



Arizona-California
DISTRICT
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WELS AZ-CA District Committee on Constitutional Matters

Report to the 2018 WELS Arizona-California District Convention by the WELS AZ-CA District Committee on Constitutional Matters

The purpose of the WELS Arizona-California District Committee on Constitutional Matters is to help congregations in our district as they work through the process of creating or revising governing documents which establish the structure and regular operations of their ministry. This is in keeping with Article XIX, section 2 of the Constitution of our District, which states:

“The committee shall examine the constitution and bylaws of congregations applying for membership in the district and make its recommendation to the convention. ... The committee shall also approve revisions of constitutions and bylaws of congregations of the district.”

During this past biennium, the WELS AZ-CA DCCM reviewed and approved initial governing documents for the following new congregations:

Living Water Ev. Lutheran Church, Yuba City, CA (Constitution and Bylaws) – June 2017

During this past biennium, the WELS AZ-CA DCCM reviewed and approved changes to governing documents for the following congregations\organizations:

Cross of Glory Ev. Lutheran Church, Peoria, AZ (Bylaws\Endowment Fund) – July 2016

Alas para Niños (Constitution and Bylaws) - August 2016

Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Tempe, AZ (Bylaws\Endowment Fund) – December 2016

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, San Carlos, AZ (Constitution and Bylaws) – June 2017

Gethsemane Ev. Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA (Constitution and Bylaws) – October 2017

The Springs Ev. Lutheran Church, Sparks NV (Constitution and Bylaws) – October 2017

Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, AZ (Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws) – February 2018

If any congregation of our district is considering revisions to their own governing documents, we ask that they would contact our committee’s chairman early in the process. We also suggest that they refer to the most recent version of the *Model Constitution and Bylaws* which is available for order from Northwestern Publishing House in printed and/or CD-ROM versions. Other documents that may be helpful to your congregation are the following:

- WELS Statement on Marriage and Marriage Policies (<http://synodadmin.welsrc.net/download-synodadmin/marriagedocuments>)
- Sample Endowment Fund Bylaws (<https://mcg.welsrc.net/download-mcg/congregational-planned-giving-program>)

Upon their request, we are happy to provide congregations with any additional information which may assist them in their revisions. We want to remind our district congregations that our district has agreed that no changes or revisions to a congregation’s governing documents should be approved by the voters of that congregation until those changes have been reviewed and approved by our committee.

The DCCM asks the congregations of our district for their cooperation as we seek to move our records into a fully electronic format. If you have an electronic version of your congregation's current constitution and bylaws which has been approved by your voters, please send a copy of that file to our secretary at prschroeder1968@gmail.com. For congregations without electronic versions, please mail a printed copy of your current, approved constitution to our secretary at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 812 N Meridian Rd, Apache Junction, AZ, 85120. Our secretary will scan the document and submit the file to our chairman on your behalf.

We also wish to thank the Lord of the church for providing Pastor Martin Spaude as a member of our committee these many years. We thank Pastor Spaude for his faithful service to the congregations of our district as he lays down this responsibility at this convention. Pastor Mark Jacobson has been appointed to fill his position and has accepted that appointment.

Finally, we thank you for the privilege of assisting the congregations of our district in this way. To God alone be the glory!

Serving you in Christ,

Rev. Joshua E. Stahmann, Chairman

Rev. Martin P. Spaude

Rev. Paul R. Schroeder, Secretary