

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS  
for  
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of  
Courtenay, British Columbia

**Preamble**

Whereas the history of the Christian Church of all times shows that certain rules and regulations are necessary properly to attain the purposes and fulfill the obligations of congregations; and

Whereas the Apostle Paul sets forth, 1 Corinthians 14:40 that all things in the church should be done “decently and in order”, therefore be it resolved

That we, a congregation of Christians, do herewith, in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and subscribing our name hereto, adopt the following Constitution and By-laws.

**CONSTITUTION**

**Article I: Name**

The name of this congregation shall be: “Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Courtenay British Columbia”.

**Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of this body shall be that of a religious organization, established and maintained not for profit, but to disseminate the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church as set forth in the Articles of Faith (Article IV).

### **Article III: Locality of Operations**

The locality of operations of the Faith Lutheran Church shall be Courtenay and district. The Southern boundary shall be Fanny Bay; the Northern boundary shall be Oyster River; the Western boundary shall be a line parallel to the coast and including the communities of Bevan and Cumberland; the Eastern boundary shall be the eastern shoreline of Vancouver Island and shall include Denman Island,

### **Article IV: Articles of Faith**

This congregation accepts and confesses all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, and a symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, as a correct presentation and true exposition of Christian Doctrine, drawn from, and in full agreement with, the Holy Scriptures; hence, no doctrine shall be taught or tolerated in this congregation which is in any degree at variance with the following symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church:

1. The three Ecumenical Creeds; the Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian.
2. The unaltered Augsburg Confession.
3. The Apology of the same.
4. The Smalcald Articles.
5. Luther's Catechisms, the Large and the Small.
6. The Formula of Concord.

And we set forth that, according to this form of doctrine and faith, all controversies which may arise in this congregation shall be decided and adjusted.

### **Article V: Membership**

Membership in this congregation may be held by all who:

1. Are baptized;
2. Declare their adherence to all the Canonical books of the Old and New Testaments without qualification, as the only rule and form of faith and life;

3. Are familiar, at least, with Luther's Small Catechism, and declare their acceptance of the same;
4. Do not live in manifest works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) but lead Christian lives;
5. Do not neglect the use of the means of grace, the Word, and the Sacraments;
6. If the Lord should bless them with children, agree to give them a Christian education according to the methods in use in this congregation;
7. Permit themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected when they have erred, according to Matthew 18:15-20;
8. Are free from all antichristian associations, such as most lodges or secret societies (Compare 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 and Matthew 5:34-37); and,
9. Submit to this constitution.

#### **Article VI: Contributions**

It shall be the duty of every member to contribute according to ability toward all, financial needs of the congregation and of the church, at large (1 Corinthians 16:2; Mark 16:15).

#### **Article VII: Excommunication and Dismissal**

All persons who are excommunicated according to Matthew 18:15-20, or who excommunicate themselves by evading procedure, and those who, by removal or otherwise, sever their connection with the congregation, give up all the rights in the congregation and its property.

Members, who, for reasons that are justified by the Word of God, ask for their dismissal or their release to a sister congregation, shall be peaceably released by the congregation. Such dismissed members relinquish all their rights in the congregation and its property.

Members who do not participate in any way in the congregation's work for one year may be removed from the membership list; but this only after the persons in question have stated they no longer desire membership,

Should a removed or released member wish to join the congregation again, the same procedure shall be followed as in receiving new members.

Excommunicated members may, after they, have shown evidence of repentance, again be received according to the usual procedure in such cases.

### **Article VIII: Separation**

If at any time a separation should occur in this congregation on account of doctrine or for any other cause, the property and privileges of this congregation shall remain in possession of those members who adhere to this constitution.

### **Article IX: Calling a Pastor, etc.**

The Christian congregation has the exclusive right to call and elect teachers, and their officers. The pastorate of this congregation shall be conferred only upon ministers or ministerial candidates who unqualifiedly and publicly accept and adhere to Article II of this constitution; and such acceptance and adherence shall be required of them in the call or vocation extended by the congregation.

NOTE: In case of vacancy of the pastorate the congregation shall notify the District President, so that he may assist in temporarily filling the vacancy and advise concerning the calling of a new pastor.

### **Article X: Removal from Office**

Any officer of the congregation may be removed from office by an orderly vote in a Christian manner. Sufficient and urgent cause for removing a pastor or pastoral assistant are: persistent adherence to false doctrine, scandalous life, or wilful neglect of duty; excepting the pastorate, an office thus or otherwise vacated shall be taken over by the next highest eligible candidate for that office.

### **Article XI**

Articles IV to X inclusive of this constitution may neither be altered nor repealed.