

Constitution

Constitution of the Metochos Ministries Lutheran Bible Camp Association Incorporated

Preamble

Inasmuch as the Word of God teaches that all things should be done decently and in order, we adopt the following constitution for Metochos Ministries Lutheran Bible Camp Association Incorporated.

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be Metochos Ministries Lutheran Bible Camp Association Incorporated, hereafter referred to as Metochos.

Article II Confession of Faith

Believing that the Church and its camping and outdoor ministry is committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; and that outdoor ministry is an integral part of the Kingdom work of the church; and that through this ministry exists an effective resource in equipping individuals to be the church in the world, Metochos acknowledges and professes the Confession of Faith from the Approved Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). This confession reads in part:

Section 1. Metochos confesses faith in the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit as the one true God. We proclaim the Father as Creator and Preserver, His Son Jesus Christ as Redeemer and Lord, and the Holy Spirit as Regenerator and Sanctifier.

Section 2. Metochos confesses that the Gospel is the revelation of God's saving will and grace in Jesus Christ, which He imparts through Word and Sacrament. Through these means of grace the Holy Spirit creates believers and unites them with their Lord and with one another in the fellowship of the Holy Christian Church.

Section 3. Metochos confesses the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and as the only source of the Church's doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the Church.

Section 4. Metochos subscribes to the documents of the Book of Concord of 1580 as witnesses to the way in which the Holy Scriptures have been correctly understood and explained and confessed for the sake of the Gospel, namely:
The Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds as the chief confessions of the Christian faith;

The Unaltered Augsburg Confession as its basic formulation of Christian doctrine;
Luther's Small Catechism as a clear summary of Christian doctrine;
The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles with the Treatise, and the Formula of Concord as further witnesses to the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

" We are not alone, we live in God's world."

God is present in the world and in our lives; God's activity and loving hand is made known to us through the beauty of the creation and through the people around us. Church camping ministry is a unique way in which our church can share and celebrate God's presence in the world.

"...to live with respect in creation..."

At camp, people of various ages and stages gather to share in Christian community. They eat together, cook and clean together, work and learn together, disagree and laugh together. They

swim and canoe, gather around fires, walk in woods, and gaze at stars. In the faces of those around them, in the stillness of quiet moments alone, and in the struggles and joys of community, people meet God.

“... to love and serve others...”

Lutheran Church camping is a ministry that touches the lives of many children, teens, young adults, adults, and seniors every year. It is a ministry the church celebrates and supports. So that camp is to be a place of ministry and meeting God, campers, volunteers, staff, and camp boards work to help all feel nurtured, valued, and safe.

“...to seek justice and resist evil...”

Metochos and the church at large is obligated to ensure that camp facilities meet reasonable and recognized safety standards, and that the staff are trained and able to care for campers responsibly and lovingly.

“... to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope...”

Metochos is committed to offering quality Christian education programs, consistent with Lutheran Church culture and tradition. Metochos provides an environment of safety, love, respect, and community, where Christ's loving presence can be celebrated and shared.

Article III Purpose

1. To further the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada by offering opportunities for growth, under trained leadership, through a program of outdoor ministry.
2. To offer participants opportunity to interact positively with adult Christians.
3. To offer participants opportunity to explore the meaning of who they are in the light of God's Word.
4. To offer participants opportunity to experience Christian group living.
5. To offer participants opportunity to learn how to respond to God's call to service.

Article IV Membership

1. Any congregation, which is a member of the Weyburn Conference of the Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), shall be considered a member of the Association.
2. Other Lutheran Congregations of the ELCIC are invited to apply for membership.
3. Any member congregation may withdraw from the Association at any time by notice to the Association. Upon withdrawal the member congregation shall not be entitled to a refund of any portion of the contributions or accumulated assets that the member may have provided.
4. The Board shall keep a current register of member congregations.

Article V The Board of Directors

1. At least three and no more than five clergy and at least three and no more than five laypeople shall constitute the membership of the Board of the association.
2. Executive officers of the camp Board shall be elected from within the Board by the Board and shall consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.
3. The Dean of the Weyburn Conference of the ELCIC (or delegate) shall be an ex-officio member of the Board, with voice and vote.
4. Executive officers of the Board shall serve as executive officers of the Association.
5. The term of office shall be for two years, with retiring members eligible for re-election. Half the members' terms shall expire annually. Vacancies shall be filled by elections at the annual meeting of the Association. The Board may appoint directors to fill any vacancies until the next annual meeting of the Association.
6. The Board of Directors shall be in charge of the year-by-year operation of the Camp within the constitution, mission statement, guidelines or directives of the Association.

7. The Board shall meet at least four times a year.
8. A special meeting of the Board may be called by giving written notice addressed to each Board member at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The chairman or any three Board members may call such a meeting.

Article VI Meetings

1. The annual general meeting of the Association shall normally be held within 120 days of the close of the fiscal year.
2. A special meeting of the Association may be called at any time by the chairman or by at least three Board members or by three member congregations.
3. The secretary shall circulate notice of the time and place of the meeting to the member congregations.
4. Representatives of the member congregations elected by their congregation and pastors of member congregations shall be the voting delegates to the Association meeting. Each congregation shall have no more than one voting delegate in addition to their pastor(s).
5. A quorum at a general meeting shall consist of a minimum of 12 voting delegates appointed by the member congregations.
6. Voting shall be by show of hands, except where a ballot is requested.
7. In all matters not specifically provided for herein, Bourinot's Rules of Order shall be followed.

Article VII Amendment of this Constitution

1. Proposed amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Association, and to each member congregation at least 30 days prior to the annual general meeting or 30 days prior to a special meeting of the Association.
2. Proposed amendments shall be approved with or without change by a majority vote of those present and voting.
3. At a subsequent annual general meeting of the association held not less than 30 days later the propose amendments shall be approved without further changes by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting.

Article VIII Dissolution

In the event the Association dissolves, all assets belonging to the Association shall become property of The Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, or its successor. Following a period of consultation in the Weyburn Conference the Synod shall receive recommendation from the Weyburn Conference concerning the assets of the Association.