

Christian Life Resources, Incorporated

The Constitution

PREAMBLE

The Word of God teaches that human life is a gift of God; that he alone has the right to create and terminate it; and that he gives it as a time of grace, in which souls, lost and condemned by nature, might be brought to faith in Christ as their Savior and won for eternal life. Therefore we, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, accept and subscribe to the following constitution and bylaws, in accordance with which all spiritual and material affairs of Christian Life Resources, Incorporated shall be governed.

ARTICLE I -- NAME

The name of this organization shall be Christian Life Resources, Inc.

ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to educate people, both within and outside the fellowship of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], on the value and sanctity of life; and to develop such programs and support such projects as will protect and maintain human life on the basis of and in conformity with the teachings of God's Word.

ARTICLE III -- DOCTRINAL STANDARD

This organization acknowledges and accepts the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed and inerrant word of God, verbally inspired, and submits to them as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.

This organization acknowledges and accepts all the confessional writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord of the year 1580, as true and genuine expositions of the doctrines of the Bible.

This organization acknowledges and accepts the doctrinal position of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We subscribe to "This We Believe," a summary statement of the doctrinal teachings of said church body.

ARTICLE IV -- MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this organization shall include such persons as are members in good standing of congregations within the WELS and such other congregations as are members of church bodies in doctrinal fellowship with the WELS.

The constituency of the national board of this organization and all supervising boards of affiliated chapters shall be composed of pastors, male teachers, and laymen who hold voting membership in WELS congregations or the congregations of church bodies in fellowship with the WELS.

The voting membership of this organization shall include all male members who are voting members in their respective congregations, and have read and signed the constitution and bylaws of this organization.

ARTICLE V -- AUTHORITY OF THE ORGANIZATION

The national congress shall be the governing body of this organization and shall be empowered to adopt policies, adjust the constitution and bylaws, establish priorities, and issue directives to the national board. The establishment and conduct of all chapters, branches and counseling centers within the organization shall be subject to the approval and supervision of the national congress.

ARTICLE VI -- REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

The national congress shall have authority to remove from office any national officer elected and/or appointed, following the procedure as outlined in Scripture. Such action shall be based upon proven dereliction of duty and/or failure to comply with the purposes and guidelines of the organization.

ARTICLE VII -- OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall be such officers, boards, or committees as the bylaws of this constitution may prescribe.

The officers, board members, or committees of this organization, whether elected or appointed, shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them, and whatever authority may have been delegated to them at any time may be altered or revoked.

ARTICLE VIII -- DIVISION AND/OR DISSOLUTION

If at any time a division should take place on account of doctrine, or failure to adhere to the purposes of this organization, the property of this organization and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with those members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article III of this constitution and to the statement of purpose of this organization. If division takes place for any other reason, the property and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with the majority of the membership.

If at any time this organization shall be dissolved, the property and all benefits connected therewith shall be amicably disposed of by resolution of the national congress. If a division occurs between a local chapter and the national organization, all property purchased by the local chapter shall remain with the local chapter.

ARTICLE IX -- DOCTRINAL CONFORMITY

Only such literature, audio-visual materials and approaches to counseling shall be approved by this organization, including its chapters in their educational and counseling services, as conforms to the confessional standard of Article III.

ARTICLE X -- BYLAWS

This organization may adopt such bylaws as may be required for the accomplishment of its purposes.

ARTICLE XI -- CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

The following articles of this constitution or sections thereof shall be unalterable and irrevocable: II, III, IV, IX, and XI.

Amendments to this constitution may be adopted at a regular meeting of the national congress, provided

- 1) That they do not conflict with the provision laid down in Article III or with any section of any other articles that pertains to scriptural doctrine and practice; and
- 2) That the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at a previous meeting of the national congress.

The affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the voting membership present at the national congress shall be required for the adoption of an amendment.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I -- MEETINGS

A. Regular meetings of the national congress shall be held annually and at such time as deemed practical and feasible by the national board.

B. Special meetings of the national congress may be called by the national board.

C. Every meeting of the national congress shall be announced by direct mailing to all local chapters at least six weeks prior to the meeting. Whenever a meeting has been thus announced, it is considered a properly convened and legal meeting capable of transacting business. The members present shall constitute a quorum. However, for amending the articles of incorporation, the constitution, or bylaws, or the removal of members from office, a two-thirds majority of the voting members present shall be required for adoption of a resolution.

ARTICLE II -- OFFICERS

The national board shall consist of nine men. The WELS Conference of Presidents shall have the right to appoint a representative to serve in an advisory capacity. The officers of this organization shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and five directors. The responsibilities of spiritual advisor will be assigned to one of the four officer positions. The national board shall be self-organizing. Organization of the board shall take place at the first meeting following the national congress.

ARTICLE III -- ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

The members of the national board shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the national congress. Each term of office shall be three years. A member may succeed himself indefinitely. In the event of a vacancy, the chairman shall appoint a replacement to complete the unexpired term. Appointments for longer than two years shall constitute a term for election purposes. Those elected shall be installed as members of the national board at the close of the national congress or as part of the national convention.

ARTICLE IV -- DUTIES

A. The national congress. It shall be the duty of the national congress to meet annually to evaluate the progress of the organization and formulate directives to the national board. The national congress shall be composed of delegates from each Christian Life Resources chapter or branch. Each chapter is entitled to two delegates; each branch is entitled to one delegate. Chapters and branches are allowed to send non-voting representatives to provide input. Delegates are chosen by each chapter or branch and must be members of that chapter or branch.

B. The national board. It shall be the duty of the national board to administer the affairs and business of the national congress. The national board shall maintain a job description for officers of the board and others serving the board.

ARTICLE V -- COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

The committees of the organization shall include:

A. An Executive Committee, consisting of the four officers of the national board, elected to those positions by the national board as prescribed under BYLAWS: Article II. In addition, the National Board may appoint additional board members to serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall oversee and monitor the activities of the organization on behalf of the national board. It shall further refine and define directives provided by the national board and draft policies and proposals for adoption by the national board relating to the general operation of the organization and national office. The Executive Committee may reallocate line items of the budget. The committee may also increase line items in the budget as long as the total of such increases does not exceed 1% of the total budget within a calendar year. When a full meeting of the national board is not possible or practical the Executive Committee may act with the full authority of the board insofar as its actions do not conflict with the philosophy and direction established by the national board or national congress.

B. A Nominating Committee, consisting of two national board members appointed by the chairman. The chairman of the national board shall be an ex officio member of this committee.

C. Other temporary committees may be appointed as needed by the chairman of the national board which will consist of at least one national board member.

ARTICLE VI -- CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

The organization shall from time to time, adopt, alter, or amend rules, regulations, and/or directives for the guidance of officers and committees in their work.

ARTICLE VII -- ORDER OF BUSINESS

The following shall be the order of business for the national congress:

- 1) Call to order and welcome by the national chairman
- 2) Opening devotion
- 3) Roll call
- 4) Ratification of new chapters or branches
- 5) Minutes of previous meeting(s)
- 6) Presentation of the ballot and elections
- 7) Report of officers and committees and related resolutions
- 8) Election results
- 9) Unfinished business
- 10) New business
 - a. Audit report
 - b. Resolutions (not already contained in item 7)
 - c. Other
- 11) Installation of officers (if necessary as stipulated in BYLAWS: Article III)
- 12) Closing devotion
- 13) Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII -- CHANGING THE BYLAWS

Amendments to these bylaws may be adopted at a regular meeting of the national congress, provided

- 1) That they do not conflict with the provision laid down in Article III of the constitution or with any section or any other article that pertains to scriptural doctrine and practice; and
- 2) That the proposed amendment has been announced by direct mailing to all chapters and branches at least six weeks prior to the meeting.

The affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the voting membership present at the national congress shall be required for the adoption of an amendment.

ARTICLE IX -- ORGANIZATION

The funding of monies for this organization shall be received:

A. From chapters and branches. The chapters and branches of this organization shall have the responsibility to remit periodically to the national treasury a portion of their annual receipts.

B. From other sources. Additional funds from individuals, foundations, businesses, etc. shall be used for specific budgetary and non-budgetary projects and programs of the organization.

ARTICLE X -- CHARTERING OF CHAPTERS AND BRANCHES

The chapters and branches of this organization shall be chartered under the following requirements:

A. Constituency. Chapters and branches of the Christian Life Resources, Incorporated shall consist of communicant members from congregations of the WELS and congregations in fellowship with the WELS. Voting privileges shall be the same as the voting requirements stipulated in the congregations in which communicant membership is held.

B. Size. Chapters shall consist of a minimum of ten communicant members and a minimum of five voting members with voting privileges as stated above. Branches shall consist of at least three members with voting privileges as stated above.

C. Commitment. Chapters and branches shall:

1) Sign the organization charter;

2) Familiarize themselves with pro-life issues;

3) Develop an educational program to be used within our fellowship and toward those without;

and

4) Support the cause of Christian Life Resources, Incorporated according to the guidelines and directives of the national congress.