

**BYLAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF
TAIWANESE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO**

Amended by 1990 Congregational Annual Meeting
Amended by 2013 Congregational Special Meeting
Amended by 2015 Congregational Special Meeting

1. The fiscal year of the Congregation shall be January 1 through December 31.
2. The annual meeting shall be held on or before January 31.
3. Our Statement of Mission is :
“This congregation is composed of Taiwanese people gathered together in San Diego County to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As the Taiwanese Lutheran Church, we seek to worship, praise and glorify God in our mother tongue as well as in our new language. We intend to grow in our understanding of Jesus Christ; we intend to share our faith with others; we intend to care for and assist those in need. We pledge faithfully to support and participate in the life of this Christian congregation so that we can manifest the love of Jesus Christ through our church and our life.”
4. The number of seats, terms of office, qualifications, vacancies and nature of service for elders and deacons (including deaconess) are specified as follows:
 - A. Number of seats:
When the average of total Sunday service attendance, including all language services and children’s Sunday schools, is 100 or less, three elders and seven deacons shall be elected. The average is calculated over the 12-month period ending 30 days prior to a congregation meeting. One more elder and deacon shall be elected for each or a fraction of additional 50 in this average.
 - B. Qualifications:
 - (1) Elders
 - An elder shall set a good example by his or her faith and deeds and is a respected person. (Cf. I Peter 5:1-3 and I Timothy 3:1-7)

- An elder has served as elder before, either abroad or in this country, and has been a voting member of this congregation for at least one year, or has served as a deacon in this congregation for at least two full terms.

(2) Deacons

- A deacon shall set a good example by his or her faith and deeds and is a respected person. (Cf. I Timothy 3:8-13).
- A deacon was baptized in this congregation at least a year previously or baptized in another congregation and has been a voting member of this congregation for at least one year.

C. Terms of Office:

(1) Elders

Elders shall be chosen by ballot for terms of three years by a majority vote at the annual congregational meeting. Elders shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively.

(2) Deacons

Deacons shall be chosen by ballot for terms of two years by a majority vote at the annual congregational meeting. Deacons shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively.

D. Responsibilities:

(1) Elders

- To teach members of the congregation to know the Bible and the Christian faith.
- To assist the Pastor to do home visits, counseling, and spiritual guidance of members of the congregation.
- To be in charge of congregational functions of worshiping, learning, witnessing and caring ministries.
- To assist the Pastor in offering the Holy Sacraments.

(2) Deacons

- To be in charge of congregational business affairs.
- To be in charge of congregational financial needs.
- To be in charge of preparation of financial statements and budgets.
- To share the responsibilities of the congregational functions of worshiping, learning, witnessing, caring, and other related ministries.

E. Vacancies:

In order to encourage minority representation in the Congregation Council, the total number of elders and deacons from a particular language service should be kept to no more than one member greater than that of another language service, and vacancies of elders and deacons shall be assigned to different language services for reaching this goal. A language service is a weekly worship service or services using a particular language and having a minimum of 20 voting members. A vacancy for a particular language service may be left unfilled, if no candidate has been elected for the vacancy.

5. For recommending candidates of elders and deacons to the congregation, **Recommendation Committee** shall be formed by the senior pastor and other twelve members. Those twelve members are appointed by the Congregation Council for a term of two years and shall be equally divided among different language services. The Committee has the authority to assign vacancies to various language services according to the above Section 4.E, recommend one candidate for each vacancy and determine the language service of a candidate. The Committee may recommend its own members.
6. Committee shall be formed to help the congregation in fulfilling its mission and ministry in the functional areas of: worshiping; learning; witnessing; service; support.
7. A voting member shall be at least 18 years old. He or she can be removed from the roll of voting members for a congregation meeting due to inactivity if he or she has not attended weekly worship services, according to the church attendance records, during the six-month participation period, which is defined as the continuous 180-days period ending at 30 days prior to that congregation meeting.
8. For a pastor who has been called by a legally called congregation meeting for a specific term of at least two years, his or her term may be extended by a majority vote of the Congregation Council and then by a majority of ballot vote at a congregation meeting legally called for that purpose.