



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA **YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE CONSTITUTION**

1. PRE-AMBLE

We Young Adults in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) having noted with concern;

- 1.1. The vacuum that existed in church where the needs of Young Adults were not adequately catered for.
- 1.2. Emigration by Young Adults to other denominations
- 1.3. Young Adults being dormant and not actively taking part in the life of the church

Hereby resolve to form the league.

2. THE NAME

The name of the organization shall be Evangelical Lutheran Church In southern Africa Young Adult League. {ELCSAYAL}

3. MISSION.

- We as the Young Adults League seek to:
Create a home for the young adult generation.

4. MOTTO

“I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.”

Philippians 4:13

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To maintain a developing faith in God that is reinterpreted, strengthened, and expanded as a result of increasing contact with the realities of life.

To become a witness of Jesus Christ, as a servant by words and deeds, in faith with love and hope to God.

To bring in innovative partnerships with organizations outside ELCSA

To deepen our understanding of the significance of the sacraments and the liturgy.

To utilize the intellectual and professional skills contained in the league towards the growth and the development of the church.

To create a cadre-ship to challenge practices and tendencies that hinder progress in the church.

To realize the worth of every individual despite his/her frailties and limitations.

To participate creatively in the various worship opportunities provided through the church.

To accept responsibility for adult leadership and service in the church and for Christian stewardship in supporting it.

6. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership shall be opened to everyone over 25 years old.

3.2 New members shall be inducted after the probation period of not less than 3 months but not more than 6 months agreed upon

by parish or congregation committee and the pastor concern. During this period they shall acquaint themselves with the provisions of this constitution.

3.3 All members shall subscribe annually.

3.4 The amount of subscription fee shall be determined by ELCSA conference

7. ORGANISATION AT THE CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES.

7.1 There shall be a congregational group, which shall amongst its registered members

elect a committee consisting of a chairperson; deputy chairperson, secretary, deputy secretary, treasurer and additional members may be elected/co-opted.

7.1.1 Meet at least once a month.

7.1.2 Have the right to ask for report from the committee.

7.2 Young adult congregational committee shall:

7.2.1 Have their chairperson as a delegate to parish committee

7.2.2 Be responsible to the pastor and congregation council.

7.2.3 Take care of all activities and properties of the league.

7.2.4 Cooperate with the YAL parish committee.

7.2.5 Hold office for the period of 2 years and be eligible for re-election.

7.2.6 Shall meet at least once quarter

7.2.7 The committee shall call annual general meeting

7.3 The pastor shall be the ex-officio of the league.

8. ORGANISATION AT THE PARISH LEVEL.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES

- 8.1 Organization at parish level shall:
 - 8.1.1 Elect from amongst its registered members a committee consisting of executive committees from congregations the chairperson; deputy chairperson, secretary, deputy secretary, treasurer and additional members may be elected/co-opted.
 - 8.1.2 Hold a conference once a year.
 - 8.1.3 Have the right to ask a report from the committee.
- 8.2 Young adult parish committee shall:
 - 8.2.1 Have their chairperson as a delegate to the parish council and Circuit Young Adult League
 - 8.2.2 Be responsible to the pastor and parish council.
 - 8.2.3 Take care of all activities and properties of the organization.
 - 8.2.4 Cooperate with the YAL Circuit committee.
 - 8.2.5 Hold office for the period of 2 years and be eligible for re-election.
 - 8.2.6 Shall meet at least twice a year
 - 8.2.7 Prepare and present annual reports at the conference
- 8.3 The pastor shall be the ex-officio of the organization.

9. ORGANISATION AT THE CIRCUIT LEVEL.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES

- 9.1 Organization on circuit level shall:
 - 9.1.1 Elect amongst its registered members a committee consists of chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, deputy secretary, treasurer and additional members may be elected/co-opted. The election shall take place at the circuit conference.
 - 9.1.2 Meet at least once a year
 - 9.1.3 Have the right to ask a report from the committee.
- 9.2 Young adult circuit committee shall:
 - 9.2.1 Have their chairperson and the secretary as a delegate to the circuit council and diocesan Young Adult League
 - 9.2.2 Be responsible to the dean and circuit council.
 - 9.2.3 Take care of all activities and properties of the organization.

- 9.2.4 Cooperate with the diocesan committee.
- 9.2.5 Hold office for the period of 2 years and be eligible for re-election.
- 9.2.6 Shall meet at least once a year
- 9.2.7 Prepare and present annual report at the conference.
- 9.2.8 The Dean shall be the ex-officio of the league.
- 9.2.9** The league shall have annual conference.

10. ORGANISATION AT THE DIOCESE LEVEL.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES

10.1 Organization at diocese level shall:

- 10.1.1. Elect amongst its registered members, the chairpersons, secretaries a director, deputy director, secretary, deputy secretary, treasurer and additional members may be elected/co-opted. The election shall take place at the diocesan conference.
- 10.1.2. Meet at least once a year.
- 10.1.3. Agree on number of delegates to the conference
- 10.1.4. The league shall have bi-annual conference.
- 10.1.5. Have the right to ask a report from the committee.

10.2 Young adult league diocese committee shall:

- 10.2.1 Have their director as a delegate to the diocesan council and ELCSA Young Adult League committee.
- 10.2.2 Be responsible to the bishop and diocesan council.
- 10.2.3 Take care of all activities and properties of the organization.
- 10.2.4 Cooperate with the ELCSA committee.
- 10.2.5 Hold office for the period of 2 years and be eligible for re-election.
- 10.2.6 Shall meet at least once a year
- 10.2.7 Prepare and present the report to the conference.

10.3 The Bishop shall be the ex-officio of the league.

11 ORGANISATION ON ELCSA LEVEL.

11.1. Organization on ELCSA level shall:

- 11.1.1. Elect from the directors, Secretaries of all diocese a director, deputy director, secretary, deputy secretary,

treasurer and additional members may be elected. The election shall take place at the ELCSA conference.

11.1.2. Meet at least bi-annual.

11.1.3. Have the right to ask a report from the committee.

11.2. Young adult ELCSA committee shall:

11.2.1. Have their director as a delegate to the church assembly

11.2.2. Be responsible to the presiding bishop and the church assembly.

11.2.3. Take care of all activities and properties of the organization.

11.2.4. Cooperate with the church assembly.

11.2.5. Hold office for the period of 2 years and be eligible for re-election.

11.2.6. Shall meet at least twice a year

11.3 The presiding Bishop shall be the ex-officio of the league.

12. FINANCE

12.1 Means of raising funds shall be devised at all level as long as it does not violate Christian ethics.

12.2 Congregational young adult league shall forward the said percentage to the parish, parish to circuit, circuit to diocese and diocese to ELCSA.

12.3 Funds shall be used to promote and develop the league on every level.

12.4 Monies should be banked within seven working days

12.5 Signatories to the bank shall be, the treasurer, chairperson and secretary. Any of the two shall sign when required.

12.6 Treasurers of the league shall submit financial books to the treasure of the council for inspection.

12.7 The inspected financial books shall be presented at the conference.

12.8 Financial year end shall be the month of August

13. RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURE.

13.1 Rules and regulation.

13.1.1 All organizations on respective level shall draw their own rules and regulation within the framework of this constitution.

13.1.2 Pastors, Deans and Bishops shall conduct all the election on respective levels.

- 13.1.3 The pastor shall do induction, reinstatement and absolutions.
- 13.1.4 All election shall be done by secret ballot.
- 13.1.5 In a case of a tie the presiding officer shall pass a casting vote upon a second voting.
- 13.1.6 The committee concerned shall fill any vacant position in the committee by means of co-option for the remaining period.
- 13.1.7 Should three or more members of the committee vacate their positions during the term of office bi-election shall be held within a period of three months.
- 13.1.8 Any member failing to attend three consecutive meetings without apology shall cease to be a member.
- 13.1.9 Any committee member failing to attend three consecutive meetings without a written apology shall be subjected to disciplinary procedures.
- 13.1.10 Any member who is found guilty of misconduct or is under church discipline or who violates the constitution of the organization shall forfeit the right and privileges of the organization.
- 13.1.11 Any member who has forfeited the right and privileges of the organization may be reinstated after absolution.
- 13.1.12 In all meetings the quorum shall be 50% plus 1 member.
- 13.1.13 No member should hold same position for more than two terms

13.2 Disciplinary procedure.

When intending to discipline/remove office bearer, the committee on congregational, parish, circuit, diocese or ELCSA must:

- 13.2.1 Advice the person concerned in writing giving not less than 7 days notice of the charge against him/her and the date of the hearing
- 13.2.1 At the hearing the person concern shall have the opportunity to state his/her case and may call a witness(es) if needed so in support of his/her case.
- 13.2.3 In each case a person concerned shall receive written notice of the decision taken.
- 13.2.4 In case the person is not satisfied with the outcome, he/she may appeal to the next level

14. AMENDMENT.

- 14.1. Proposed amendment of this constitution shall be submitted to the ELCSA Young Adult committee in writing six month prior to the conference.
- 14.2. Such proposed amendment shall be circulated to the dioceses within three months prior to the conference.
- 14.3. The two-third majority of the voting members shall approve the proposed amendment.
- 14.4. The Church Council has the final authority to all amendments.

15. **DISSOLUTION**

- 15.1. Should the organization be dissolved, its properties shall remain the properties of the church.

ANNEXURE -A

INTERPRETATION OF WORDS

- Absolution : Formal declaration of forgiveness or pardon by a Pastor.
- Doctrines : Set of church guidelines, Creed, System of Belief etc.
- Ex-officio : A non-elected, non voting member of the organization due to the position he/or she is holding in the church.
- League : A group of people who agree to work together.
- Induction : Initiation /Introduction / formal placement
- Member : A person belonging to the league.
- Membership : A state of being a member of the league.
- Office Bearer : member of the committee accountable to the organization
- Probation : Try out / Trial period.

ANNEXURE -B

DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

THE CHAIRPERSON / DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.

He or she shall;

1. Preside on all meetings of the organization. In his/her absence the deputy chairperson shall take over. Where both are absent, the committee shall elect among themselves a person to chair the meeting.
2. Prepare the agenda of the meeting well in time before the meeting.
3. Convene all the organization's meetings.
4. Organize a proper venue for the meeting.
5. Ensure that minutes of the meeting are taken and previous minutes are read and adopted by the members as true account of proceedings.
6. Ensure that other committee executes their tasks properly.
7. Ensure that the required quorum is present on commencement of, and during the meeting.
8. Open for discussion on matters arising from the minutes.
9. Regulates speakers and to over- rule when necessary.
10. Put matters to vote when necessary.
11. Cast his/her vote only when there is a tie
12. Keep discussion lively.
13. Examine all the records of the organization.
14. Be ex-officio of all the subcommittee of the organization.
15. Ensure the smooth running of the organization.

THE SECRETARY / DEPUTY SECRETARY

He/she shall;

1. Keep proper records of the organization.
2. Take minutes in all business meetings.
3. Read the minutes in meetings.
4. Handle all correspondences of the league

TREASURER

He/she shall

1. Keep proper financial records of the organization
2. Collect and bank all monies of the organization.
3. Report the state of funds to the committee and the organization when required so.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

- Do all duties allocated to them by the committee.

#####