

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
SOUTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN

Via de Cristo

Original:	Approved September 12, 1992
First Revision:	Approved September 12, 1998
Second Revision:	Approved September 16, 2002
Third Revision:	Approved November 30, 2007
Fourth Revision:	Approved March 19, 2011

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South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo

Revised March 19, 2011

PREAMBLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. We, the members of the South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo, aware of our spiritual needs, and mindful of our Christian calling, in Jesus' name and with the hope of His blessing, adopt the following Constitution:

CHAPTER 1. Name

C1.01

The name and title of this organization shall be South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo.

CHAPTER 2. Confession of Faith

C2.01

This organization accepts the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.

C2.02

This organization also accepts each and all of the Symbolic Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the true exposition and presentation of the faith once for all delivered to the saints, to wit: The Three Ecumenical Creeds, vis: The Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and its Apology; the Smalcald Articles; the Large and Small Catechisms of Martin Luther; and the Formula of Concord.

CHAPTER 3. Purpose

C3 .01

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to glorify God and to help in the extension of His kingdom among all people for their salvation by proclaiming the Gospel and encouraging a faithful response.

CHAPTER 4. Powers of Those in the Via de Cristo Movement

C4.01

In all matters of Christian faith and life, the Word of God is the highest authority.

C4.02

In the fulfillment of its purpose, the Via de Cristo movement is empowered to:

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- a. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, bequest, purchase, or other lawful means;
- b. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- c. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- d. enter into contract(s);
- e. sue and be sued;
- f. elect officers and boards for the exercise of their powers and authority and require them to conduct their affairs in accordance with this Constitution and its Bylaws.

CHAPTER 5. Membership

C5.01

Anyone who has attended a weekend using the "cursillo" method and who is active in the South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo through participation in group reunions, ultreyas, or Via de Cristo weekend activities shall be a member.

CHAPTER 6. The Secretariat

C6.01

The Secretariat shall be the governing body of the South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo. Each lay member and each Spiritual Director serving on the Secretariat shall have one vote.

C6.02

The Secretariat shall have nine (9) lay members and three (3) Spiritual Directors. Spiritual Directors shall be ordained pastors, and, at least two (2) shall be Lutheran.

C6.03

The duties of the Spiritual Directors on the Secretariat are as follows:

- a. ensure the Secretariat functions in accordance with Chapter 2 of this Constitution;
- b. communicate with bishops and pastors of the church to promote a spirit of understanding, harmony, and mutual support regarding this organization;
- c. safeguard the Gospel and the theological integrity of the organization.

CHAPTER 7. Legal Ownership in Case of Dissolution

C7.01

In keeping with the non-profit nature of this organization, should disagreement among the members bring about dissolution of this movement, all property shall be disposed of by the Secretariat in the manner described below (Chapter 8).

CHAPTER 8. Profits and Dissolution

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C8.01

No part of the income of this organization shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other persons except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the exempt purpose of this organization.

C8.02

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations with similar purposes or to one or more organizations which are exempt as organizations described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code or the Federal, State, or Local government for exclusive public purpose to be determined by the Secretariat.

CHAPTER 9. Amendments to This constitution

C9.01

Amendments may be made to this Constitution at a regular meeting of the Secretariat by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote provided at least one (1) Spiritual Director and four-fifths (4/5) of the members of the Secretariat are present and the amendment was submitted in writing to all members of the Secretariat six (6) weeks in advance and a reading of the amendment was given at the previous monthly meeting of the Secretariat..

CHAPTER 10. Bylaws

C10.01

The Secretariat may adopt Bylaws not in conflict with this Constitution. Bylaws may be added, suspended, or amended at a regular meeting of the Secretariat by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote provided a reading of the proposed change was given at the previous monthly meeting of the Secretariat.

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CHAPTER 11. Rules of Order

C11.01

The rules of order as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, latest published edition, shall govern this organization in all cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are not consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.

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BYLAWS

BYLAW 1. Business Meetings of the Secretariat

- a. There shall be one (1) regular business meeting of the Secretariat each month, unless otherwise determined by the Secretariat.
- b. A quorum is defined as a majority of seated lay Secretariat members and at least one Spiritual Director.

BYLAW 2. Appointment and Terms of Office on the Secretariat

- a. **Geographic Diversity of the Secretariat:** Lay members of the Secretariat shall be selected and elected from the three (3) regions of the state: Upstate, Midlands, and Low Country. At least two (2) and no more than four (4) members shall reside in each region. Regions are defined by telephone area codes as follows:
 - Upstate Area Code 864
 - Midlands Area Code 803
 - Low Country Area Code 843In the event that a geographical diverse area is not represented in the proposed nomination pool, Secretariat by unanimous vote may suspend the geographic location requirement and fill the positions from the names of qualified candidates regardless of geographic location. Secretariat must ensure every effort is made to fill open positions from a pool of qualified candidates fairly representing the current participation in the South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo. **Qualifications for Secretariat Membership:** Any lay or ordained baptized Christian who is active in their local congregation and an active member of South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo as defined in the South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Constitution is eligible for Secretariat Membership.
- c. **Procedures for Nomination to Secretariat:** The South Carolina Via de Cristo community may make nominations for Secretariat positions. The Fall Newsletter shall include listings of qualifications for membership and of geographic positions open, a nomination form, and a deadline by which nominations shall be submitted to the Lay Director. The nomination form should include an indication that the nominee meets all qualifications for membership. Agreement to serve is not a prerequisite for nomination. The published deadline for receipt of nominations shall be at midnight seven (7) calendar days prior to the scheduled Voting meeting. Nominations received from the community after the published deadline will be invalid. Nominations may be submitted by members of the Secretariat at any meeting in which voting for Secretariat membership is conducted.
- d. **Election of Members:** Election shall be by unanimous vote of the Secretariat. Elections for members of the Secretariat shall be held in either September or October, immediately preceding the subsequent term beginning November 1st. Voting is conducted for one open position at a time. Persons nominated by the community and the secretariat who meet qualifications for membership shall be considered for election. Election is by ecclesiastical ballot modified in that ballots are limited to include qualified nominees only. The Lay Director or a person designated by the Lay Director may provide

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- information on distribution of votes to assist in the election process. An alternate may be elected for each position in the event that the elected person cannot serve.
- e. Election of Lay Director: The Lay Director will be elected by the Secretariat at the earliest opportunity after seating the new Secretariat members.
 - f. Terms of Office: Terms begin November 1st of each year. Terms shall be three (3) years, and staggered such that the terms for one-third (1/3) of the lay members and one third (1/3) of the Spiritual Directors expire on October 31st of each year. After completing a term, a person cannot again serve on the Secretariat until after one (1) full year has elapsed. Persons filling an unexpired term of less than one (1) year shall be eligible for re-election to a full term.
 - g. Absences: The Lay Director may excuse a member from attending a meeting. A member who is absent without excuse for four (4) Secretariat meetings during any calendar year shall be removed from office.
 - h. Unexpired Terms: The Secretariat shall elect lay members or Spiritual Directors to complete unexpired terms of office.
 - i. Spouses: Spouses shall not serve simultaneously as members of the Secretariat.

BYLAW 3. Duties of the Secretariat

- a. General Duties: Conduct all business of the South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo; plan, sponsor, and conduct the seventy-two (72) hours of the Weekend.
- b. Lay Positions: Each year, after new members have been elected and have agreed to serve on the Secretariat, the lay members shall assign responsibility for the various lay functions among themselves. These duties may include the following:
 - Lay Director Communications
 - Pre-Weekend Leadership
 - Weekend Secretary
 - Post-Weekend Treasurer
 - Palanca National Delegate
- c. Spiritual Directors: Each year, after new members have been elected to and agreed to serve on the Secretariat, the Spiritual Directors shall elect one of themselves to serve as the Head Spiritual Director of the Secretariat. It is suggested that the Head Spiritual Director position be given to the Lutheran Pastor with the longest period of current service on the Secretariat.

BYLAW 4: Pilgrim Applications and Contractual Obligations

- a. Pilgrim applications are requested no later than thirty days prior to the weekend. Applications will be accepted, depending on availability, up one week prior to the weekend. Should a weekend need to be rescheduled, Secretariat will meet contractual obligations.