

**CONSTITUTION  
of  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
of  
Herndon, Virginia**

This Constitution, as contained herein, was approved by this congregation on February 21, 2010 and effective June 28, 2010 and as amended on April 10, 2011, supersedes all documents of a similar nature adopted prior to this date.

**PREAMBLE**

We the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Herndon, Virginia, accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and adopted Bylaws. They shall govern the spiritual, material, and missional affairs of the congregation.

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

This congregation shall bear the name of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Herndon, Virginia.

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

We affirm that we are a community of people who recognize Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and that He was sent to our world to bring God's plan of salvation into reality through His holy birth, sinless life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection. The Church's main task is to bring Christ to people by preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. It has equal responsibility to enlighten, nurture, and equip these Christians so they can witness and serve where they live, work, and play. The parish church is the center of worship, learning, and pastoral care, where the Word of God persuades, motivates, and equips people to witness in the world.

The Lord gives each member of the congregation unique spiritual gifts for ministry within the fellowship and larger community. Thus, our congregation is committed to helping each member discover and use their gifts in appropriate forms of ministry.

Accordingly, we, the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, give ourselves to the following purposes:

- ❖ A life of individual and corporate worship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- ❖ A life of individual and corporate education in the Christian faith as it is revealed in Sacred Scripture and as it is articulated in the Lutheran Confessions
- ❖ A life of corporate fellowship, one with the other, so that the spirit of unity and joy pervades within the congregation

- ❖ A life of individual and corporate service to all people, without regard for their condition, color, or creed, sharing the good news of God's love in Christ, as well as acts of mercy and concern
- ❖ A life of individual and corporate stewardship of God's gifts to us, so that the tasks of mission are accomplished by the intelligent, consecrated and ambitious use of our total selves and possessions

### **ARTICLE III - CONFSSIONAL STANDARD**

This congregation holds all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the sole rule of faith and life.

This congregation accepts all the Symbolic books of the Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, viz., the Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostolic, the Nicene and the Athanasian); the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of 1530; the Apology of the Augsburg Confession; the Catechisms of Martin Luther; the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord, as a correct and sound exposition of Christian Doctrine, taken from and in full accord with the Holy Scriptures.

### **ARTICLE IV - SYNODICAL AFFILIATION**

This congregation shall be affiliated with The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the District in which it is geographically located, so long as the confessions and constitution of said Synod and District are in accord with the confession and constitution of this congregation.

It shall be the duty of this congregation and its individual members to support the work of the Synod so long as it is affiliated therewith.

### **ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP**

#### Section 5.1. Definitions

- a. Baptized Members: All those who are baptized "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost" and who are under the spiritual care of this congregation.
- b. Communicant Members: All those who are baptized, give evidence of their ability to "examine themselves" (1Cor. 11:27-29), have been admitted to membership in this congregation and partake of the Lord's Supper.
- c. Voting Members: All Communicant Members who have reached the age of eighteen years and who have accepted the Constitution and Bylaws of this

congregation.

### Section 5.2. Admission to the Congregation

Individuals may be admitted to membership in this congregation by the following means:

- a. Baptism
- b. Confirmation
- c. Transfer: All those who indicate their desire to transfer their membership from a Lutheran Church which is in fellowship with this congregation to this congregation shall present a letter of transfer to the pastor. They shall be received in a public worship service.
- d. Reaffirmation of Faith: All those previously terminated members of a Lutheran congregation who, upon indicating their desire to the pastor, reaffirm their faith before the congregation.
- e. Profession of Faith: All baptized and instructed Christians who, upon recommendation of the pastor, profess their faith before the congregation.

### Section 5.3. Termination of Membership

Membership in this congregation shall be terminated in the following instances:

- a. In the event a Communicant Member is granted transfer to another Lutheran Church.
- b. In the event a Communicant Member joins a congregation other than a Lutheran Church.
- c. In the event the whereabouts of a Communicant Member are unknown and cannot be established after one year.
- d. In the event a Communicant Member requests that his membership be withdrawn.
- e. Communicant members who conduct themselves in an un-Christian manner shall be admonished according to Matthew 18:15-20 and the congregation's stated and adopted guidelines. If they remain impenitent after proper admonition, they shall be excommunicated. Each case of excommunication or self-exclusion shall be presented to the voters assembly for a decision. A two-thirds majority vote of the voters assembly shall be required.

A person whose Communicant Membership has been terminated forfeits all rights of a member of this congregation and all claims upon the property of the congregation as such, or upon any part thereof, so long as he is not reinstated into membership.

## **ARTICLE VI - GOVERNMENT OF THE CONGREGATION**

### **Section 6.1. Board of Servant Leaders**

The Congregation as a body, through its voting members, shall have final authority to govern and direct all of its external and internal affairs and its activities in pursuit of the Congregation's Purpose given by God. To pursue that Purpose as responsibly, effectively and as efficiently as possible, the Congregation shall establish a Board of Directors, whose powers and responsibilities are enumerated in the Bylaws. In this congregation, the board shall be named the Board of Servant Leaders (BoSL).

### **Section 6.2. The Voting Membership**

The Voting Membership shall: approve the annual congregational budget; elect members of the Church Board of Servant Leaders (BoSL); be responsible for calling LCMS-rostered church workers; approve the sale or purchase of congregational property; and approve all proposed significant changes in congregational life. These powers shall never be delegated to a smaller body or individual.

## **ARTICLE VII - PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE CONGREGATION**

### **Section 7.1. Property Rights**

This congregation may receive, acquire, hold title to, and manage such real estate and other property as it may deem necessary to accomplish its purpose as a congregation and may encumber, sell or dispose of such real estate and other property or any part thereof. This congregation shall also have all the rights and powers that are granted by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia to religious organizations. It is understood that the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall govern the business of this congregation in matters concerning property and contracts.

### **Section 7.2. The Permanent Trustee**

- a. A permanent Trustee shall be appointed by the BoSL to an indefinite term. The BoSL may appoint a second permanent Trustee to an indefinite term. The first appointed permanent Trustee shall be responsible for the actions required in Section 7.2b; however should the first appointed permanent Trustee be absent or unavailable, the second appointed permanent Trustee is authorized to perform the actions set forth in Section 7.2.b, subject to the approval of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County.

- b. The permanent Trustee shall act as the legal representative of the congregation. As such he is empowered, upon approval of the BoSL or the Voting Membership, to close and sign contracts, pay out money, collect or borrow funds and give receipts, sign documents, appear in court, and do everything the congregation, as owner of property in the Commonwealth of Virginia, is required to do by law.

### Section 7.3. Devolution of Property Rights

Should a separation in the congregation occur, the entire property of the congregation and all rights connected therewith shall remain with those members who hold fast to this Constitution. In the event the congregation should disband, the property and all rights connected therewith shall be transferred to that District of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod of which the congregation is a member.

## **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS**

### Section 8.1. Inalterability of Confessional Standard

Adherence to those doctrines and teachings set forth in the writings enumerated in Article III hereof are requisite to membership in the community of Lutheran worshippers and therefore unalterable.

### Section 8.2. Amendment of Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution must be made in writing, and approved at a meeting of the Voting Membership duly called in accordance herewith, at which a quorum is present, by two-thirds of the Voting Members represented in person. The language of all proposed amendments must be furnished to the Voting Membership not later than the date on which notice of such meeting is given.