

CONSTITUTION OF HOUSTON LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

ARTICLE I, NAME

The name of this organization shall be Houston Lutherans For Life, hereafter referred to as "Chapter."

ARTICLE II, PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter shall be to provide an organization through which Lutheran Christians can unite to share dialogue and give a common witness within the church and society to their concern for the value and dignity of all human life. To achieve this purpose, this Chapter shall:

1. Promote membership in Lutherans For Life and the active participation of Lutherans in the pro-life movement;
2. Provide unity, education, direction, and opportunity for service for the pro-life Lutherans in Houston;
3. Present the Biblical message of respect and protection for all human life, first to the Lutheran congregations in Houston, and second to the rest of said community;
4. Monitor public and private actions relative to its concerns and respond to those sections in accord with its philosophy;
5. Cooperate with other organizations that share its concerns, insofar as such cooperation shall not hinder its witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and
6. Generally cooperate with and further the work of Lutherans For Life, Inc.

ARTICLE III, AFFILIATION

This Chapter shall be an affiliate of Lutherans For Life, Inc. a nonprofit corporation under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 317 since April 17, 1979. As such, this chapter shall be subject to the by-laws and policies of Lutherans For Life, Inc., and do nothing contrary to the philosophy, purpose, and objectives of that organization.

ARTICLE IV, NON-PROFIT STATUS

This chapter is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It shall not participate in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public office nor devote a substantial part of its activities or resources to influence legislation. No part of its net earnings, in any manner or form, shall inure to any of its members or officers except for services rendered to the chapter. In the event of dissolution, the entire assets, real and personal, remaining after the payment of any and all liabilities and obligations of the Chapter shall be distributed exclusively for the purposes of the Chapter and only to such organizations as are operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at that time qualify as tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

ARTICLE V, NON-DISCRIMINATION

This chapter's purpose shall be pursued without regard to race, color, sex, or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE VI, ADDRESS

The permanent address of this chapter, registered with Lutherans For Life, Inc., shall be c/o Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5000 W. Tidwell Rd, Houston, TX 77091.

ARTICLE VII, DURATION

The duration of this chapter shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE VIII, MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this chapter shall be as provided in the By-laws of the chapter.

ARTICLE IX, LIABILITY

No personal liability shall be incurred by any member or officer of this Chapter either for the negligent acts of the Chapter or those of any agent or employee thereof, nor for the debts or obligations of the Chapter.

CERTIFICATION

This constitution has been adopted by majority vote at a meeting of Lutherans For Life members held on the fifth day of March, 1988 A.D. The names and signatures of the officers of the Chapter are:

PRESIDENT /s/ Cynthia M. Chapa

VICE PRESIDENT /s/ Jane Almquist

SECRETARY /s/ Jewel Look

TREASURER /s/ Elmer L. Zoch

BY-LAWS OF
HOUSTON LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

PREAMBLE

Lutherans For Life believes that the church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are victims of exploitation and are defenseless against the powers of this world. We therefore strive to develop a civilization which protects and cares for families, children, unwed mothers, retarded people, the poor, handicapped, senile, and repressed. These concerns range from the pre-born child to the most senior of citizens.

ARTICLE I, MEMBERSHIP

1. Chapter membership shall not be limited as to number of members.
2. Membership shall be open to persons in the Houston community who subscribe to and accept the philosophy, the Constitution, the Preamble and the By-Laws of Lutherans For Life, Inc and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Chapter.
3. All members who have paid the current Lutherans For Life, Inc. membership contribution shall have the right to vote at all meetings and elections of the Chapter.
4. Persons who are not members at large of Lutherans For Life may become non-voting members of the Chapter.

ARTICLE II, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Members. The voting members of the Executive Committee shall be the officers of the Chapter. Non-voting members shall be the chairmen of standing committees and the Advisors.
2. Authority. The Executive Committee shall have full charge of the affairs of the Chapter between meetings of the members of the Chapter.
3. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly at a time and place determined by the President. Special meetings may be called by the President or any three of the other members of the Executive Committee. Notice of each meeting must be given to all members of the Executive Committee at least three days prior to the meeting.
4. Quorum. The quorum for conducting business at meetings of the Executive Committee shall be three, including at least two officers.

ARTICLE III, OFFICERS

1. Officers. The officers of the Chapter shall be the President, the Vice-president, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.
2. Term. The term of office of each officer shall be two years, beginning immediately following the annual meeting and continuing until successors are elected. The elections shall be staggered, President and Secretary being elected on even years and Vice-President and Treasurer on odd years.
3. Nominations. Nominations may be made to the secretary at least ten days prior to the annual meeting. They may also be made from the floor, providing the nominee has already agreed to serve if elected and is qualified.

4. Election. Elections shall be by secret ballot at the annual meeting. A candidate must receive a majority vote of those voting in order to be elected.
5. Qualifications. Candidates must be members in good standing of Lutheran congregations and must be current members at large of Lutherans For Life.

ARTICLE V, ADVISORS

The Executive Committee shall appoint a Spiritual Advisor who is a Lutheran pastor. It may also appoint other professional Advisors.

ARTICLE VI, MEETINGS

1. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Chapter shall be held at least four times a year, at a time and place selected by the Executive Committee.
2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be the regular meeting held in March for the election of officers and other business.
3. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or any five of the voting members of the Chapter.
4. Quorum. The quorum for conducting business at any meeting shall be established by the number of voting members present at the meeting.

ARTICLE VI, AMENDMENTS

1. Constitution. The Constitution of this Chapter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members voting at any regular meeting or at any meeting called for that purpose, providing the amendment has been submitted to the membership in writing at least ten days prior to the meeting or has been read at the previous regular meeting.
2. By-laws. These By-laws may be amended in the same manner, but with a simple majority vote.
3. Approval. Changes in the Constitution and By-laws must be approved by Lutherans For Life, Inc. before taking effect.

ARTICLE VII, DISSOLUTION

Should this Chapter dissolve, its entire net assets remaining after the payment of any and all liabilities and obligations of the Chapter shall be distributed to Lutherans For Life, Inc., providing said organization at that time meets the requirements of Article IV of the Constitution of this Chapter.

ADOPTION

These By-laws were adopted at a meeting of Lutherans For Life members on the fifth day of March, 1988 A.D.

Secretary /s/ Jewel Look

AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and By-laws were amended this 30th day of April, 2023 as required by Article VI.



Secretary

Linda Friedrich