

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod University

Student Organization Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod University

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

The purpose of LCMSU is to offer a confessional Lutheran community for the Lutheran students, faculty, and staff of Ohio State University. 1) Community exists where Christians gather around His Word and Sacraments. The Divine Service on Sunday morning is the primary location for this gathered community. 2) A weekly 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.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod University *agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination 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 basis in accordance with the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.*

Section B. Hazing

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod University *agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.*

Section C. Bylaws

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod University *retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments*

and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

All active students of The Ohio State University are eligible for student membership (Student Members).

Alumni students and other individuals affiliated with The Ohio State University are eligible for alumni membership (Alumni Members).

Special membership are given at the discretion of the faculty advisor (Honorary Members). Honorary, non-voting, membership implies an open invitation to all organizational activities, and as such members shall be kept informed of these activities.

Section B. Member Selection

Prospective members who have attended at least two Bible studies or events are considered to be members of this organization.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Prospective members can join at any time. After attending one Bible study or event, they are invited to become a member of this organization; they are considered members when they attend a second Bible study or event.

Section D. Member Removal

Members can be removed by either organizational or executive process:

Organizational Process:

If a member meets criteria for the grounds for removal specified in subsection I, a student officer may initiate the process by calling a special meeting of officers excepting council members. A unanimous vote of all officers is required to continue the process. Should all officers agree to remove the member, they must follow the procedure outlined in subsection II to call a removal meeting. The procedure of the removal meeting is specified in subsection III. The decision to remove the member is made in this removal meeting. The decision, and additional measures (such as making the removed student ineligible to rejoin the organization) must be recorded in writing.

I. Grounds for Removal: Either (1) Acting in a manner contrary to the aims and objectives of the organization or is involved in activities conflicting with university standards, or (2) Violation of organizational bylaws.

II. Calling for a Removal Meeting: The officers shall notify the member in question that they are scheduling a removal meeting three days before notifying any other members. If the member in question formally leaves the organization during this time, the process concludes and the member in question is ineligible to rejoin the organization. Otherwise, the officers must summon the member in question, as well as the faculty advisor and

all council members. The summon must be in a written form such as email. The time set for the removal meeting must be between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time in a weekday at least one week after the notification. The place chosen must be on campus or a location approved by the faculty advisor.

III. Procedure for the Removal Meeting: The meeting starts at the scheduled time. If the member in question is not present ten minutes after the scheduled time, they are removed from membership and are ineligible to rejoin the organization. In this meeting, the officers that started the process will first present evidence against the member in question. Then, the member in question will have a maximum of fifteen minutes to present a defence (More time can be granted at the discretion of the faculty advisor). Finally, the member in question will leave the room and a vote will be called. A unanimous vote of all non-council officers, and a 2/3 vote of all council members, and approval of the faculty advisor is required to remove the member. The member in question will then be notified immediately after the decision is reached.

Executive Process:

Any members can be immediately removed or reinstated by a written instruction, such as an email, from the pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH. No decisions reached in the organizational process can affect this decision.

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

The faculty advisor of the organization has the responsibility to ensure that this organization's activities align with its purpose. Specifically, the advisor should be present at all council meetings, oversee LCMSU elections, and approve or deny the organization's biannual written issue of goals and plans.

Section B. Advisor Term

The faculty advisor shall serve one year terms without term limits.

Section C. Advisor Selection

Any officer, including council members, can make a nomination once they have identified a faculty member willing to serve as the faculty advisor of LCMSU, any faculty member of The Ohio State University is eligible. The nomination should take place at the annual officer election before the election of officers. The prospective advisor must be present to accept the nomination. A vote of 2/3 of all members present and a 2/3 vote of all officers and council members present is required to approve the nomination. The faculty advisor should then oversee the election. Should there be no contest, the nominee is automatically approved. The election of officers is detailed in Article VI section C.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

Should the advisor anticipate not serving as the faculty advisor for the next academic year, they should attempt to find a replacement advisor and nominate them in the same process as in the previous section.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

The officer positions of LCMSU shall be:

President - the chief student coordinator for all LCMSU activities. They shall schedule and conduct meetings, plan elections, and lead other officers in carrying out the purpose of LCMSU. The President may veto any spending requests, and appoint replacement officers in case of an unexpected vacancy.

Vice President - 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.

Treasurer - The Treasurer will oversee the collection of funds for special projects where funding is initiated from members of LCMSU. LCMSU as an organization is not allowed to take on debt, the treasurer may veto spending requests if and only if they believe that it would lead to incurring debt. Furthermore, the treasurer should communicate objections as soon as possible to all relevant members or affiliated persons when they believe that the organization either (1) will incur debt at some point in the future if nothing is changed, (2) have incurred debt, and work on remedying the situation.

The president, vice president, and treasurer shall be elected in the spring semester 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.

Council Member - Council Members are to assist with decision making process by voting on important proposals, they are subject to the same requirements and responsibilities of other student officers. Council meetings shall be held twice per semester and be called and conducted by the President. Council members serve until they resign or graduate, and two are elected each year.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

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) to coordinate LCMS-U events, both on and off campus.

Note that 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.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

Officers are elected annually in the spring semester, the election meeting must be called and conducted by the active faculty advisor. In the event that there is either no active faculty advisor, the president will call the election and conduct the election until the replacement faculty advisor is approved. Then, the replacement faculty advisor will take over conducting the election, and the officers for the next academic year can be then elected. In the case that there is no active advisor and no nominated advisor, the president will conduct the whole election. All eligible members may run in the election and be given the same amount of time to present their campaign. After all running members have presented their campaign, a written secret vote will be made. The student member that receive the highest amount of vote wins and is ineligible for other positions. The sequence of positions to be elected shall be: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Council Member, in that order.

Section D. Officer Removal

Officers can be removed by either organizational or executive process:

Organizational Process:

If an officer meets criteria for the grounds for removal specified in subsection I, a student officer or council member may initiate the process by calling a special meeting of all council members. A unanimous vote of all council members is required to continue the process. Should all council members agree to remove the officer, they must follow the procedure outlined in subsection II to call a removal meeting. The procedure of the removal meeting is specified in subsection III. The decision to remove the member is made in this removal meeting. The decision, and additional measures (such as removing the officer from membership in this organization) must be recorded in writing.

I. Grounds for Removal: Either (1) Acting in a manner contrary to the aims and objectives of the organization or is involved in activities conflicting with university standards, (2) Violation of organizational bylaws, (3) Failure to fulfill their responsibilities as detailed in Section A, or (4) Losing eligibility as specified in section B.

II. Calling for a Removal Meeting: The officers shall notify the officer in question that they are scheduling a removal meeting three days before notifying any other members. If the officer in question formally leaves the organization during this time, the process concludes and the officer in question are removed from membership are are ineligible to rejoin the organization. If the officer in question formally resigns from the organization and all council members accepts their resignation during this time, the process concludes and the officer in question are removed from their position. Otherwise, the council members must summon the officer in question, as well as the faculty advisor and all members. The summon must be in a written form such as email. The time set for the removal meeting must be between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time in a weekday at least one week after the notification. The place chosen must be on campus or a location approved by the faculty advisor.

III. Procedure for the Removal Meeting: The meeting starts at the scheduled time. If the officer in question is not present ten minutes after the scheduled time, they are removed from their position, as well as from membership and are ineligible to rejoin the organization. In this meeting, the officers and council members that started the process will first present evidence against the member in question. Then, the member in question will have a maximum of fifteen minutes to present a defence (More time can be granted at the discretion of the faculty advisor). Finally, the member in question will leave the room and a vote will be called. A 2/3 vote of all council members, and a 2/3 vote of all members, and approval of the faculty advisor is required to remove the member. The member in question will then be notified immediately after the decision is reached. Any additional measures will be implemented at the discretion of the faculty advisor, rather than by all present at the meeting as in the case of removal of a member.

Executive Process:

Any officer can be immediately removed, reinstated, replaced, or appointed by a written instruction, such as an email, from the pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH. No decisions reached in the organizational process can affect this decision.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

The organization can be dissolved in the annual election either by any of the three following methods:

(1) The President initiate the process by calling for dissolution during the election meeting before the election, any member eligible to run in the election may speak against dissolution in turn for a maximum of five minutes. A vote is then called and conducted by the faculty advisor, or in their absence, the senior most council member. The unanimous approval of all officers, and the unanimous approval of all council members, and a 3/4 majority of all student members, are required to dissolve the organization. (2) The president initiates the process by calling for dissolution during the election meeting before the election, if there is no contest, the organization dissolves without requiring a vote. In the absence of both a President and a Vice President, any Council Member may initiate the process, in the absence of any officers, any member eligible to become an officer may initiate the process. (3) The organization can be immediately dissolved by a written instruction, such as an email, from the pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH. No approval of any kind is required in this case.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

When the organization is dissolved, it is the responsibility of the President to notify The Ohio State University of the dissolution, and to donate all remaining assets to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH. This organization is not allowed to take on debt as specified in Article VI Section A. In the case that the President fails to accomplish this duty in three days, it shall be the Vice-President's duty to do so. In the case that the Vice-President fails to accomplish this duty in three days, it shall be the senior most council member's duty to do so. The duty passes to other council members in sequence of their taking office, each having seven days to fulfill this duty, then to the treasurer who will have one month, then to any member eligible to become

officers, then to the faculty advisor after one month, and lastly to the previous faculty advisor, after one month.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendment Process

The constitution can be amended in the annual election meetings. The President is allowed to initiate the process by calling for amendments during the election meeting before the election if the amendment gains the approval of all council members in a council meeting prior to the election. Any member eligible to run in the election may speak against the amendment in turn for a maximum of five minutes. A vote is then called by the President. The unanimous approval of all officers, and the unanimous approval of all council members, and a 3/4 majority of all student members, are required to approve the amendment.

No changes to any of the following section can be made without express permission in written form from the pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS), Columbus, OH.:

Article V. Section D. Executive Process

Article VI. Section D. Executive Process

Article VII. Section A. Part (3)

Article VII. Section B. Procedures regarding assets in case of dissolution.