

2010
Constitution, Bylaws,
and
Articles of Incorporation
as amended by the
2010 LCMS Convention
10–17 July 2010

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Article VI Conditions of Membership From 2010 Handbook

Conditions for acquiring and holding membership in the Synod are the following:

1. Acceptance of the confessional basis of Article II.
2. Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description, such as:
 - a. Serving congregations of mixed confession, as such, by ministers of the church;
 - b. Taking part in the services and sacramental rites of heterodox congregations or of congregations of mixed confession;
 - c. Participating in heterodox tract and missionary activities.
3. Regular call of pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors of family life ministry, directors of parish music, deaconesses, certified lay ministers, and parish assistants and regular election of lay delegates by the congregations, as also the blamelessness of the life of such.
4. Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school.
5. A congregation shall be received into membership only after the Synod has convinced itself that the constitution of the congregation, which must be submitted for examination, contains nothing contrary to the Scriptures or the Confessions.
6. Pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors of family life ministry, directors of parish music, deaconesses, certified lay ministers, or candidates for these offices not coming from recognized orthodox church bodies must submit to a colloquium before being received.
7. Congregations and individuals shall be received into membership at such time and manner, and according to such procedures, as shall be set forth in the bylaws to this Constitution.

Original German of Article VI from 1847	Literal Translation
<p>Cap. II. Bedingungen, unter welchen der Anschluß an die Synode stattfinden und die Gemeinschaft mit derselben fort dauern kann.</p> <p>§ 1. Das Bekenntnis zu der heiligen Schrift A. u. N. Testaments, als dem geschriebenen Worte Gottes und der einzigen Regel und Richtschnur des Glaubens und Lebens.</p> <p>§ 2. Annahme der sämtlichen symbolischen Bücher der ev. luth. Kirche</p>	<p>Article II. Conditions under which joining the Synod can take place and fellowship with the same can continue.</p> <p>§1. Confession of the Old and New Testaments of Holy Scripture as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and life.</p> <p>§ 2. Acceptance of all of the symbolical books of the evangelical Lutheran church (namely: the three ecumenical creeds, the unaltered Augsburg Confession, its</p>

<p>(als das sind: die drei ökumenischen Symbole, die ungeänderte Ausburgische Konfession, deren Apologie, die schmalkaldischen Artikel, der große und kleine Katechismus Lutheri und die Konkordienformel,) als der reinen und ungefälschten Erklärung und Darlegung des göttlichen Wortes.</p> <p>§ 3. Lossagung von aller Kirchen= und Glaubensmengerei, als da ist: Das Bedienen gemischter Gemeinden, als solcher, von Seiten der Diener der Kirche; Theilnahme an dem Gottesdienst und den Sacramentshandlungen falschgläubiger und gemischter Gemeinden, Theilnahme an allem falschgläubigen Traktaten= und Missionswesen, u.s.w.</p>	<p>Apology, the Smalcald Articles, the Large and Small Catechisms of Luther and the Formula of Concord), as the pure and unadulterated explanation and exposition of the divine Word.</p> <p>§ 3. Renunciation of all mixing of churches and of faiths, such as there is: The serving of mixed congregations, as such, on the part of the ministers of the church; participation in the divine service and sacramental activities of heterodox and mixed congregations, participation in all heterodox tract and mission activities, etc.</p>
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