

# CHANGE SUMMARY FOR 2024-25 CONSTITUTION REWRITE

## SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 3rd, 2025

### Overview

Saint Luke's constitution rewrite, launched in 2023 and paused during the 2024 call process, is now progressing toward final adoption in 2025. The updated structure adopts the NALC's model constitution for congregations, with clearer language in key sections like the Church's nature and purpose. Voting eligibility has been simplified, the quorum for congregational meetings raised, and new provisions added for pastoral transitions, financial governance, and staff supervision. The Financial Secretary role transitions to Treasurer, standing committees are expanded and formalized, and officer election standards have been revised to reflect current governance practices.

The summary below outlines key constitutional updates approved by the Church Council and now presented for congregational review. The full document is provided separately for reference.

### Change Details

- The constitution adopts the NALC framework for its model constitution, restructuring Saint Luke's constitution to be organized by "Chapters" rather than "Articles" in the main body.
  - Chapter 3 (Nature of the Church) and Chapter 4 (Statement of Purpose) have been revised for greater clarity and consistency with the NALC model constitution.
  - Various clarifications and inclusion of common NALC language and provisions.
- Voting members are now required to either commune or contribute at least once (versus twice) per calendar year to retain full voting rights at both regular and special congregational meetings.
- The Church Council has been provided with additional guidance should an existing pastoral call require termination, with a focus on reconciliation and collaboration with the NALC.
- The quorum requirement for congregational meetings has been increased from 15% to 25%.
- The Financial Secretary position has evolved into a Treasurer role to better reflect the expanded scope of duties and align with standard non-profit practices in Colorado.
- All previous references to "Deaconess" have been updated to specify "Other Called Clergy" to allow flexibility as the Church's staffing evolves over future years.
- The Church Council's authority was clarified to allow incurring obligations up to 2.0% above total anticipated receipts, as projected by the treasurer, for unbudgeted expenditures—provided these do not exceed current assets (i.e., funds in savings, short-term asset accounts, etc.).
- Church and Children's Center staff supervision is formally placed under the authority of the Church Council, which may delegate this responsibility to the president, pastor, or other officers.
- The roster of standing committees has been expanded and includes additional guidelines:

- Establishes the Strategic Planning Committee and confirms the Financial Advisory, Audit Advisory, Pastoral Call, and Children's Center Advisory Committees
- Requires the Church Council to develop and approved additional details for each committee via Continuing Resolution, such as membership, terms of service, etc.
- Incorporated the 2024 congregation-approved amendment into Chapter 17 - Amendments.
- Updated the bylaws to reflect evolving needs and strengthen the church's governance structure:
  - Expanded the responsibilities and descriptions of Church Officers.
  - Codified the election of lay leadership for the president and vice president roles.
  - Changed officer election requirements from unanimous to a two-thirds majority of voting council members when using an ecclesiastical ballot framework.
- The Common Confession has been removed as a core element of the Church Constitution.
- Numerous administrative and formatting refinements have been implemented, though not all are highlighted (i.e., tracked changes) individually.

### **Review and Approval Schedule**

- ✓ 29 Jul – Council Meeting to approve the constitution and forward to the Congregation
- 3 Aug – Congregational announcement; information packet distributed for review
- 24 Aug – Council-hosted information meeting for Congregation Q&A
- 7 Sep – 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational vote (agenda, time, date announced 30 days before)
- 12 Oct – 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational (Ratification) Vote

### **Conclusion**

The revised constitution has been thoroughly reviewed and formally approved by the Church Council, affirming its alignment with both NALC standards and Saint Luke's evolving governance needs. The motion is now respectfully forwarded to the Congregation for review and consideration as part of our shared commitment to transparent, mission-centered decision-making.

### **A Big Thank You!**

On behalf of the Church Council, we extend sincere thanks to the Constitution Review Committee for their diligent work in authoring the proposed updates. In particular, we recognize Nick Miller, Dick Currey, Judy Lehman, and Barb McDonough for countless hours dedicated to this effort. Their thoughtful contributions reflect a deep commitment to our mission and governance principles.