

E. This congregation agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the constitution of the synod.

C6.04. Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be terminated as follows:

A. This congregation takes action to dissolve.

B. This congregation ceases to exist.

C. This congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures for discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

D. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in
C6.05.

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C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:

A. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

B. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within ten (10) days after the resolution has been adopted.

C. The bishop of the synod shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least ninety (90) days.

D. If the congregation, after consultation, still desire to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.

E. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between this congregation and the ELCA shall be terminated.

F. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.

G. If this congregation was a member of the Lutheran Church in America it shall be required, in addition to the provisions in C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating its membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C6.06. If this congregation is considering relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

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Chapter 7.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- C7.01. If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- C7.02. If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.
- C7.03. If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a regularly called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran Church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the New Jersey Synod.
- C7.04. If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a regularly called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran Church body, title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Chapter 8.

MEMBERSHIP

- C8.01. Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of the congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

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C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

A. Baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.

B. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.

C. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

D. Associate members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.

C8.03. All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Congregation Council.

C8.04. It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

A. Make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;

B. Live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and

C. Support the work of this congregation and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

C8.05. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

A. Death;

B. Resignation;

C. Transfer or release;

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D. Disciplinary action by the Congregation Council; or

E. Removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the church has a continuing pastoral concern.

Chapter 9.

THE PASTOR

C9.01. Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a meeting regularly called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by this congregation to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.

C9.02. Only a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or who has been recommended for it by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

C9.03. A. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every ordained minister shall:

1. Preach the Word;
2. Administer the sacraments;
3. Conduct public worship;
4. Provide pastoral care; and

5. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.

B. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:

1. Offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;

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2. Supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation;

3. Install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and

4. With the council administer discipline.

C. Every pastor shall:

1. Seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel and strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;

2. Impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and

3. Endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America churchwide organization and the New Jersey synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C9.04. The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the Bishop of the synod.

C9.05. A. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:

1. Mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term of years;

2. Resignation of the pastor;

3. Inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;

4. The physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;

5. Disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty; or

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6. The dissolution of the congregation.

B. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office, it shall be the responsibility of the bishop of the synod, when such difficulties are personally known or have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the congregation Council, or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, to investigate such conditions personally in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.

C. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of the synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of the synod shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.

D. In the case of alleged local difficulties which imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the synod together with the committee described in C9.05.B. shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further actions shall be taken by the synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a regularly called meeting after consultation with the bishop.

E. The foregoing procedure shall never be invoked when questions of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty are involved, all such cases being treated as disciplinary matters.

F. If in the course of the proceedings, it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint churchwide/synod fund and with housing provided by the congregation.

C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor may be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.

C9.07. During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties of a regularly called pastor

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and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor.

C9.08. This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation.

C9.09. When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

C9.11. With the approval of the bishop of the synod the congregation may depart from C9.05A. and call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop, shall meet with the pastor and representative of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of C9.05.A.

C9.12. The pastor shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, and shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the synod.

The pastor shall be a member of the congregation that has extended the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

C9.13. The pastor(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least ninety (90) days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Chapter 10.

CONGREGATION MEETING

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- C10.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.
- C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called at the written request of ten percent of the voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.
- C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given (1) at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and (2) at the services on the Sunday preceding the meeting and by mail to all voting members at least ten (10) days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.
- C10.04. Five percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- C10.06. All actions by the congregation shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided in this constitution.
- C10.07. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

Chapter 11.

OFFICERS

- C11.01. The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

A. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.

B. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.

C. Officers of this congregation shall serve similar offices of the Congregation Council and shall be voting members of the Congregation Council.

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- C11.02. The Congregation Council shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of the congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the commencement of the next fiscal year.
- C11.03. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) and not more than 15 members of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member (a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or (b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause.
- C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for three (3) years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than six consecutive elected years, which may consist of several elections. Their terms shall begin at the commencement of the next fiscal year.
- C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next election (By-law #11).
- C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

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A. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.

B. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.

C. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.

D. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.

E. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.

F. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.

G. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.

H. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide units of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

I. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

A. The Congregation Council shall be the board of trustees of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of New Jersey, except as otherwise provided herein.

B. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.

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C. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts aggregating an amount of five (5%) percent of the annual budget.

D. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations more than five (5%) percent of the annual budget in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.

E. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.

F. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

C12.06. The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws and the continuing resolutions are carried out.

C12.07. The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.

C12.08. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the appointment and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this congregation.

C12.09. The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.

C12.11. The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

C12.12. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor or interim pastor, except when such person requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to an agenda of routine matters which shall be the only business of the meeting.

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Chapter 13.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

- C13.01. The officers of this congregation and the pastor shall constitute the Executive Committee.
- C13.02. A Nominating Committee of three voting members of this congregation, one of whom shall be an outgoing member of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year.
- C13.03. An Audit Committee of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. The term of office will be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for re-election.
- C13.04. A Staff Support Committee (in the absence of a staff support committee their duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two years, three members to be appointed each successive year. Committee members will hold no other office in the congregation during their term.
- C13.05. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of six voting members shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate at installation of the newly-called pastor.
- C13.06. Other congregational committees may be formed as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.
- C13.07. Duties of congregational committees shall be specified in the bylaws.

Chapter 14.

ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

- C14.01. All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation's life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their

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activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.

- C14.02. Special interest groups, other than those of the official organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregation Council.

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

- C15.01. Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps: (a) private admonition by the pastor, (b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and (c) citation to appear before the Congregation Council.

- C15.02. A member charged with the offense shall appear before the Congregation Council having received a written notice, specifying the exact charges that have been made against the member, at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

- C15.03. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the Congregation Council, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

A. Censure before the council or congregation;

B. Suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or

C. Exclusion from membership in this congregation. Disciplinary actions B. and C. shall be delivered to the member in writing.

- C15.04. The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Congregation Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final.

- C15.05. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of (a) evidence

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that injustice has been done or (b) evidence of repentance and amendment.

Chapter 16.

BYLAWS

- C16.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaws may conflict with this constitution.
- C16.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.
- C16.03. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least sixty (60) days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for the purpose and that the Congregation Council notify the members of the proposal with its recommendations at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.
- C16.04. Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent to the synod by the secretary of the congregation.

Chapter 17.

AMENDMENTS

- C17.01. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by at least twenty-five (25) voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council sixty (60) days before formal consideration by this congregation at its regular or special meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the members of the proposal with their recommendations at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.
- .. C17.02. A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:
- A. Be approved at a properly called meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting:
 - B. Be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and

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C. Have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.

C17.03. Any amendments to this constitution shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The amendment shall become effective within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the synod unless the synod informs this congregation that the amendment is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or the constitution of the New Jersey Synod.

Chapter 18.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

C18.01. The Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions which describe the function of the various committees or organizations of this congregation.

C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

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KING OF KINGS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Statement: Mission is joining with God where He is already at work." We are called in mission to help all those with whom we live, work, and play to experience the presence of a loving God. For the King of Kings congregation, this mission has been a process which continues to develop after more than 30 years. We have been "called" in Middletown, but our responsibility is to bring the experience of God's presence beyond our community, reaching out nationwide and worldwide proclaiming the Gospel in all we say and do.

We are at the threshold of a new era in our congregation; with all the joys and challenges and adjustments attendant upon it. Our "original mission" now asks that, as we expand the church building, we expand our vision as well. We have before us an opportunity, as well as a responsibility, to explore new ways of fulfilling our mission to Middletown and the world. While the proclamation of the gospel, provision for fellowship, education of adults and children both in and out of our immediate church family, and the service to humankind remain the important base of our activity, we must continually seek new and creative ways to translate these into the experience of God's presence -- of "God with us," for all those whom we serve. Expansion, both physical and spiritual, requires a willingness to take chances and feel the vague discomfort of change. With the creativity, good will and sense of humor, which have come to characterize us as a faith community, we will pray and work at keeping God the focal point of our lives and allow God to help us in all of our decisions knowing that He is the one who is control, we are but His servants, co-creators with Him in mission.

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BY-LAWS

1. The duties of the President shall include, but shall not be limited to: serving as President of the congregation and the Congregation Council, chairperson of the Executive Committee, and ex-officio member of all committees.

2. The duties of the Vice-President shall include, but shall not be limited to: serving in place of the President, if the President is unable to perform his/her duties.

3. The duties of the Secretary shall include, but shall not be limited to recording all transactions of the congregation, the Congregation Council, and the Executive Committee, in regular, and special sessions. These minutes of meetings shall form a part of the permanent archives of the congregation.

4. The duties of Treasurer shall include, but shall not be limited to: a written record of all financial transactions of the congregation. These will be reported to the Congregation Council monthly and to the congregation annually.

He/she shall also keep the books of account of the congregation, recording the proper receipt of all funds, the disbursement of them on proper order, and make periodic remittance of benevolence funds to the Synodical Treasurer. He/she is an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee and the Stewardship Committee.

5. The Financial Secretary need not be a member of the Congregation Council. He/she shall receive and keep record of all income from contributing members and other sources. He/she is ex-officio member of the Finance Committee. Both these financial officers shall give corporate surety, in amounts to be specified by the Congregation Council, the premium of which shall be paid by the congregation.

6. At its first meeting in each congregation year, the Congregation Council shall appoint as many standing committees on the concerns of the congregation shall require. The chairperson of the committee need not be a member of the Congregation Council, but may be. One, or more, members of the Congregation Council shall be a representative on each standing committee. The pastor shall have voice and vote on all committee.

A. The Evangelism Committee shall stimulate and lead all members of the congregation in continuous and concerted endeavors to reawaken the spiritually indifferent and to reach others with the Gospel and attach them to Christ's Church. To this end, the committee shall devote itself to deepening spiritual life

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and shall periodically study the congregation in the context of its community.

B. The Stewardship Committee shall evoke and promote the expression of Christian faith in daily living. It shall teach the Christian use of money. It shall disseminate knowledge of the congregation's local, national, and world-wide ministries. It shall lead all its members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work. It shall be responsible for all congregational efforts which have a goal of informed and grateful giving.

C. The Social Ministry Committee shall extend Christian compassion and helpfulness to persons in need of aid in body and soul. It shall strive to enlist in these efforts as many individuals and organizations of the congregation as possible. This committee shall have the further duty to study social conditions in order to bring the cleansing and healing light of Christian truth to bear upon critical problems through thoughtful Christian discussion of facts and issues, to the people of the local community and in all parts of the world.

D. The Fellowship Committee shall be responsible for increasing the fellowship among the members of the congregation by organizing and supporting functions of a social nature that will provide this opportunity.

E. The Christian Education Committee shall oversee the conduct and promotion of the schools, and the activities of all organizations within the congregation. It shall encourage the use of teaching and worship materials published and/or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It shall encourage the church's periodicals and books of family worship in the homes of the congregation. One of its primary aims shall be to bring the call to the ministry and other full-time church vocations to the attention of qualified members of the congregation.

F. The Music and Worship Committee shall include all organists and choir directors. It shall assist the Congregation Council in ensuring the services of God's house are conducted regularly and in accordance with the liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It shall provide, and properly maintain, hymnals and other devotional materials as needed. It shall supervise the performance of ushers, acolytes, lectors, altar guild members, liturgists, and choirs for the enhancement of worship of the congregation and to the glory of God. It shall arrange for the care of paraments, vestments, and musical instruments. It shall provide musical supplies appropriate for use in worship.

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G. The Youth Committee shall be responsible for providing a Christian oriented out-reach program for the youth of the congregation. In addition to congregational activities it shall encourage the expansion of youth activities by participation in cluster, district, and synod youth activities.

H. The Finance Committee shall include the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. It shall be responsible for formulating an annual budget which shall include benevolence and current operating expenses. This budget shall be presented to the Congregation Council for action and later presentation to the annual congregational meeting. It shall maintain records of all income and expenditures of the congregation in accord with good accounting practices. It shall cooperate with the Audit Committee in the annual audit of the accounts.

I. The Property Committee shall see to the proper maintenance and protection of all property of the congregation. It shall take care that it is kept in good repair and adequately insured. It shall supervise the use of the Church facilities by any organizations not otherwise affiliated with the Church, and shall regularly review the costs of facility operations.

J. The Nominating Committee shall attempt to nominate at least two qualified members of the congregation for each vacancy on the Congregation Council but in no case shall it nominate less than three more than the number of vacancies. Prior to each election, the Committee shall provide to the Congregation biographical information regarding each person being nominated.

K. The Audit Committee shall perform an annual audit of the financial records of the Congregation each year according to the standards of the New Jersey synod of the ELCA.

L. The Staff Support Committee shall meet at least once a year with the staff, or when called upon by the staff, to discuss the needs of the staff, to give encouragement, and to make recommendations to the Council and the staff.

M. The Call Committee shall, with the advice and help of the bishop of the synod, recommend to the congregation the issuance of a call to a pastor to fill any pastoral vacancy.

7. The annual congregational meeting shall be held between the 15th and 30th of June at a time to be specified by the Congregation Council.

8. A member shall be deemed inactive and removed from the roll of confirmed members if he/she has failed to receive Holy

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Communion and make any contribution of record for a period of two (2) years.

9. A lapsed member (inactive member) can be restored to the active membership rolls after making a contribution of record and receiving Holy Communion. The Pastor and/or the Evangelism Committee is encouraged to determine the reason for inactivity and encourage the lapsed member in his/her renewal of active membership.

10. The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

11. Council member nominations shall be on a Sunday in April of each year, and Council members shall be elected on a Sunday in May of each year. After counting of the ballots, the candidates shall be ranked by number of votes received. Starting with the greatest number of votes, the 3-year term vacancies will be filled, followed by the 2-year term vacancies and the 1-year term vacancies.

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