

AMENDED
Articles of Incorporation
and By-laws



GRUE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CONGREGATION

IN THE YEAR 1879, a meeting was called at the home of Knut Rauk March 17. At this meeting a congregation was organized under the name of Grue Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The 63 charter members, according to records, were the following:

Hans Erickson, Karillus Johnson, Bernt Johnson, Johannes Odegard, Elling Ellingson, A. T. Sannes, Ole B. Haugen, Martin Broderson, John B. Hall, Helge Reiergaard, Mrs. Martha Benrud, Swen Kvammen, Gjert Gunderson, Christian Johnson, Hans Pederson, John I. Lerum, Christian Hanson, Erik Ingvalson, Ole K. Rauk, Amund Erickson, Arne Erikson, Broder Broderson, George Broderson, Svan Knutson, Peder A. Haugen, Brede A. Haugen, Christian L. Odegard, Ingvald E. Ingvaldson, Halvor Hanson, Jacob E. Fevold, Gutrom B. Jacobson, Hans Thompson, T. H. Thompson, Christian H. Thompson, Sten I. Sondreall, Martin C. Wong, Louis Thompson, Peter Cole, Iver Lerom, Ole Davis, Ole Nettum, Martin O. Vang, Mrs. Sever Brokke, Jens K. Braaten, Ole O. Rensland, T. B. Hogstad, Knut O. Rensland, E. O. Myrland, Ole O. Engen, Grunde T. Klepp, Halvor Thompson, Berge Johnson, Axel B. Haugen, Knut Knudson Lolke, Ole Vettern, Kittel Lillegaard, Hendrick Hendrickson, Knudt Heggard, Nils B. Haugen, Theodore T. Landa, Lars Olson, Ole T. Reinestad, K. J. Nomland.

The first pastor to serve this congregation was Rev. O. H. Bostad. He served from the year 1879 to August 8, 1880. During this pastor's administration the services were held in various homes and school houses.

life according to the spirit. Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 5:1; 1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 2:19.

e. Accept this Constitution and be willing to abide by any decision of the Congregation that has been made in compliance with this Constitution and the Word of God. 1 Cor. 12:14.

ARTICLE V

Duties of Members

a. Live as a Christian. Eph. 4:17.

b. Worthily make use of the means of Grace; regularly attend the Divine Services and business meetings of the Congregation. 1 Cor. 11:18; Hebrews 10:25.

c. Privately give the proper place to the Word of God in the family worship. 1 Peter 2:1; Col. 3:16; Luke 11:28.

d. Bring their infants to an early baptism and care for their instruction and Christian nurture. Luke 18:16.

e. Willingly and gladly contribute to the necessary and legitimate expense of the Congregation and Missions, education and charities. 1 Cor. 9:14; Gal. 6:6; Mathew 10:10; 1 Timothy 5:9-10, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1.

f. Be at peace one with another and care for the spiritual and temporal welfare of one another. Gal. 5:22, 6:1, Eph. 4:1.

ARTICLE VI

Church Discipline

1. Discipline in the Congregation shall be exercised in accordance with Mathew 18:15-18 and other passages of Scripture.

2. If a member is expelled from the Congregation such person shall forfeit all his rights to the personal and real property of the Congregation; but yet retain his right to attend public services.

3. An excommunicated person may be reinstated if and when he confesses his sin and gives a reasonable hope of sincerity. 2 Cor. 2:6.

ARTICLE VII

Qualification and Calling of the Pastor

1. This Congregation will not and shall not call or use as a Minister or Pastor anyone unless he is duly examined or rightly called and ordained by the Lutheran Church to the sacred office and unless he has pledged himself to teach and preach according to the Canonical Books of the Holy Scriptures and the symbolical books of the Lutheran Church derived therefrom.

2. If the Pastor is found to hold and preach false doctrines or live an unchristian life or shows unwillingness to abide by the Constitution of this Congregation, if ten or more members bring charges against the Pastor by filing them in writing with the Secretary, requesting the removal of the Pastor, the removal shall be voted upon at the next regular or special meeting of the members. The Pastor, against whom such charges have been brought, shall be informed in writing of the charges previous to the meeting and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person and to present evidence; and the person or persons bringing the charges against him shall have the same opportunity. The Congregation may dismiss the Pastor by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at a legal meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE VIII

Officers of the Church

1. The Officers of this Congregation besides the Pastor shall consist of a board of three (3) or more trustees, two (2) or more deacons, secretary, treasurer, sexton and any other officer or employer that the Congregation deems necessary.

2. The Pastor shall be the Shepard of the flock. It shall be his duty to diligently preach the Word of God; visit the sick; administer the Sacraments; care for the instruction of the children and the youth, and have a general supervision of the Spiritual Welfare of the Congregation.

ARTICLE IX

Church Connections

1. This Congregation wishes to be independent as far as affiliation with any Lutheran Denomination is concerned.

2. Should the Congregation at any time desire to join any Lutheran Denomination, such matter must be acted upon through the legal channels and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

ARTICLE X

In case of a division (split) in the Congregation the property of the Congregation, real and personal, shall in full belong to the factions that have followed faithful to this Constitution, whether in majority or in minority.

ARTICLE XI

1. A proposed amendment to this Constitution must be presented in writing at the legal meeting of the Congregation. If the amendment is accepted at this meeting by a majority, it shall be referred to a subsequent legal meeting held at least one month later, when a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present shall be required for its adoption. However, this second meeting can be eliminated if a written notice has been sent to all voting members stating all particulars.

2. The following listed Articles cannot be changed: Article Three (III), Sections One (1) and Two (2); Article Six (VI), Section Two (2); Article Ten (X).

CHANGE OF CORPORATE NAME MEETING

Certificate of Change of Corporate Name of
The Grue Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church

We, the undersigned Chairman and Secretary of the meeting and a majority of the Trustees do hereby certify:

That a meeting of the members of the Grue Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was held at its office in the Church on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24, Township 148, Range 50, Traill County, North Dakota, on the twelfth day of April, 1944, in compliance with Section 4557, Compiled Laws of North Dakota, 1913;

That forty members were represented at the meeting;

That the following Resolution, amending the Articles of Incorporation, in accordance with Section 4563, Compiled Laws of North Dakota, 1913, was adopted by the members representing at least two-thirds of the entire membership of such corporation:

RESOLVED, That the name of this corporation be changed from THE GRUE NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH to THE GRUE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION.

Witness our hands this 9th day of October, 1944.

REV. KARL STROMME, Chairman of the Meeting.
MRS. INGA INGWALSON, Secretary of the Meeting.
MANCUR OLSON, Trustee.
MARTIN NETTUM, Trustee.
OLUF A. ERTSGARD, Trustee.

State of North Dakota,)
County of Traill) ss.

On this 9th day of October, in the year A. D. One Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-four, before me, L. C. Odegard, a Notary Public in and for Traill County, North Dakota, personally appeared Rev. Karl Stromme, Mrs. Inga Ingwalson, Mancur Olson, Martin Nettum and Oluf A. Ertsgard, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and they severally duly acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

Witness my hand and official seal this 9th day of October, A. D. 1944.

L. C. ODEGARD,
Notary Public.

My Commission expires March 14th, 1950.

questions shall be decided by a majority vote of the members voting thereon at such meeting, except as otherwise provided for by the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution of the Congregation, or these By-laws.

ARTICLE II

1. MEMBERSHIP. Members of this Congregation shall be those who have been legally received into the Congregation and who have not withdrawn or been removed.

2. VOTING. Each member shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at any meeting of the Congregation, which shall be cast in person.

3. NEW MEMBERS. In order to become a voting member, a person must be of legal age, agree to comply with and be bound by the rules and regulations of the Constitution and these By-laws of the Congregation. He may then report to the Pastor or the secretary of the Congregation. The Church Council shall investigate as to whether the applicant meets with the above requirements. If two-thirds of the members at a regular or special meeting of the Church Council vote in favor of the applicant, he shall at once be accepted as a bona fide member and shall be welcomed by the Pastor on behalf of the Congregation at the next public service.

4. REMOVAL. The members may at any special or annual meeting of the Congregation remove any officer for cause and fill the vacancy caused by such removal. The respective officer shall be informed, in writing, of the charges preferred against him at least ten days before the meeting and shall have an opportunity to be heard and present evidence in his defense.

5. VACANCIES. Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Church Council and officers thus elected shall serve until the next annual meeting of the members or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified.

6. EXPENSES. Each member shall contribute a sufficient amount to defray all the necessary and legitimate expenses of the Congregation.

ARTICLE III

1. PASTOR. The Pastor shall be the presiding officer at all

meetings of the members, the board of trustees and the board of the Church Council. In case of vacancy or absence of the pastor a moderator shall be elected pro tem.

2. **CALLING PASTOR.** The Pastor shall be called at a legal meeting of the Congregation by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members or at least a quorum must be present. The church council must then proceed to issue a letter of calling over their signatures. This letter of calling shall contain the legal contract between the Pastor and the Congregation.

3. **RESIGNATION.** If the pastor desires to resign, such resignation shall be tendered at a business meeting or an official service; but shall not terminate before three (3) months after such resignation.

4. **REPORTS.** The Pastor shall submit at each annual meeting of the members a report and read from his book of records the names of every child he has baptised, the names of those that were confirmed and the names of those whom he officiated at their burial, in fact, give a full and complete report covering his official activities for the previous fiscal year.

5. **DISMISSAL.** The Pastor may be removed by the members for cause whenever in its judgment the best interests for the Congregation will be served thereby. (See Article 7, Section 2 of the Constitution.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

1. **DEACONS.** The Deacons shall:

(a) Consist of two members that shall assist the Pastor in his spiritual care of the Congregation.

(b) Visit the sick, needy and distressed and also perform such other duties as may be assigned to them.

2. **TRUSTEES.** The Board of Trustees shall:

(a) Consist of three members that shall be the administrators of the properties and shall have charge of and supervise the entire financial status of the Congregation.

(b) The Congregation shall at its first annual meeting after these by-laws have been adopted elect one trustee for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and thereafter one each year for a term of three years.

(b) Ring a few strokes as Services begin and chime six strokes at close of Service.

(a) Ring the Church bell for a period of four minutes one hour previous to the hour set for Services to begin and one half hour before the Services for a period of not less than two minutes.

6. JANITOR. The Janitor shall:

(a) Enforce the laws of the state and the rules and regulations of the state department of health with respect to the burial of dead human bodies within the cemetery under his charge.

(b) Keep a local register of all burials, showing name of deceased, date and location of burial, cause and date of death, together with such other information and data as the state department of health may require.

5. SEXTON. The Sexton shall:

(a) Receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable and deposit all such money in a bank that shall be selected by the Congregation.

(b) Receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable and deposit all such money in a bank that shall be selected by the Congregation.

(c) He shall submit at each annual meeting of the members a report covering the business and financial condition of the Congregation at the close of such fiscal year.

4. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall:

(a) Be the custodian of all funds, property and securities assigned to him by the Board of Trustees and the Congregation.

(b) In general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board of Trustees and the Congregation.

(c) Keep on file at all times a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the Congregation containing all amendments thereto, which copy shall always be open to the inspection of any member of the Congregation.

(d) The Board of Trustees shall, previous to the close of each fiscal year, appoint a committee of two members to audit and examine the books of the treasurer and make a report of same at the annual meeting of the Congregation.

3. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall:

(a) Keep the minutes of all meetings of the members and the Board of Trustees in one or more books provided for that purpose.

(b) Keep on file at all times a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the Congregation containing all amendments thereto, which copy shall always be open to the inspection of any member of the Congregation.

(c) Shall make a joint report at the annual meeting; also at any special meeting whenever it should be necessary to do so.

(d) The Board of Trustees shall, previous to the close of each fiscal year, appoint a committee of two members to audit and examine the books of the treasurer and make a report of same at the annual meeting of the Congregation.

(c) At funerals when the corpse is carried in and out of the Church, the bell shall be chimed.

(d) At the two big Church Festivals (Christmas and New Year) the church bell shall be rung for a period of four minutes at four p. m.

7. CHURCH COUNCIL. The Pastor, Deacons and the Trustees shall constitute the Church Council.

8. TERMS OF OFFICE. All the officers shall hold their offices for the term of one year, and until their successors are elected and qualified, except as otherwise provided in these by-laws.

ARTICLE V

Cemetery

1. It is the duty of the Congregation and the man that is in charge as the Overseer to keep the Cemetery free from grass, rubbish and weeds.

2. Lots are sold to members of the Congregation for Two Dollars (\$2.00) per lot. Lot No. 45 is set aside for people that do not belong to the Congregation and have no family lot of their own. A fee of One Dollar (\$1.00) per grave is charged on Lot No. 45 and this gives title to ground and registry.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

The members of the Congregation shall have the power at their annual or at a special meeting to amend, repeal, change or make new By-laws, provided the notice of such meeting has contained a copy of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal and provided further that a quorum is present.

ARTICLE VII

By-laws on one side of the pages

This book of By-laws shall be written only on one side of the pages so that in an orderly way any proposed amendment or new By-laws can be placed directly on the opposite side of the altered By-laws in question.

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation examined and approved
as to form and legality this 9th day of October, 1944.

CHAUNCEY T. KALDOR,
States Attorney,
Traill County, North Dakota.

