



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:

- River of Life Ev. Lutheran Church, Goodyear, AZ (Constitution and Bylaws) – May 2013
- Cross of Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM (Constitution and Bylaws) – February 2014
- Korean Fellowship Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV (Constitution and Bylaws) – May 2014
- Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, Gilbert, AZ (Constitution and Bylaws) – May 2014

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

- Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, El Paso, TX (Constitution and Bylaws) – August 2012
- Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church, Chandler, AZ (Constitution and Bylaws) – October 2013
- Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ (Bylaws) – October 2013
- Crosswalk Ev. Lutheran Ministries, Phoenix, AZ (Constitution) – February 2014
- Gethsemane Ev. Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA (Constitution and Bylaws) – February 2014
- Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakeside, AZ (Constitution and Bylaws) – February 2014
- Hope Ev. Lutheran Church, Chino Valley, AZ (Bylaws) – May 2014

The following congregations have submitted changes to their governing documents and are currently in the process of review:

- St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Vacaville, CA (Constitution and Bylaws)
- Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Torrance, CA (Constitution and Bylaws)

As our district pastors are already aware, our committee spent some time this past year helping with the draft of a statement on Human Marriage and Sexuality. The final version of this statement is available on page 4 of this year's *Report to the Twelve Districts*. Because this statement has already been thoroughly reviewed, congregations of our district who wish to add this statement verbatim to their governing documents may do so without requesting specific review or permission from our committee.

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 *Model Constitution and Bylaws* which is available for order from Northwestern Publishing House in printed and/or CD-ROM versions. 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.

We also wish to thank the Lord of the church for providing Pastor James Winterstein as a member of our committee these many years. We thank Pastor Winterstein for his faithful service to the congregations of our district as he lays down this responsibility at this convention.

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. James H. Winterstein, Chairman

Rev. Martin P. Spaude

Rev. Joshua E. Stahmann, Secretary