**Constitution**

of the

**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod University (at Ohio State)**

**Article l - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization**

**Section 1 - Name:**

The name of the organization shall be Lutheran Church Missouri Synod University at Ohio State (hereafter, LCMS-U).

**Section 2 - Purpose**

The purpose of LCMS-U is to offer a confessional Lutheran community for the Lutheran students, faculty, and staff of Ohio State University.

1. Community exists where Christ gathers is around His Word and Sacraments. The Divine Service on Sunday morning is the primary location for this gathered community.
2. A midweek Bible study will be held on campus. This study is open to all, Lutheran and non-Lutheran alike. Other opportunities for mercy and life together will be available through outings, conferences, and mini-convocations.
3. LCMS-U will promote Lutheran education among its members and the university community. LCMS-U aims to provide for its members Christian fellowship based on Christian principles. This association’s programs shall be religious, educational, social, and service.

**Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:**

This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment. However, nothing in the prior sentence shall prevent the organization (and its members) from exercising its rights under Ohio State Law 3345.023, which explicitly permits the organization to require its leaders (and members) to adhere to our religious beliefs and our religiously-based standards of conduct as described by the doctrinal position and scriptural and confessional principles of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

**ARTICLE II - Membership**

**Section 1 - Membership Status**

1. Voting members must be Students of Ohio State University, in good standing.
2. Honorary, non-voting, membership implies an open invitation to all organizational activities, and as such members shall be kept informed of these activities. Honorary membership is open faculty/staff of OSU and to students of other local colleges/universities. The pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH, is an honorary member.
3. As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership of LCMS-U must include current Ohio State University students
4. Alumni members shall consist of former active and honorary members.

**ARTICLE III - Removal/Suspension of Members**

If it should be brought to the attention of the organization that any member is acting in a manner contrary to the aims and objectives of the organization or is involved in activities conflicting with University standards, this person’s membership may be revoked or suspended by a 2/3 vote of the council. A suspended member will lose his/her rights as an active member and restriction of his/her participation in LCMS-U events may be limited. For reactivation, a suspended member must present a letter of recommendation to the LCMS-U Council from the pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH.

**ARTICLE IV - Officers**

**Section 1 - Requirements for Officers**

The officers of LCMS-U must meet the following requirements:

1. Be an active member of LCMS-U
2. Be a confirmed member in good standing in a member congregation of the Luther Church-Missouri Synod or a church body with whom the LC-MS has altar and pulpit fellowship.
3. They will work with the LCMS-U faculty advisor and spiritual advisor (i.e. the Vicar or called and ordained Pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH) to coordinate LCMS-U events, both on and off campus.

**Section 2 - Elected Officers and Their Duties**

1. There shall be a President who will act as the chief student coordinator for all LCMS-U activities.
2. There shall be a Vice-President who will assist the President as needed. In the occurrence of a presidential vacancy, the Vice President shall become acting President until the term of the office is completed.
3. There shall be a Treasurer who will oversee the allocation and distribution of funds. The Treasurer will oversee the collection of funds for special projects where funding is initiated from members of LCMS-U.

**Section 3 - Term of Office**

The president, vice president, and treasurer shall be elected to a one year term beginning with the Autumn semester. There is no limit to the number of terms any one member may hold an office.

**Section 4 - Election of Officers**

1. The LCMS-U Council shall set the date of the election within one month of the end of the Spring semester.
2. The election shall be decided by a majority vote of those members present.
3. Newly elected officers shall assume their duties at the beginning of the Autumn semester.

**Section 5 - Vacancy**

In case of a vacancy, the president shall have the authority to appoint a replacement until such time when a special election can be held.

**Section 6 - Removal from office**

1. All officers are subject to removal from office by the organization and/or the advisor should the officer fail to maintain the requirements prescribed in Article IV, Section 1.
2. Any officer may be removed from office for unbecoming behavior. Any motion for removal is automatically tabled for one week, and the officer in question must be notified within 24 hours of the motion. If the officer in question is unable to attend the following meeting, the motion will be tabled again. The next week if the officer does not attend the meeting, the vote may take place regardless. At the meeting, the officer in question may have the right to speak in their defense for a maximum of five minutes. A 2/3 vote of all active members is required for removal from office.

**ARTICLE V - Advisors**

**Section 1 - Faculty Advisor**

The faculty advisor shall be appointed annually by the spiritual advisor.

**Section 2 - Spiritual Advisor**

The called and ordained pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH shall serve as spiritual advisor for LCMS-U. He may be supported by a Vicar placement. The Pastor (and Vicar, if applicable) shall work closely with the members of LCMS-U, providing teaching and pastoral care where and as needed.

**ARTICLE VI - Committees**

**Section 1 - Standing Committees**

Standing Committees may be created by a 2/3 vote of the LCMS-U Council. A 2/3 vote of the Council or a 2/3 vote of the active members is needed to disband a standing committee.

**Section 2 - Temporary Committees**

Temporary committees shall be appointed at the discretion of the president and may be dissolved by the president or by a 2/3 vote of the LCMS-U Council.

**ARTICLE VII - Constitution**

**Section 1 - Amendments**

Written announcement of a proposed amendment must be given to the membership and spiritual advisor of LCMS-U at least one week before the scheduled voter’s meeting. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.