

**THE CHINESE SPECIAL INTEREST CONFERENCE
of
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

Constitution
February 14, 2003

PREFACE

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Chinese Lutheran congregations who share a common linguistic and cultural heritage, desire to provide opportunities for fellowship, sharing resources, mutual support and encouragement, and discussion of common concerns.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be THE CHINESE SPECIAL INTEREST CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA, hereinafter referred to as “this conference”.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

- i. To strengthen and enhance Chinese Lutheran Ministry among congregations and pastors;
- ii. To engage the Chinese Lutheran community in dialogue and strengthen the communion with the wider Lutheran church in mission, understanding of Scripture, theology, common concerns, and practice;¹
- iii. To facilitate Chinese congregations in maintaining a strong partnership with local synods and the national church;
- iv. This conference will not exercise powers of legislation or oversight towards local congregations.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

This conference consists of organizations, congregations and pastors sharing the objectives of this conference.

Membership is granted upon being received at the general member meeting, in accordance with the eligibility requirements set out in the bylaws.

This conference shall exist as long as at least six congregations and six ordained ministers desire its continuation.

This conference shall have a conference council. The conference council shall have 4 members which include the following officers: chairperson, secretary, and treasurer. The chairperson shall be a pastor on the ELCIC roster.

The members of the conference council shall be elected for a 3-year term at the general member meeting by those present and eligible to vote. The conference council must have at least 1 clergy, at least 1 layperson, at least 1 man and at least 1 woman. There must be at least 1 member from the incumbent conference council in the conference council.

If any elected regional member for some reason cannot continue to serve during the three-year term, the conference council shall appoint a replacement in consultation with that region.

The conference council of this conference will submit reports, at least annually, to the National Bishop of ELCIC, to Bishops in the territories where activity is conducted, and to members of this conference.

The National Bishop or designate shall have the right of seat and voice without vote at the general member meetings and the meetings of the conference council.

This conference may receive financial support from offerings through its activities, gifts, and by special requests. However, special appeals for funds will be made only under the purview of the ELCIC or its appropriate committees.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

The general member meeting shall be held at least once every 3 years.

Each member organization and congregation shall send its pastor(s) and one lay delegate to the general member meeting. All shall have a voice and a vote.

Retired pastors who are members of this conference have voice and a vote, but are not eligible to be on the conference council.

The conference council shall meet annually.

The official language(s) conducted at general meeting shall be decided based upon effective communication.

For all non-members who present a case to seek the right of seat and voice at the general member meeting of this conference, the discussion shall be conducted by the conference council and the decision made by the general member meeting.

ARTICLE V

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

The constitution of this Chinese Special Interest Conference may be repealed or amended by a resolution

- i. approved by a majority of the members of the Conference Council at the Conference Council meeting and
- ii. sanctioned by an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the conference members at a member meeting duly called for the purpose of considering the said constitution and
- iii. approved by the National Church Council of the ELCIC.

The proposed repeal or amendment shall be distributed to members at least 2 months before the member meeting.

ⁱ Theological dialogue with the church based upon the holy scripture; to provide a unified voice if required to our national and synod church offices on issues that may impact our faith in God, our understanding of the Bible, or the practice in churches with Chinese cultural background.