

REFORMATION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

15750 Magnolia Street
Westminster, California 92683

CONSTITUTION

Adopted January 29, 2006

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church shall be: Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church.

ARTICLE II - FOUNDATION, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF MINISTRY

1. The foundation of Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church, ("This Church"), is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11) and its code of guidance in all its affairs is the Word of God. This Church does here affirm its faith that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of Almighty God (Mark 13:31). We subscribe to the Reformation pronouncement of *Sola Scriptural* by which we mean that Scripture is *norma normata* (the norm that norms everything).
2. In addition to the Bible This Church accepts the following as further expressions of Biblical Truth: The three historical Christian Creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian) as well as the Book of Concord of 1580 (containing the Unaltered Augsburg Confession). These articles of faith are authoritative for all elders, pastors and church workers of This Church.
3. The objectives of This Church shall be to worship God according to the teaching of His Word; to believe in Christ and accept His blessings and receive them because of His mercy rather than because of our own merits (Augsburg Confession, Article IV); to sustain the Gospel's pure doctrine and the correct administration of the Sacraments; and to preach and propagate among all peoples the Gospel of Salvation which is faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
4. The priorities of ministry of This Church flow from the vision of God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ. We exist to savor this vision in worship (John 4:23); to strengthen the vision in nurture and in education (1 Corinthians 14:26, 2 Peter 3:18); to spread the vision in evangelism and world missions; and to serve to our neighbor (1 Peter 2:9, 3:15, Matthew 5:16, 28:18-20).

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of This Church shall consist of persons who have been baptized and who have been received into its membership according to the By-Laws of This Church.

1. **Baptized members** are those persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in This Church; or, having been previously baptized in the name of the

Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from another Lutheran congregation; or, baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.

2. Confirmed members are baptized persons who confess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and give evidence of regeneration by living consistent with such profession of and with the views of faith, doctrine and practice of This Church; or, have been confirmed in This Church; or, 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.

3. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have received the Lord's Supper and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

4. Associate members are persons holding membership, in good standing, in another Christian congregation who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of This Church. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility to be an elected officer.

ARTICLE IV - LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

1. Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the congregation of This Church is the final authority within This Church. This authority is normally exercised through the election of officers to govern This Church. However, the vote of the membership of This Church at a properly called meeting, as provided in the By-Laws, shall be required to effect the following actions.

- a.** Accept members into This Church; give letters of transfer or recommendation to members; and to remove members from the membership roll of This Church.
- b.** Elect officers of This Church.
- c.** Discipline members of This Church by dismissing them; and discipline officers of This Church by removing them from office.
- d.** Approve annual budgets of This Church; authorize any expenditure of the funds of This Church when such expenditure is not covered by an approved budget and is in an amount which is greater than five per cent (5%) of the budget for that year; and approve any transactions regarding real property.
- e.** Accept, reject, or otherwise dispose of any matter submitted to the membership of This Church by the Council of Elders, or raised by motion at a business meeting of the congregation of This Church.
- f.** Adopt, amend, or repeal the Constitution or By-Laws of This Church.

g. Approve the call and job description of Vocational Pastors and Vocational Ministers.

h. Terminate the association of This Church with any church body.

2. The offices of This Church are not biblically necessary but are beneficial for the pure proclamation of the Gospel and that the Sacraments are correctly administered and for the efficient operation of This Church. The governing offices of This Church shall be Elder and Deacon. The purpose of the officers of This Church is to lovingly govern, care for, and equip the membership to do the work of the ministry.

3. The leadership of This Church shall be vested in the Council of Elders who are responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word and tending the flock of God in This Church. The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function.

4. Deacons shall assist the Council of Elders by performing services of advice, administration and implementation.

ARTICLE V - THE CHURCH PROPERTY

1. In the event of a division of This Church, from which may God in His mercy save us, the property of This Church shall belong to that group of such division as represents the largest portion of This Church's membership before recognizing such division provided such group is loyal to this Constitution, otherwise it shall belong to the group remaining loyal to this Constitution though it may not be the largest group in such division. Should any controversy arise as to whether such loyalty exists, the question shall be submitted to the Ruling Board of the local governing body identified in the By-Laws Article VIII (Church Cooperation).

2. Should a condition arise at any time in the future when for any reason the work of This Church cannot continue, the property of This Church shall be transferred to the local governing body identified in the By-Laws Article VIII (Church Cooperation).

3. Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable, the Council of Elders shall be authorized by This Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as the property of This Church is concerned.

ARTICLE VI - REVISIONS, ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS

1. Revisions, additions or amendments of this Constitution may be made only in the following manner:

a. At the annual meeting and

b. by a majority vote of the voting members, or a two-thirds majority of those voting members present and voting at such meeting, provided that at least ten per cent (10%) of the resident voting members of This Church are present at such meeting and

c. after presentation by written motion at a special business meeting held at least three months before the annual meeting and

d. if notice of the proposed change or addition has been given, in writing and from the pulpit on at least two Sundays preceding said annual meeting.

2. Articles II and VI of this Constitution shall not be repealed, amended nor revised.