

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

GRAND CANYON CIRCUIT LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Grand Canyon Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. (WELS) hereafter referred to as LWMS.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this organization shall be to increase interest in and to support mission endeavors which are a part of, or in the interest of, the WELS.

ARTICLE III. PARTICIPATION

A. Congregations who are members of the WELS or of churches with whom we are in fellowship and upon payment of the annual membership fee to the national LWMS are eligible for circuit participation.

B. A national individual member from a non-LWMS congregation, upon payment of the national annual membership fee is eligible for the circuit participation.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

A. Circuit meetings

1. This group shall meet semi-annually in spring and fall.
2. The Circuit Board shall have the authority to call special meetings of the Circuit, providing it first submits in writing to each member congregation in the circuit an announcement of the time and place of such meeting at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.
3. The secretary shall inform each congregation of the time and place regular meetings are to be held at least thirty (30) days prior to the meetings.

B. Circuit Board meetings

1. The Circuit Board shall meet as often as need is determined.
2. The Circuit Board shall serve as a steering committee for the Circuit, determining the time and place of meetings and planning the program.
3. The Circuit Board may appoint such committees as it deems necessary to carry out the plans, programs and objectives of the Circuit and National LWMS.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

The following elected officers shall constitute the Circuit Board: president, president-elect, vice president, secretary, treasurer, pastoral advisor, two spiritual growth women and two spiritual growth pastors.

ARTICLE VI. QUORUM

The members present at a properly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII. REPEAL AND AMENDMENT

Proposals to repeal or amend any article of this constitution shall be offered in writing at a regular meeting preceding any action thereon. At the following regular meeting, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present shall be necessary to pass the proposal.

ARTICLE VIII. PRELIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be followed for parliamentary procedure. Meetings shall be conducted according to good Christian order.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

Should dissolution of this organization occur, which God may graciously prevent, all property and financial assets shall revert to the national LWMS of the WELS.

BYLAWS

The following bylaws shall be a part of the regular constitution of the Grand Canyon Circuit.

ARTICLE I. ELECTIONS

- A.** All officers shall be elected by ballot at the spring meeting.
- B.** Term of office shall be two years with the exception of the president-elect who automatically succeeds to the office of the president. Other officers may serve two consecutive terms.
- C.** The Circuit Board will serve as the nominating committee. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.
- D.** The election of treasurer and one spiritual growth woman will be held in the spring of odd numbered years.
- E.** The election of vice president, secretary, one spiritual growth woman and president-elect shall be elected in the spring of even numbered years. The president-elect is selected as the president begins her second year of her term.
- F.** The Pastoral Advisor and two spiritual growth pastors are elected to four-year terms. There are no term limits. Terms will be staggered.
- G.** The majority vote shall constitute an election. In the event a candidate does not receive a fifty-one percent majority, a runoff election will be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes.
- H.** The Circuit Board shall fill any vacancy pro tem.

ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A.** President-The president shall preside at all circuit board meetings and rallies. She shall be responsible for management of circuit affairs, relaying information sent by the national LWMS to circuit board members.
- B.** President-elect- The president-elect will train with the president in the second year of the president's term. The president-elect shall perform presidential duties in the absence of the president and perform any other duties as directed by the president.
- C.** Vice-President - The vice president shall perform the duties of the president in her absence during the first year of the president's term. She shall be a resource person to reporters, work with the spiritual growth board members and shall supervise the Befriend a Mission program, and perform other duties.

- D. Secretary - The secretary shall serve as recorder of Circuit Board meetings; be custodian of the circuit's records; maintain a current membership list; shall send a copy of all minutes to the national LWMS president elect after each meeting; and any other duties as directed by the board.
- E. Treasurer - The treasurer shall receive and record mission offerings, income, and other offerings. She shall make disbursements according to resolutions of the body or according to procedures established by the circuit board. She shall perform any other duties as directed by the board.
- F. Pastoral Advisor – The pastoral advisor shall attend the circuit board meetings and other meetings of the circuit. He shall hold devotionals as requested by the circuit board, serve as spiritual advisor and general counselor in all matters, install newly elected circuit board members at the close of the spring rally, and perform any other duties as directed by the circuit.
- G. Spiritual Growth Women - The spiritual growth women shall be responsible for disseminating pertinent information to the congregations of the circuit and perform any other duties as directed by the board.
- H. Spiritual Growth Pastors – The spiritual growth pastors shall work with the spiritual growth women as spiritual advisors and general counselors in matters related to spiritual growth. They shall assist with devotionals at meetings and shall perform other duties as directed by the board.

ARTICLE III. SPIRITUAL GROWTH COMMITTEE

- A. The spiritual growth committee shall consist of two pastors and two women.
- B. The spiritual growth committee shall be responsible for recommending projects for the mission offerings, Bible studies and any other spiritual growth activities.
- C. One member may serve as circuit historian.

ARTICLE IV. PERFORMANCE

If any circuit board member has established an inability to perform the duties of his/her office, or willfully neglects his/her duty, and upon due admonition does not amend, the circuit board has the right and duty to remove such member and to appoint a replacement until the vacancy can be filled at the next election. A six-month period of non-performance shall be just cause to warrant board action.

ARTICLE V. MISSION OFFERINGS

A. Mission Offerings - Mission offerings are collected in each member congregation. Mission boxes may be distributed to each person within a congregation who is interested in using one to collect mission offerings for the work of LWMS.

B. Mission Offerings Collection

1. The circuit shall be in charge of the collection of mission offerings from member congregations.

- a) Seventy –five percent (75%) of the collected mission offerings are to be used by the circuit organization for mission projects selected by the circuit.
- b) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the collected mission offerings are to be sent to the national LWMS treasurer by May 25 of each year.

2. Individual members shall send their mission offerings directly to the national treasurer by May 25 of each year.

C. Circuit Mission Offering Distribution - Distribution of the circuit's share of the mission offerings and the selection of the circuit's projects will be determined by vote at each rally. In the interest of unity, the circuit shall follow the spirit of the national LWMS project selection policy in cooperation with the synodical mission boards, Home and World.

ARTICLE VI. FREE-WILL OFFERING

A free-will offering shall be gathered at each circuit rally. If a percentage of the offering is needed for the operating fund, the circuit board shall offer a recommendation. If none is needed, the circuit board shall recommend that the entire amount be used for a circuit or national mission project.

ARTICLE VII. REPEAL AND AMENDMENT

A proposal at any regularly called meeting to repeal or amend any article of the bylaws of the constitution shall require a majority vote.