

## **THE CONSTITUTION OF RESURRECTION MINISTRIES, LCMS, BRENTWOOD, CALIFORNIA**

### **PREAMBLE**

The Word of God demands that a Christian congregation not only conforms to the Word of God in doctrine and practice (Psalm 119:105, Galatians 1:6-8); it also states that all things be done decently and in order (I Corinthians 14:40). Therefore, we the members of Resurrection Ministries, set forth this constitution and bylaws to govern all our congregational affairs.

### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this congregation shall be Resurrection Ministries, LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod), in Brentwood, California.

### **ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF MISSION**

It is the goal and purpose of this congregation to reach out and bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ through the dynamic worship of God, vigorous study of His Word, loving care for one another, and committed support of His work through the world. We summarize this mission with the phrase: *“Connecting People to Christ”*

### **ARTICLE III: CONFESSIONAL STANDARD**

This congregation accepts all the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed Word of God, verbally inspired; and it accepts all the three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Catechism and the Formula of Concord. All preaching and teaching must be in accordance with the above, and all doctrinal controversies which may occur shall be decided in accordance with the same.

### **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of this congregation includes baptized, communicant, and voting members. The process of admitting new members and the process for terminating membership shall be set forth in policies established by the Board of Directors in accordance with the spirit of this constitution.

#### **The types and duties of membership are as follows:**

**A. Baptized Members** – Baptized members are all persons within the congregation who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God, whether as children or as adults, and come under the pastoral care of this congregation. It is expected of all baptized members to:

1. Attend worship services faithfully and regularly.
2. Lead a Christian life as taught in Galatians 5:19-26.
3. Out of Christian love, submit to brotherly admonition, according to Matthew 18, when having erred or offended.
4. Contribute, as God has blessed them, of their time, talents and treasure toward the maintenance of the congregation and the extension of the church at large.
5. Not be members of any organization conflicting with the Word of God as it is understood and explained by the LCMS.

**B. Communicant Members** – Communicant members are all baptized persons within the congregation who have received a course of instruction in Christian doctrine which meets with the approval of the Board of Directors. In addition to the duties of baptized members, it is expected of all communicant members to:

1. Accept all the Canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the standard of faith and life.
2. Familiarize themselves with the doctrines of this church, at least as set forth in the Catechisms and declare acceptance of them.
3. Partake of the Lord's Supper at least one time per calendar year.
4. Provide for the Christian training of their children by making use of the educational agencies of the church.
5. Submit willingly and cheerfully to the policies already made or still to be made, provided such policies do not conflict with the Word of God.

### **B.1. Receiving Communicant Members**

1. By confirmation: Persons received by the solemn rite of confirmation in this congregation become communicant members.
2. By transfer: Persons coming with a communicant letter of transfer from another congregation may be received upon the pastor's recommendation.
3. By profession of faith: Other persons shall request of the pastor, and having given satisfactory evidence of qualification, be received.

### **B.2. Terminating Communicant Members**

1. Communicant members may be transferred to an LCMS congregation upon their request, by approval of the pastor.
2. Communicant members who join congregations which are not in fellowship with the LCMS (as identified in *The Lutheran Annual*) terminate their membership. These names shall be removed from our membership.
3. Communicant members whose whereabouts are unknown, or who move away and have not indicated a likely return within a year, will terminate their membership by action of the pastor.
4. Death terminates membership.

**C. Voting Members** – Voting members shall:

1. Be a baptized and communing member of the congregation.
2. Understand our constitution and by-laws.
3. Attend new member class.
4. Renew their congregational commitment using the annual committed member form.
5. Vote at the discretion of the pastor and parents if under the age of 18.

## **ARTICLE V: THE OFFICES OF PASTOR**

The pastoral office of this congregation shall be conferred upon only such ministers and candidates as profess and adhere to the confessional standards set forth in Article III of this constitution, and who have been declared eligible by the LCMS. The pastor shall, in the call extended to and accepted by them, be pledged to this confessional standard.

## **ARTICLE VI: POWER OF THE CONGREGATION**

**A. General** – The congregation as a body, through its Voter Assembly, shall have supreme power to administer and manage all of the congregation’s external and internal affairs. The congregation, however, shall not be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word of God and the confessional writings listed in Article III, and any such contrary decision shall be null and void. Matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided in accordance with the Word of God. Other matters shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the voting members in attendance at a Voter Assembly meeting unless otherwise specified by this constitution or bylaws.

**B. Right of Calling** – The right of calling pastors and other called workers shall be vested in the Voter Assembly and shall not be delegated to a smaller body or an individual. The Board of Directors may authorize the hiring of non-called staff if funding is approved in the annual budget or by the Voter Assembly.

**C. Election of Officers and Directors** – The Voter Assembly shall elect a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of four (4) officers and up to three (3) directors. The pastor and business administrator shall be non-voting, ex officio members of the Board of Directors. The nomination and election of officers and directors shall be as specified in the bylaws.

**D. Board of Directors’ Actions Requiring Prior Approval of the Voter Assembly** – The Board of Directors shall obtain prior approval of the Voter Assembly on the following actions or items:

1. Annual Financial Operating Plan (budget).
2. Acquisition or disposal of any single asset or liability that exceeds 3% of the annual operating budget.
3. Calling or removal of called staff.
4. Dissolution of the congregation.

**E. Removal from Office** – Any officer or director who fails to perform their duties of communicant members as stated in Article IV, or is unable or willfully neglects to perform his or her official duties, may be removed from office in Christian and lawful order by the Voter Assembly (as described in Matthew 18).

## **ARTICLE VII: POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**A. Officers (Executive Committee)** - The officers (which include chairperson, vice chair, treasurer and secretary) of the congregation shall also serve as the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will obtain its power and authority for action at the express designation of the full Board of Directors. The chairperson and secretary shall sign all legal documents. The vice chairperson and/or the treasurer may sign documents when three (3) or more signatures are required.

**B. Board of Directors** – The Board of Directors shall have the power to develop and implement those policies and procedures as required to execute the plans approved by the Voter Assembly. Written policies and procedures shall be available to voting members upon request. The Board of

Directors shall supervise the pastor and ensure proper supervision of the staff. Such supervision shall enable the staff to develop and implement new strategies and programs to accomplish the mission as stated in Article II.

### **C. Duties of the Board of Directors**

1. The Board of Directors shall transact or supervise the transaction of all legal and general business of the congregation except for the purchase, sale, or lease of real property.
2. The Board of Directors shall conduct business within the limitations of the annual financial operating plan approved by the Voter Assembly.
3. The Board of Directors shall annually report to the Voter Assembly on the organizational condition of the congregation. It shall also recommend an annual financial operating plan (budget) at the annual Voter Assembly meeting.
4. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the receiving of and acting upon, if necessary, feed-back and/or complaints from members of the congregation regarding aspects of its operations.
5. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for establishing policies necessary to direct the overall program of the congregation for the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom in our midst.
6. The Board of Directors shall initiate and oversee committees as needed.

**The Board of Directors will be responsible for maintenance of a manual of congregation policies and standard operating procedures to assist in the uniform and consistent administration of affairs of the congregation.**

The manual shall not include any provision contrary to this constitution and bylaws concerning:

- a. membership in the congregation, and/or
- b. the rights and duties of persons holding office.

### **ARTICLE VIII: DENOMINATION AFFILIATION**

This congregation with its pastor(s) shall be members of the LCMS so long as the LCMS shall remain true to the confessional standard as set forth in Article III of this constitution.

### **ARTICLE IX: PROPERTY RIGHTS**

All property of this congregation shall be held in the corporate name as stated in Article I. If at any time a separation should take place in this congregation, the property of the congregation and all benefits pertaining thereto shall remain with those members who shall continue to adhere to Article III and Article IV of this constitution. In the event of the dissolution of this congregation, all property of the congregation shall be disposed of by the final Voter Assembly for the payment of debts, and any and all surplus, after due settlement of just claims against this congregation, shall be conveyed to and become the property of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the LCMS.

### **ARTICLE X: BYLAWS**

This congregation, through its Voter Assembly, may adopt such bylaws as the accomplishment of the purpose of this organization may demand.

## **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS**

**A. Amendments** – Amendments to this constitution may be proposed in writing at any Voter Assembly meeting by any voting member. If the majority of the voting members present shall vote in favor of the proposal, a copy of such proposed amendment shall be made available to all voting members at least two (2) weeks preceding the next meeting. There upon the final vote shall be taken in that meeting, or at a duly publicized continuation of that meeting, and a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members present shall be required for adoption.

Upon adoption, such amendment shall be submitted to the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the LCMS for approval in accordance with its bylaws.

**B. Unalterable Articles** – The preceding articles of this constitution or sections thereof shall be unalterable and irreplaceable: Article III (Confessional Standard); Article VI (The Offices of Pastor); and this Article (XI B.)