

**MN SOUTH DISTRICT  
CHECKLIST FOR NEW/REVISED CONSTITUTIONS**

Y/N?	Criteria	Comments
	1. The submitted documents shall include six copies of a certified copy of the <i>Certificate of Incorporation</i> (Chapter 315) or of the <i>Articles of Incorporation</i> (Chapter 317A). ( <i>MN South BOD December 12, 2014</i> )	
	2. “The name of this congregation shall be [Name] Lutheran Church of [City,] [County,] [State].” See <i>Guidelines for Constitutions &amp; Bylaws of Lutheran Congregations (Guidelines) 1.0</i>	
	3. States membership in the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). See <i>Guidelines 4.0</i>	
	4. Spells out confessional standards. See <i>Guidelines 3.0</i>	
	5. Spells out requirements for membership. See <i>Guidelines 5.0</i> a. Baptized b. Communicant c. Voting (age)	
	6. States that membership in organizations whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God is prohibited for all members (baptized, communicant, and voting). See <i>Guidelines 5.3</i>	
	7. States provision for calling only ordained ministers who are qualified in accordance with LCMS Bylaw 2.5.2. See <i>LCMS Bylaw 2.5.2</i> . And states provision for calling only commissioned ministers who are qualified in accordance with LCMS Bylaw 2.5.3. See <i>LCMS Bylaw 2.5.3</i> .	
	8. States provision that women may not serve in the office of pastor nor exercise any of its distinctive functions, and that women may serve in humanly established offices in the church as long as the functions of these offices do not make them eligible to carry out official functions that would involve public accountability for the functions of the pastoral office. ( <i>2004 Res. 3-08A</i> )	
	9. Provides for adequate notice for regular and special voters’ meetings. See <i>Guidelines 8.0</i>	
	10. States article on dissolution. Property should be assigned to “The Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.” See <i>Guidelines 10.2</i>	
	11. Contains <u>no</u> unreasonable/unrealistic conditions/provisions such as: a. Policy statements regarding social issues (e.g. marriage, sexuality, sanctity of human life). Such statements belong in a separate handbook or policy manual. b. Requirement for unrealistic (e.g., 90% of voters) quorum. c. Requirement for unrealistic majority (e.g., 90%) in calling pastor/teacher. d. Other.	
	12. When changes to Constitutions <u>or</u> Bylaws are submitted to the Committee, they must receive the entire Constitution and Bylaws document, even if the changes are clear and limited.	