

Constitution of The Ohio Mission Region of the North American Lutheran Church

Article 1 – Name and Incorporation

1.01 The name of this Council shall be the Ohio Mission Region of the North American Lutheran Church. (For the purposes of this document, the North American Lutheran Church herein after shall be designated as, “NALC”).

1.02 The Ohio Mission Region will be incorporated in the State of Ohio.

Article 2 – Confession of Faith

The Ohio Mission Region accepts and agrees to honor the constitution of the NALC in its confessional statement [Constitution of the North American Lutheran Church (2011), Article 2].

Article 3 – Nature of the Church and the Ministry

3.01 The Ohio Mission Region acknowledges and accepts the description of the Nature of the Church and its Ministry described in the Constitution of the North American Lutheran Church (2011), Article 3.

3.02 As the Ohio Mission Region reflects on and makes decisions regarding its mission, all ordained ministers, elected lay delegates, as well as congregations of the Ohio Mission Region shall participate in the decision-making process of the Ohio Mission Region.

Article 4 – Ordained Ministry

4.01 The Ohio Mission Region recognizes that ordination, and reception of ordained clergy, shall be a function of the NALC, according to Article 4 of the NALC Constitution.

Article 5 – Commissioned Lay Ministry

5.01 The Ohio Mission Region recognizes that commissioning and reception of lay ministers shall be a function of the NALC, according to Article 5 of the NALC Constitution.

Article 6 – Membership

6.01 Each NALC Mission District that is located in Ohio is a member district of the Ohio Mission Region.

6.02 The Ohio Mission Region shall have no right to or interest in the property of any congregation or any property within its territory, unless a congregation has expressly conveyed such a right or interest to the Ohio Mission Region.

6.03 The work of the Ohio Mission Region shall be done under the guidance of the member Mission Districts, and in consultation with the Bishop of the NALC, the NALC Executive Council and other leaders of the NALC.

Article 7 – Convocation

7.01 A convocation of the Ohio Mission Region shall be held annually, in conjunction with the Convocations of the Mission Districts of Ohio.

7.02 Delegates with voting privileges at a convocation of the Ohio Mission Region shall be the ordained ministers of the Mission Districts that comprise the Ohio Mission Region, and the official lay delegates of the congregations of the Mission Districts in Ohio. Each congregation of the Ohio Mission Region shall be entitled to the same number of delegates as were assigned to their congregation at the last NALC convocation. New congregations which have never officially attended an NALC convocation shall be represented by their pastor(s) and one (1) lay delegate.

7.03 All voting members of the convocation are delegates and as such represent their congregations.

7.04 The responsibilities of the annual convocation of the Ohio Mission Region shall include: election of the officers, the Mission Regional Council, and any other position requiring election; adoption of a budget for the subsequent fiscal year (to be defined as July 1 - June 30) by a majority vote; consideration of mission and ministry needs of the Ohio Mission Region; reception of reports; and other items of business as may be determined by the Mission Regional Council, the convener, or by the Convocation.

7.05 Special convocations may be called for specified purposes by the convener or by a majority vote of the Mission Regional Council.

7.06 Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the business of a convocation, absent the approval by the convocation of alternative rules of procedure by at least two-thirds of the votes cast.

7.07 A quorum for the convocation shall be those present. The convener or the convener's designee shall preside over the convocation.

Article 8 – Convener

8.01 The convener shall be one of the deans who is serving a Mission District in Ohio. The convener shall serve as pastor to the deans, their families, and congregations.

8.02 The convener shall convene and preside over the meetings of the Ohio Mission Regional Council, and preside over the annual Convocation.

8.03 The convener shall serve for a term of one year, with no limit on the number of consecutive terms.

8.04 The convener will be elected by the members of the Regional Council, immediately following the conclusion of the annual Convocation.

8.05 In the event of a vacancy in the convener's position, the secretary will convene a meeting of the Regional Council, for the purpose of that council electing a new convener.

8.06 After consultation with the NALC Bishop and the Court of Adjudication, the Regional Council of this Mission Region is empowered to suspend the convener by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of all members of the Regional Council, excluding the convener, for cause as outlined in the provisions for discipline in the NALC Constitution. The next annual Convocation of this Mission Region may remove the suspended convener by a two-thirds (2/3) vote and elect a successor.

Article 9 – Officers

9.01 In addition to the Convener, the other officers of the Ohio Mission Region shall be a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer. The Recording Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected by the annual convocation through the nominating and election process and may serve a term of two (2) years, and may serve three (3) consecutive full terms.

9.02 The Recording Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years, and the Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years.

9.03 The Recording Secretary shall assure that proper records are made and retained.

9.04 The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Ohio Mission Region, overseeing the receiving and disbursing of all funds and keeping accurate accounts of all transactions. Further, the Treasurer shall make complete and accurate reports for review by all members of the Ohio Mission Region.

9.05 The Recording Secretary and the Treasurer shall have voice and vote in meetings of the Mission Regional Council.

9.06 In the event of a vacancy in an unexpired term of an officer, the Mission Regional Council of the Ohio Mission Region may appoint any eligible person to fill the unexpired term, and that person may then be eligible to be elected.

Article 10 – Mission Regional Council

10.01 The Mission Regional Council of the Ohio Mission Region shall consist of the convener, the Deans of each of the Mission Districts in Ohio, the recording secretary, the treasurer, and one lay representative of each Mission District who shall be elected by their Mission District. The convener shall preside at all meetings. If the convener is unavailable, the Mission Regional Council shall choose one of its members to preside for that meeting.

10.02 The duties and function of the Mission Regional Council shall be to:

- a. Act as Board of Directors for the Ohio Mission Region.
- b. Establish policies and procedures to guide the Mission Regional Council and the Ohio Mission Region.
- c. Ensure financial integrity and solvency.
- d. Develop long-range planning for the Ohio Mission Region to be presented at the annual convocation.
- e. Prepare the proposed fiscal-year budget, including an estimate of the percentage of income required from each mission district to fund the budget, set financial standards, and provide for fiduciary oversight for the Ohio Mission.
- f. Approve a proposed agenda and program for each convocation.
- g. Create and oversee committees and task forces (appointed) as needed to assist the Mission Regional Council in carrying out its duties.
- h. Report all actions to the next annual convocation.

10.03 Any necessary disciplinary action, including suspension, regarding the secretary or treasurer, shall be by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of all members of the Mission Regional Council, after consultation with the NALC Bishop and the Court of Adjudication. The next annual convocation of the Ohio Mission Region may remove a suspended member by a two-thirds (2/3) vote and elect a successor.

10.04 A quorum for meetings of the Mission Regional Council shall be a simple majority of all voting members.

Article 11 – Indemnification

11.01 Any person who at any time shall serve or shall have served as an officer or a director of the Ohio Mission Region, or of any other enterprise at the request of the Ohio Mission Region, and the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person shall be indemnified by the Ohio Mission Region in accordance with, and to the fullest extent permitted, by the State of Ohio Statutes, as they may be amended from time to time.

11.02 Nothing contained in this Article 11 shall affect any rights to indemnification to which the elected leaders of the Ohio Mission Region may be entitled under law.

Article 12 – Amendments to the Constitution

12.01 The Mission Regional Council may propose amendments to this Constitution no less than 90 days prior to the next annual Convocation, which shall be distributed to ordained ministers and congregations of the Ohio Mission Region prior to the Convocation. The adoption of such changes shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present and voting at such convocation.

12.02 A minimum of five (5) delegates to the convocation of the Ohio Mission Region may propose an amendment to the Constitution, in writing, at the Ohio Mission Region Convocation. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present and voting at such convocation as well as at the subsequent annual Convocation.

12.03 Within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of a Convocation, the Secretary shall give written notice to all ordained ministers and all congregations of the Ohio Mission Region of any constitutional amendment(s) approved by the convocation. Ratification of any amendment to this Constitution, prior to becoming effective, must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of congregations (a) which belonged to the Ohio Mission Region at the close of the Convocation that approved the amendment, and (b) which have voted on ratification in and through properly called congregational meetings, and (c) given written notice to the Secretary of the results of their voting within six months of the close of the convocation. For ratification to be valid, at least fifty percent (50%) of all eligible congregations must have voted on the question.

12.04 Upon ratification of any amendment to this Constitution, and after the period to receive votes from eligible congregations has ended, the Secretary shall give written notice of the approved amendment to the ordained ministers and all congregations within the Ohio Mission Region.

12.05 Notwithstanding the foregoing, any amendment to Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Constitution, or affecting the subject matter thereof, is contingent upon a corresponding change in the NALC Constitution articles of the same number. Upon final ratification of such changes in the NALC Constitution (see Art. 17), an equivalent amendment to this Constitution will occur as a matter of course.

12.06 By-laws not in conflict with this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Ohio Mission Region's convocation.

12.07 No amendments shall be made to this constitution that are in conflict with the Constitution of the NALC.

Article 13 Re-Formation

13.01 In the event that the NALC restructures this Mission Region, this constitution shall be in effect for all successor entities until such time as the new entity adopts its own constitution.