

# CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS

*Resurrection Lutheran Church  
PO Box 563 • Routes 23B & 32  
Cairo, New York 12413*

## MISSION

**Our Mission is to help people know Jesus Christ.**

## PREAMBLE

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

After our Lord Jesus Christ had reconciled all people to God by His saving death and resurrection, He took up His place at the right hand of God to gather a Church on earth of Himself until the end of time by the Word of the completed reconciliation (Eph. 5:25-27). It is the will of our Lord Jesus Christ that His disciples preach the Gospel of Reconciliation to the whole world (Mat. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 1:8), that Christians witness to all people (Acts 1:8), that Christians unite together in worship (Heb. 10:24-25), that Christians help each other grow in the word (Eph. 4:11-14), that Christians practice fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42), and, that Christians serve the needs of all people in love (Mk. 10:42-44; Jn. 13:34-35; Gal. 6:10). In order to fulfill the commission given to the Church (Mat. 28:18-20) and to maintain decency and good order (1 Cor. 14:40);

We accept and subscribe to the following Constitution and By-Laws with which all spiritual and material affairs of our congregation shall be governed.

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## **THE CONSTITUTION OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **ARTICLE I: Name, Location, and Purpose**

A. The name of this congregation is RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, located in the Town of Cairo, Greene County, New York, a religious corporation incorporated pursuant to the Laws of the State of New York under a Certificate of Incorporation filed in the office of the Clerk of Greene County, New York, June 8, 1960, which corporation has its place of worship in the Town of Cairo, Greene County, New York.

B. The purpose of this congregation shall be to give honor and glory to the Triune God, to carry out His will, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world, to foster Christian fellowship and love, to extend a helping hand to human need, and to achieve its objectives by the preaching of the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments, and by the religious instruction of all its members according to the confessional standards of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as stated in Article II.

### **ARTICLE II: Confessional Standard**

This congregation accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the sole rule and norm of faith and practice, and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as a correct and genuine exposition of Christian doctrine drawn from the Bible. These Symbolical Books include: the three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of the year 1530, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large and Small Catechisms of Luther, and the Formula of Concord.

Accordingly, no doctrine which conflicts with or sets aside the foregoing norm of doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation. In the public service of this congregation and in all ministerial acts, only such hymns, prayers, and liturgies shall be used as conform to this confessional standard. Likewise all classes for instruction in Christian doctrine shall conform to this standard.

### **ARTICLE III: Synodical Membership**

This congregation shall hold membership in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod so long as the confession and constitution of said Synod are in accord with the confession and constitution of this congregation as laid down in Article II.

This congregation shall, 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 IV: Membership in the Congregation**

The membership of this congregation shall include the following:

**A. Baptized Membership:** Baptized members are those members who have been baptized in the Name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and have not yet confirmed their baptismal vows.

**B. Communicant Membership:** Communicant members are those who:

1. Are baptized in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
2. Have declared their acceptance of the confessional standard of this congregation as stipulated in Article II;
3. Have been accepted into communicant membership in accordance with the By Laws of this congregation and shall remain faithful to the responsibilities of membership as stipulated by the Constitution and By Laws;
4. Are determined with the help of God to lead Christian lives;
5. Attend the Divine Services regularly and partake of the Lord's Supper with due frequency;
6. Permit themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected when they have erred;
7. Are not members, affiliates, or supporters of secret societies or other organizations whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God.

**C. The membership and membership privileges of each communicant member**

shall remain in force so long as each member shall maintain his or her eligibility according to Section B of this article and shall meet the provisions of communicant membership stipulated in the By-Laws. A member who voluntarily severs his/her connection with this congregation, who has been released or transferred, who has been excommunicated, or who excludes himself or herself according to the provisions of the By-Laws, shall have terminated his or her membership in this congregation and relinquished all rights and privileges of such membership.

**ARTICLE V: The Offices of Pastor and Teacher**

Only such candidates or pastors shall be called to serve as Pastors and Teachers who profess acceptance of, and pledge faithful adherence to, the Confessional Standard of this congregation as stipulated in Article II of this Constitution.

Called pastors and teachers may be removed from office for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of the duties of office, or the physical or emotional inability to perform those duties.

Charges on any of these counts shall be carefully investigated by the Board in accordance with the Guiding Principles and with consultation and guidance from the appropriate District officials. The Board, in Christian and lawful order, shall then notify the congregation of a Special Voter's Meeting scheduled to address the matter. To vote on removal from office forty-five percent (45%) of the eligible voting members must be present to constitute a quorum and a two-thirds majority of voting members present shall be required for adoption of such resolution.

**ARTICLE VI: Other Commissioned Church Workers**

Only those who profess acceptance of, and pledge faithful adherence to, the Confessional Standard of this congregation as stipulated in Article II of this Constitution shall receive a call to serve this congregation.

Called commissioned church workers may be removed from office for one of the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, willful neglect of the duties of office, or the physical or emotional inability to perform those duties.

Charges on any of these counts shall be carefully investigated by the Board in accordance with the Guiding Principles and with consultation and guidance from the appropriate District officials.

The Board, in Christian and lawful order, shall then notify the congregation of a Special Voter's Meeting scheduled to address the matter. To vote on removal from office forty-five percent (45%) of the eligible voting members must be present to constitute a quorum and a two-thirds majority of voting members present shall be required for adoption of such resolution.

#### **ARTICLE VII: The Office of Commissioned District Deacon**

Only those who have graduated from the District Deaconate Training and/or been approved for Commissioning and who profess acceptance of and pledge faithful adherence to the Confessional Standard of this congregation as stipulated in Article II of this Constitution, shall be commissioned to serve in this congregation. Commissioning is at the discretion of the Sr. Pastor with approval from the Board.

If such worker is removed from the District roster as a Commissioned District Deacon, this action would automatically remove the worker from office in this congregation.

A Commissioned District Deacon, employee or volunteer, may be dismissed from employment/service by the Sr. Pastor, in accordance with Article 2, Section 5 and 6 of the By-Laws.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: Property Rights**

If, at any time, a separation should take place within this congregation, the guidance of the District and Synod shall be sought. If, despite all efforts to resolve the differences in peace and love, a division 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 II and III of this constitution. In the event that this congregation disband or fail to hold worship services on a regular basis, the property and all benefits therewith connected shall be transferred to the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

#### **ARTICLE IX: Changing the Constitution**

- A. This constitution may be changed or amended, with the exception of the Articles listed in Section B of this Article, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at a meeting of the voting membership. The meeting date and issue to be address must be published at least 30 days prior to the meeting during which the change or amendment will be presented for action. Said publication shall take place once in the parish newsletter and/or weekly in the worship bulletin announcements. The proposed constitutional changes in their entirety shall be readily available to the congregation during that period of time.
- B. Articles II, III, IV, V, VIII, and IX-B are hereby made irrevocable.

**ARTICLE X: By-Laws**

The voting membership of this congregation may adopt such By-Laws as may be required for the accomplishment of its purpose.