

**AMENDED AND RESTATED CONSTITUTION
OF
GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
URBANDALE, IA.**

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

PREAMBLE

It is the will of our Lord Jesus Christ that His disciples should preach the Gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). In order that Christ's mission for his Church might be carried out according to His will, He has Commanded that Christians unite in worship (Hebrews 10:24-25), practice fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42), witness to all men (Acts 1:8), help each other grow in the Word (Ephesians 4:11-14), serve the needs of all mankind in Christian love (Ephesians 4:7-16, Mark 10:42-44, John 13:35, Galatians 6:10), administer the Office of the Keys as His Church (John 20:21-23, Matthew 18:15-20), and maintain decency and order (I Corinthians 14:40) in the Church. Therefore, we, as members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, IA adopt and subscribe to the following Amended and Restated Constitution (hereinafter the "Constitution"), in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of our Congregation shall be conducted.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this Congregation shall be Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, IA (hereinafter the "Congregation").

**ARTICLE II
CONFESSION OF FAITH**

This Congregation accepts in all its parts the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired, revealed and inerrant Word of God, and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as the correct presentation and true exposition of Christian Doctrine drawn from the Holy Scriptures, namely:

1. The Three Ecumenical Creeds. (The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian);
2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession;
3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession;
4. The Smalcald Articles;
5. Luther's Large Catechism;
6. Luther's Small Catechism; and
7. The Treatise on the Authority and Primacy of the Pope
8. The Formula of Concord.

No doctrine or practice in conflict, or inconsistent with the above norms of our faith and life shall be taught or tolerated in this Congregation.

ARTICLE III SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

This Congregation shall be affiliated with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as long as the confessions and constitution of said Synod are in accord with the confession and the Constitution of this Congregation as set forth 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.

This Congregation is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

- A. Baptized membership in this Congregation is held by all those who are baptized in the Name of the Triune God with water and are under our pastoral care.
- B. Communicant membership in this Congregation shall be held only by those who:
 1. Are baptized in the Name of the Triune God;
 2. Have declared their acceptance of the confessions of this Congregation as contained in Article II of this constitution.
 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 contained in such By-Laws;

4. Do not live in manifest works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), but lead a Christian life; and
 5. Who are not members, affiliates, or supporters of any organization whose purposes, principles, or practices 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 the five points in Section B of this Article and shall meet the requirements stated or implied in the disciplinary, or other provisions, of the By-Laws. A member who voluntarily severs his or her connection with this Congregation, or who has been released or transferred, or who has been excommunicated or excludes himself or herself according to the provisions of the By-Laws, shall be deemed to have terminated his or her membership in this Congregation along with all rights and privileges of such membership.

ARTICLE V ORGANIZATION

- A. ***Scriptural Authority.*** All activities of the Congregation shall be regulated and all controversies, doctrinal or otherwise, which may arise within the Congregation, shall be resolved on the basis of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Any decision made to the contrary shall be null and void.
- B. ***The Congregation.*** The Congregation is organized as a religious corporation. The Congregation shall have power to manage and administer its internal and external affairs. The Congregation, however, shall not be empowered to decide anything contrary to the Word or God and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church (Article II) and any such decision shall be null and void.

The Congregation hereby delegates its power to the Gloria Dei Governing Board, except in the following designated areas:

1. The Calling of a Pastor
2. The Removal of a Pastor
3. The Acquisition or Disposition of Real Estate
4. The Incurrence of Indebtedness
5. The Election or Removal of the Members of the Governing Board
6. The Ratification of the Annual Budget
7. The Excommunication of a Member of the Congregation
8. The Separation or Disbandment of the Congregation
9. The Amendment of the Constitution and the By-Laws.

Any right or power delegated to the Governing Board shall be subject to review, revision or revocation by the Congregation.

C. ***The Gloria Dei Governing Board.*** The Governing Board shall exercise all powers delegated to it by the Congregation. The Governing Board may delegate its powers to such officers, boards and committees, in such manner as it shall deem fit and proper. Such officers, boards and committees, however, shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them, and such conferred power may be altered or revoked by the Governing Board.

D. ***Officers.*** The officers of the Congregation shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Governing Board. Such officers shall be elected in accordance with the By-Laws.

All references to the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary throughout the Constitution and By-Laws shall refer to the officers named above, unless otherwise stated.

E. ***Elders.*** A group of spiritually mature men shall be named to the Elder Board for the purpose of supporting the pastors in worship activities and promoting the spiritual health of the congregation.

ARTICLE VI PASTORS

Only such candidates shall be called and elected to serve as Pastor(s) who

1. Are eligible for call in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
2. Profess acceptance of, and pledge faithful adherence to the confessions of this Congregation as set forth in Article II of this Constitution.

In the absence of adequate cause for dismissal, as defined in the By-Laws of the Congregation, the tenure of office of a called Pastor shall be the remainder of his active life, or until the Lord calls him into another field of service within or without the Ministry.

ARTICLE VII PROPERTY RIGHTS

- A. **In Case of Separation.** If, at any time, a separation should take place within this Congregation, which God may graciously prevent, the advice of the officers of District and Synod shall be sought. If, despite all efforts to reconcile differences in peace and love, a division into factions of the Congregation shall occur, the majority of the Voters' Assembly retains the full right to hold and use the property and the name.
- B. **In Case of Disbandment.** In the event the Congregation shall totally disband, the property and all rights connected herewith shall be transferred to The Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod after any and all debts are paid and upon acceptance of the District.

ARTICLE VIII BY-LAWS

The Congregation shall adopt such By-Laws as may be required for the accomplishment of its Christian mission as stated in the Preamble. The By-Laws may be amended as provided therein.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended, with the exception of the Articles listed in Section B of this Article, by the members of the Congregation at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, by two-thirds of the votes cast provided that

- a. The intention to amend the Constitution, and the wording of the amendments proposed, shall be available to the Congregation assembled for worship for four (4) consecutive weeks prior to the date upon which the amendment is presented for action.
- b. Articles II, III, IV, VI, VII and VIII of this Constitution may be amended by the voting members of the congregation at a regular or special meeting at a which a quorum is present, by three-fourths of the votes cast.

**This Amended and Restated Constitution was approved by the
Governing Board of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, IA
on the __7th__ day of __June____, 2005
and ratified by the Voters Assembly on the __12th__ day of
__June____, 2005.**

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Iowa District West,
approved the above Constitution.**

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____