

Constitution and Bylaws

CONSTITUTION

Article I- NAME

The name of the organization shall be Lutheran Science Institute, Inc.

Article II - STATEMENT OF BELIEF

1. We accept the Lutheran Confessions, namely the *Unaltered Augsburg Confession*, *Luther's Small and Large Catechisms*, and the balance of the *Book of Concord*, as the correct interpretation of Holy Scripture. We firmly believe that the Holy Bible is perfect and inerrant in all matters, including those that relate to science.

2. We believe and teach that the account of origins as recorded in the book of Genesis is a presentation of actual historical events. We believe and teach that time, the origin of matter, the forms of energy, the concept of space, and all basic types of life, including human life, came about through direct creative acts of God during the six days of creation as described in Genesis.

3. We believe and teach the account of the special creation of Adam and Eve as the first man and woman. We believe and teach that they fell into sin by disobedience of God's direct command and that they pass this sinful nature on to all of their descendants. We believe and teach that God promised and sent a Savior for all humankind in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. We believe and teach that Jesus Christ is our Lord and only Savior and that personal acceptance of this fact is necessary for salvation.

4. We believe and teach that faith is created and nourished by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace, the Gospel in Word and Sacraments (Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper).

5. We believe and teach that the great flood described in Genesis, commonly referred to as the Noachian Flood, was a historic event, worldwide in its extent and effect.

6. We believe and teach that there is only one final coming and Judgment of Christ at the end of the world.

Article III - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this institute shall be:

1. to encourage an appreciation of the blessings of God in the areas of science that have informational, vocational, and recreational value.
2. to provide aid in understanding Scripture when it speaks of scientific matters.
3. to provide the church at large and the WELS in particular with Confessional Lutheran resources regarding creation/evolution.

Article IV - MEMBERSHIP

1. Individual membership is restricted to members of congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and those church bodies in doctrinal fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
2. Individual members must be 18 years of age to vote.
3. Individual members less than 18 years of age shall be considered a student member.
4. Congregational membership is restricted to congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or of a church body in doctrinal fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Each congregation may cast one vote.
5. Associate non-voting membership is available by action of the board of directors.

Article V - OFFICERS

The officers of the organization shall be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Article VI - BOARDS

1. The board of directors shall consist of the aforementioned officers, an executive director, a pastoral advisor, and four (4) additional members elected at large from the membership for a total of ten (10) board members.
2. The executive director and the pastoral advisor shall be advisory members of the Board.
3. The pastoral advisor must be listed as an active or retired pastor in the WELS clergy roster.

4. The board shall be responsible for the planning and execution of the business of the organization.

Article VII - MEETINGS

1. Meetings of the membership are not required, but may be called by the board of directors.
2. The board of directors shall meet at least quarterly.

Article VIII: SEPARATION OR DISSOLUTION

1. If at any time a separation should occur in this Institute – may God graciously prevent it – all of its property, equipment, and financial assets shall remain with that portion of the membership which adheres to this Constitution, regardless of number.
2. In the event of the dissolution of this Institute, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Institute, dispose of its remaining assets, if any, by distributing, at its volition, the remaining assets to (and only to) one or more organizations within the fellowship of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, which organization(s) must at the time qualify as tax exempt under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code.

Article IX - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors accompanied by supporting reasons.
 2. The board of directors shall send the proposed amendment and commentary to the membership at least 30 days before the voting ballots are sent.
 3. A 2/3 majority of the votes cast are required to approve amendments.
 4. Article II of the Constitution shall not be subject to amendment.
 5. All changes must be consistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
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BYLAWS

Section 1 - MEMBERSHIP

Membership is obtained by:

1. completing a membership application which indicates subscription to the Objectives and the Statement of Belief of this Constitution (articles II and III).
2. paying dues.

Section 2 - DUES

Dues for each type of membership shall be set by action of the Board of Directors. Dues for some or all types of membership may be set to zero.

Section 3 - ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. A candidate for office must be a voting member or a pastor of his congregation.
2. Board members shall be elected to terms of two (2) years.
3. The election shall be conducted by a mailed or emailed ballot with a list of candidates prepared by a nominating committee.
4. The president, secretary, and two (2) board members shall be elected during odd numbered years. The vice-president, treasurer, and two (2) board members shall be elected during the even numbered years.
5. The election shall take place each fall, with terms starting the following January 1.
6. The executive director and pastoral advisor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to two (2) year terms. The executive director shall be appointed in even years, while the pastoral advisor shall be appointed in odd years.
7. The president can appoint a qualified candidate to fill any vacant office (except that of the executive director and pastoral advisor) for the unexpired term of that office. Such appointments shall be subject to the approval of the board of directors.
8. The board of directors can appoint a qualified candidate to fill a vacant executive director or pastoral advisor position for the unexpired term of that office.

Section 4 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS, BOARD, AND DIRECTOR

1. The president shall conduct the meetings and be in charge of the affairs of the organization.
2. The vice-president shall assist the president and be responsible in the absence of the president.
3. The secretary is to record the proceedings of all meetings of the organization, to conduct the correspondence of the organization, to be the custodian of the constitution and by-laws, to maintain an accurate and complete membership records, and to

safeguard all other documents which may be turned over to him. The board of directors may assign some of these duties to other board members or to a committee.

4. The treasurer is to receive all moneys for the organization, and to make all disbursements which have been allowed. He shall report receipts and disbursements at each regular meeting of the board of directors. The board of directors may assign some of these duties to other board members or to a committee. The books of the treasurer shall be audited by an auditing committee appointed by the Board.

5. The executive director shall direct and promote the work of this organization. He shall work to carry out the objectives of this organization.

6. The pastoral advisor shall provide spiritual guidance to the organization and its leadership.

7. The board of directors shall direct the business of this organization and oversee the duties of the executive director.

Section 5 – BOARD MEETINGS

1. A quorum is based on the current number of board positions which are filled (vacant positions are not counted):

-- a quorum is 4 if all 10 positions are filled (no vacancies).

-- a quorum is 4 if only 9 positions are filled (1 vacancy).

-- a quorum is 3 if only 8 or less positions are filled (2 or more vacancies).

2. Also for a quorum, at least two (2) of the board members present must be voting board members.

3. The board may set policy concerning transacting board business and voting by board members between meetings via means such as email. Such policies shall be set or revised only at regular board meetings.

4. The board may set policy concerning board meeting attendance via technology (such as attending via speaker phone).

Attendance via technology shall be counted toward the quorum.

Section 6 - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1. If a meeting of the membership is called for transacting business (other than elections – see section 3) this section governs that meeting.

2. The meeting will be announced to all voting members at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

3. A quorum shall consist of those voting members present.

Section 7 - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

1. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the board of directors accompanied by supporting reasons.

2. The board of directors shall send the proposed amendment and commentary to the membership with an accompanying ballot.

3. A majority of the votes cast are required to approve amendments.

4. All changes must be consistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER, REVISED shall apply in all cases where applicable and not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-laws of this organization

REVISIONS

November 29, 1980 - Article VI of Constitution.

June 9, 1984 - General revision.

August 21, 1999 - General revision.

November, 2016 – All Constitution articles except I, II, and IV. All Bylaws sections.