

Constitution of the Community of the Gospel

This document and the Customary of the Community of the Gospel (The Rule) constitute the
“Operating Agreements” for the Community of the Gospel

Article I. Of the Name	2
Article II. Organization	2
Article III. Of Management	3
Section 1. Ongoing Management	
Section 2. Assistants to the Guardian	
Article IV. Of Membership	3
Section 1. Postulants	
Section 2. Oblates	
Section 3. Novices	
Section 4. Full Membership-Profession	
Section 5. Separation from the Community	
Section 6. Friends of the Community	
Article V. Of Electing the Guardian	7
Article VI. Of Chapter	9
Article VII. Of Council	10
Article VIII. Of Relationship to the Larger Church	11
Section 1. The Bishop of the Diocese	
Section 2. The Bishop Visitor	
Article IX. Of Property	12
Article X. Of Financial Operations	13
Section 1. Income and Gifts	
Section 2. Expenses	
Section 3. Reporting	
Section 4. Federal and State Taxes	
Article XI. Of Alterations to the Constitution	16

Article I. Of the Name

- (1) The legal name of this organization is "Community of the Gospel, LLC"
- (2) It is herein referred to as the "Community," or the "Community of the Gospel."

Article II. Organization

- (1) The purpose of the Community of the Gospel is to provide to our members a guided experience and support network in monastic-style living while still remaining in their current home, family, and job situations. The Community provides structure and support for members as they strive to live by their Vows wherever they happen to be in the service of the Lord our God.
- (2) This Community is organized to meet tax-exempt status of the federal Internal Revenue Code as an organization whose sole purpose is religious.
- (3) This Community conforms to the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America otherwise known as the Episcopal Church, with specific reference to Title III, Canon 14, Section 2 of the 2006 edition of the Canons describing Christian Communities. It is our intent as a Community to be in Communion with the See of Canterbury.
- (4) This Community has filed Articles of Organization, and is incorporated as a Limited Liability Company, under Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 183.
- (5) The Community is organized exclusively for religious purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as tax-exempt organizations under the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- (6) No substantial part of the activities of the Community shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Community shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Community shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article III. Of Management

Section 1. Ongoing Management

- (1) The ongoing management of this Community as a corporation is vested in the Guardian, Council, Chapter, and Bishop Visitor as described herein.
- (2) The Managing Member may be the "Guardian," or "Guardian of the Community," or some other legal representative of the Community as appointed by the Guardian, or the Council in absence of a Guardian.
- (3) Full Members (Professed) of this organization may be empowered to serve as Directors or Officers of the corporation for purposes of the legal operation of this corporation.
- (4) The Guardian is responsible for the effective and efficient operations of the Community to fulfill its mission and vision, and is the chief interpreter of the Constitution to this end where and when clarity is needed. When the term "Guardian" is used in this document, it may be construed to include a duly appointed representative of the Guardian.
- (5) The character, duties, rights and functions of the Guardian are further described in the Rule of the Community (The Customary) and this Constitution.

Section 2. Assistants to the Guardian

- (1) The Guardian may appoint representatives and delegate to them authority for the efficient functioning of various aspects of the community. The Guardian is free to appoint these persons as needed but should avoid the difficulties caused by frequent and unreasonable changes in these offices. Appointments and dismissals will be done in consultation with the Council.
- (2) The specific operational functions may vary from time to time and the same Brother or Sister may hold various offices. The offices are described in the Customary of the Community. The Guardian, with the advice of the Council, shall decide the question of which offices need to be filled at any particular time.

Article IV. Of Membership

This Community reserves the right to approve and admit members to Community life, to receive commitments of those prepared for full membership, to adjudicate internal problems not already stipulated by the Canons of the Church, to practice without hindrance those traditions and customs approved by tradition and time which are particular and unique to Religious and Community life. The administration of these particulars will reside with the Guardian, with the advice and guidance of the Council, the Chapter, and Bishop Visitor.

For fuller descriptions of the details of Membership are in the Customary.

Section 1. Postulants

- (1) A Postulant is a person who is exploring a possible vocation with the Community. The Postulancy is to be a period of discernment and evaluation to determine mutual interest and benefit between the Postulant and the Community.
- (2) A Postulant is admitted to the Postulancy with the permission of the Guardian and in consultation with the Guardian's Council.
- (3) Postulants have no voice or vote within Community matters, are not members of the Community, and do not represent the Community in any way.
- (4) A Postulant may leave the Postulancy at any time for any reason.
- (5) A Postulant may be dismissed from the Postulancy by the Guardian at any time for any reason.
- (6) Further details about the nature and scope of Postulants are to be found in the Customary.
- (7) Postulants who are invited to become Oblates or Novices of this Community will complete an application as prescribed by the Guardian. The application will be reviewed by the Council and must be approved by the Guardian prior to admittance of the candidate.

Section 2. Oblates

- (1) Candidates successfully completing the Postulancy may become Oblates within this Community upon approval of the Guardian after consultation with the Council.
- (2) The period of Oblation is renewable annually, with no specific term.
- (3) Before becoming an Oblate, the candidate acknowledges in writing that his or her entry into the Community is not to be taken as a work contract of any kind, recognizing that he or she can claim no compensation or other monetary judgments in the event of his or her departure from the Community.
- (4) The Oblate must be at least 21 years of age.
- (5) Oblates in good standing with the Community have voice in matters related to the Community, but no vote.
- (6) The Oblate is required to present certificates of Baptism, and when applicable, Confirmation and Ordination during their first year in Oblation unless prior arrangements have been made

with the Guardian. In the absence of original documents, letters of confirmation or duplicates may be accepted from appropriate institutions.

(7) Further details about the nature and scope of Oblation are to be found in the Customary.

Section 3. Novices

(1) The Novitiate is a probationary period before Profession - Full Membership. The length of the Novitiate shall be approximately one to three years. The Guardian may shorten or lengthen this period as appropriate.

(2) Before entering the Novitiate, the Novice acknowledges in writing that his or her entry into the Community is not to be taken as a work contract of any kind, recognizing that he or she can claim no compensation or other monetary judgments in the event of his or her departure from the Community.

(3) The Novice must be at least 21 years of age.

(4) Novices in good standing with the Community have voice in matters related to the Community, but no vote.

(5) The Novice is required to present certificates of Baptism, and when applicable, Confirmation and Ordination prior to petitioning the Guardian for advancement to Profession. In the absence of original documents, letters of confirmation or duplicates may be accepted from appropriate institutions.

(6) Further details about the nature and scope of the Novitiate are to be found in the Customary.

Section 4. Full Membership - Profession

(1) Upon successfully completing the requirements of the Novitiate and petitioning the Guardian, the Novice may move to Full Membership - Profession status, as herein provided, on the approval of the Guardian in consultation with the Council.

(2) Any Professed Member in good standing with the Community gains a right to vote at Chapter meetings and is eligible to sit on the Guardian's Council if invited as an office holder or elected as an At-Large member.

(3) Professed members are those people who:

- have successfully completed their Novitiate requirements, and
- been approved by the Guardian after consultation with the Council, and
- have offered their vows to the Community in a Rite of Profession, and
- are in good standing within the Christian Church.

(4) A Formation Guide, appointed by the Guardian, assumes the task with that of the Guardian of assisting the Professed Member in developing and working his or her formation plan. There are no implied benefits of this formation procedure since much of the growth of the Professed Member rests with the efforts and desire of that person. The Formation Guide will report to the Guardian on the progress of the Professed Member.

(5) The Professed Member must proclaim and renew his or her commitment to the Community and to his or her Vows annually in a manner described in the Customary of the Community (The Rule).

(6) Further details about the nature and scope of Professed Membership are to be found in the Customary.

Section 5. Separation from the Community

(1) Any Member is free to depart the Community at any time after consultation with the Guardian. The Guardian has the right to dismiss any Member at any time after consultation with the Member's Formation Guide and Council. Proceedings for separation may be initiated by the Guardian, or by the Member. The voice of all parties shall be heard at a Council Meeting summoned for this purpose if said meeting is desired by the member in question. Meetings may be held using technology. The Bishop Visitor shall be notified of dismissals.

(2) Any Professed Member of the Community may be granted a leave of absence or inactive status by the Guardian, after consultation with the Council. The Bishop Visitor shall be notified of the change in status.

(3) Any attempt made to enter the Community by fraudulent means will be grounds for immediate dismissal.

(4) Any Member having exhausted the normal process of the Community may seek redress in accordance the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Section 6. Friends of the Community

(1) People may express a desire to participate in and support the life of the Community to a limited extent without making any commitments to the Community. They will be welcomed and known as "Friends of the Community" and may attend Convocations at the invitation of the Guardian, but may not attend Chapter meetings except by the express invitation of the Guardian.

(2) Friends of the Community have no authority in or for the Community, are not members of the Community, have no vested interest, and have no vote. They do not represent the Community in any manner whatsoever.

Article V. Of Electing the Guardian

(1) The Guardian of this Community must be a Professed Member in good standing with this Community and with his or her local parish or church body.

(2) The term of the Guardian shall be four years, except for the original founder whose term as Guardian begins upon formation of the Community (March 30, 2007) and extends four years after the point of accepting the sixth Professed Member to the Community.

(3) There is no limit to the number of terms a Guardian may serve.

(4) Near the end of a Guardian's term (allowing time for a transition), a meeting of the chapter is called for the purpose of holding an election. This meeting will usually take place within the context of a Convocation, but the Council may decide to complete this process using technology and/or postal services if they so choose.

(5) If the Guardian should resign or die in office, the governance of the Community shall devolve upon the Deputy Guardian, or the Council if there is no Deputy Guardian, who shall inform the Bishop Visitor of the vacancy and summon a meeting of the Chapter as soon as is practical.

(6) All eligible Members of the Community shall be summoned to this meeting of Chapter. Eligible members unable to attend may vote by mail. The meeting may be held using technology if the Deputy Guardian with the advice of Council so chooses.

(7) On the day appointed for the election, the Community and Chapter shall assemble following the Eucharist, if available, and if the meeting is held at a single location. The Bishop Visitor or his or her appointee shall preside at the election and shall function as chief teller. A member of the Council chosen by the chief teller shall assist. Both shall be bound by the strictest secrecy.

(8) Ballots shall be distributed, each Professed Member of the Community receiving one ballot, either at the meeting or previously delivered to the eligible member.

(9) Each Professed Member of the Community in good standing shall indicate his or her choice for Guardian. The name submitted must be an eligible member, and should not be his or her own name. These shall be collected and checked by the Bishop Visitor or his or her duly appointed representative, either at the meeting or by mail or technology in time for the scheduled tally.

(10) None but the tellers may examine these votes, and they are responsible for the confidential destruction of these votes after the election.

(11) The tellers shall count the votes and announce the results.

(12) For an election on the first ballot, it is required that a person receive at least two-thirds of the valid votes cast. Abstentions are regarded as invalid votes when tallying the proportion of votes cast and are not counted. Should this ballot, or any subsequent ballot, reach a conclusive result, only the name of the Brother or Sister elected shall be announced. If the ballot is not conclusive, the senior teller shall announce the names of those receiving votes together with the number of votes cast for each.

(13) Should the first ballot prove indecisive, a second is to be held in like manner, which may require a subsequent date for the ballot counting.

(14) Should the second ballot prove indecisive, a third is to be held and votes may be cast only for those two persons who received the most votes at the second ballot. In the event of a tie for second place in the second ballot, the name of the one who is senior in community order is to be preferred. In the event of a three-way tie for first place in the second ballot, the names of the two who are senior in community order are to be preferred.

(15) After the third ballot the name of the Brother or Sister who has received a majority of the votes cast is announced. Votes for an ineligible candidate are invalid and not counted. In the event of a tie, the Brother or Sister who is senior in community order is chosen.

(16) Following the announcement of the result of a decisive ballot, the Brother or Sister elected signifies his or her acceptance or refusal of the office of Guardian.

(17) Should the Brother or Sister elected refuse, the balloting shall begin again as at the first ballot, all votes subsequently cast for this Brother or Sister being invalid and not counted.

(18) Should the Brother or Sister elected accept; he or she immediately becomes Guardian of the Community and receives a blessing from the Bishop Visitor. If the Bishop Visitor is unable to attend the election, or the election is held in a dispersed manner using technology, the new Guardian will be blessed by the Bishop Visitor at the first opportunity.

(19) An election of a Guardian may also be initiated:

(a) at the request of the incumbent Guardian;

(b) upon the order of the Bishop Visitor;

(c) upon 75% of Professed Members signing a petition for election; said petition being delivered to the Bishop Visitor and a copy to all members of Council.

(20) If a new Guardian is elected under (19), the new Guardian will begin a new 4-year term. If the incumbent Guardian is re-elected under (19), the Guardian will resume his or her 4-year term and not start a new 4-year term.

Article VI. Of Chapter

(1) The Chapter consists of all Professed Members of the Community in good standing, and all have the right to be summoned to every meeting of the Chapter and to speak and to vote as outlined in this Constitution.

(2) Each Professed Member shall have one equal vote. Novices may be seated and have voice, but no vote; Postulants may be seated but have neither voice nor vote. Any member under disciplinary action may not vote, and may be refused seating at Chapter by the Guardian.

(3) Visitors may attend Chapter only by specific invitation of the Guardian.

(4) The Guardian shall be bound to summon Chapter at least annually and may summon it more frequently if desired. Where Chapter is not able to convene physically in one location, input and votes may be obtained via technology or standard mail. The Guardian is also bound to summon the Chapter and ask for their input and vote, where appropriate, on the following matters:

- a. Election of At-Large Council members.
- b. Any alienation of property.
- c. The election of a Bishop Visitor.
- d. Matters of general concern to the Community.
- e. Changes to the Constitution or Customary as permitted.

(5) The Guardian shall normally preside at Chapter meetings. In the absence of the Guardian, the Deputy Guardian shall preside. If this position is not filled, then the most senior eligible Brother or Sister present shall preside.

(6) Minutes of all meetings shall be carefully recorded and read at the next meeting by the Secretary of the Community, or other person appointed by the Guardian.

(7) Meetings of the Chapter shall be opened with the invocation of the Holy Spirit and will be regulated by the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order where doing so lends efficiency and effectiveness to Community proceedings as determined by the presiding official.

Article VII. Of Council

(1) The Council consists of:

- (a) The Guardian and members of the Community who hold specific offices or duties within the Community as appointed by the Guardian, such as Secretary and Treasurer;
- (b) Additional Professed Members At-Large as outlined in (2).

(2) The purpose of At-Large members on the Council is to provide general membership with representation on the Council. The Guardian may appoint one At-Large member who will serve a 3-year, renewable term. The number of At-Large members on the Council will be no less than one (if available) but may not exceed ten. A guideline will be to add one At-Large member by Chapter vote for every ten Professed Members added to the Community until the Community exceeds 100 members, at which time the maximum of 10 At-Large members takes effect. In addition:

- (a) At-Large members serve three-year terms.
- (b) At-Large members will have a minimum of one year tenure as a Professed Member, and not be under any disciplinary action at the time of election or appointment.
- (c) There is no limit to the number of terms an At-Large member may serve.
- (d) Election of an At-Large member is by simple majority vote of Chapter members.
- (e) If an At-Large member does not complete his or her term for any reason, another qualified member shall be elected by Chapter to finish that portion of the term.

(3) All Council Members in good standing have the right to be summoned to every meeting of the Council and to speak and to vote. All shall have one equal vote. Votes of the Council are advisory in nature, and will be considered heavily in the decisions of the Guardian of the Community. Final decisions rest with the Guardian.

(4) The Guardian is bound to summon the Council at least annually and may summon it more frequently if desired. Meetings may be held using technology at the discretion of the Guardian. The Guardian is also bound to consult the Council on the following matters:

- a. Admission of people to the Community.
- b. Granting of a leave of absence.
- c. Dismissal or dispensation of membership commitments.
- d. Matters sensitive to the Community.

(5) The Guardian determines the need for representation on the Guardian's Council. The Guardian of the Community shall appoint and remove members of the Council as he or she sees fit (other than elected At-Large members unless for disciplinary reasons) after consultation with the Council. Care should be taken as to not create unnecessary disruptions by changes in Council members.

(6) There must be no unauthorized disclosure of the proceedings of the Council. The Guardian may wish to inform members of the Community who are not members of the Council of certain discussions and decisions of the Council. He or she may delegate this responsibility to another member of the Council.

Article VIII. Of Relationship to the Larger Church

The Community of The Gospel is a Christian Community as defined by Title III, Canon 14, Section 2 of the 2006 Canons of the Episcopal Church. This designation is given to a group of people who voluntarily commit themselves to the Community for a given period of time, in obedience to their Rule (Customary) and Constitution. Members of a Christian Community are not required to hold possessions in common or to live a celibate life.

Section 1. The Bishop of the Diocese

(1) If the Bishop of the Diocese is not the Bishop Visitor of the Community, he or she shall, on the occasion of a vacancy in the office of Bishop Visitor, be informed by the Guardian of the vacancy within one month of its occurrence. The Chapter shall proceed to elect a new Bishop Visitor. The sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese shall be necessary for the formal tendering of the Visitorship to any Bishop other than him or herself. During the vacancy the Community may request the Bishop of the Diocese to fulfill any duties that would normally fall to the Bishop Visitor.

Section 2. The Bishop Visitor

(1) The Bishop Visitor of the Community shall be elected or removed by at least a two-thirds majority of the Chapter on the motion of the Guardian.

(2) The term of the Bishop Visitor shall be for five years. There is no limit to the number of times a Bishop may serve as Bishop Visitor. If he or she is not the Bishop of the Diocese, his or her appointment must have the sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Bishop Visitor to carry out a visitation to the Community at least once every five years.

(4) The Bishop Visitor is the guardian of the Constitution of the Community. To be lawful any change in the Constitution shall be reviewed by the Bishop Visitor to determine if said change was given due diligence and fair consideration and does not violate or conflict with Canon law. If said changes are not satisfactory, the Bishop Visitor will consult with the Guardian as to appropriate action.

(5) Responsibilities of the Bishop Visitor include presiding over the election of a new Guardian and the Public Blessing of the newly elected Guardian when possible, but the Bishop Visitor has the right to nominate another Bishop or appointee to act in his or her stead.

(6) The Bishop Visitor shall have power to receive appeals from any member of the Community without hindrance from the Guardian or Council. On receipt of such an appeal the Bishop Visitor shall appoint a time and place for the hearing of the appeal convenient to all parties. The Bishop Visitor shall make no decision without consultation with the Guardian and Council.

(7) The Bishop Visitor shall be informed of all new Memberships, and any dismissals or resignations from the Community.

(8) Notice must be given to the Community of the Bishop Visitor's intention to hold a Visitation in sufficient time for all necessary arrangements to be made.

(9) The Bishop Visitor shall be provided with:

- A current copy of the Rule (Customary) and Constitution.
- A list of all members of the Community.
- Financial records of the Community for the most recent fiscal year.

(10) During the course of the Visitation, the Bishop Visitor and his or her assistants may interview privately each member of the Community. Arrangements shall be made so that the Bishop Visitor may interview any member of the Community not in residence at the Visitation. All such interviews shall be privileged and confidential and the Guardian does not have the right to intervene.

(11) After the Visitation, the Bishop Visitor shall prepare his or her Charge. This may be delivered as an address to the Community or be sent by post. Copies of the Charge shall be distributed to each member of the Community.

Article IX. Of Property

(1) Property acquired with Community funds is presumed to be Community property.

(2) Property may be acquired, held and conveyed in the name of a Community. Any interest in real property may be acquired in the name of the Community and title to any interest so acquired shall vest in the Community rather than in the members individually.

(3) All property originally transferred to or subsequently acquired by or on account of the Community is property of the Community and not of the members individually. (Wis. SS. 183.0701)

(a) Any gift or donation, however defined, given during membership in this Community, is the property of the Community, and is not returnable.

(b) Substantial material gifts (other than money) and gifts with restrictions will be accepted only after approval by the Council. The Community can not accept any form of assignment, real-estate, bequest, residue from will, or rider to such that would place the Community in any form of harm or any form of indebtedness without the approval of the Guardian and that of Chapter.

(c) In the case of legacies, stipends, trusts and all other monies receivable, the Community shall seek competent legal and financial advise on how best to invest and protect such gifts.

(4) Upon the dissolution of the Community, its assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

(5) Property Dedication and Distribution: distribution of property owned by this organization will be distributed upon dissolution of this organization to exempt purposes only. Remaining net worth of the Community is to divided in equal parts (the number of parts equaling the number of remaining members), and said parts transferred to the respective dioceses, synods or other church bodies of those members. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article X. Of Financial Operations

Section 1. Income and Gifts

(1) The primary source of income for the community will be the gifts of members and friends who desire to support the work of the Community.

(2) Individual pledges and gifts are received only by the Guardian, Treasurer or appointed Deputy. Income information that is shared with Community is in the form of totals only, which in no way reveals the amount of giving by individuals.

(3) Gifts of any kind, for any reason, at any time, made by outside sources or by a member of the Community, become at its giving, the property of the Community and therefore not refundable or returnable.

(4) No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II Organization (1) thereof.

Section 2. Expenses

(1) Members of the Community may seek reimbursement for their reasonable and necessary expenses related to the management and administration of the Community provided these are itemized in writing and have been pre-approved by the Guardian or Council.

(2) If the time and effort contributed by a member to maintain and sustain the operations of the Community, or a significant part thereof, creates a discernible adverse impact on the finances of said member, the Council may agree to an appropriate stipend for that position. This stipend would not be permanent to the position, and would need to be renewed annually at budget preparation time.

(3) Any request or payment of funds to any Member may not be in violation of the inurement laws of the Internal Revenue Service or any State under which the transactions took place. Violation of these laws could jeopardize the non-exempt status of the Community.

Section 3. Reporting

(1) At every Convocational meeting of Chapter, financial statements will be given to the Members. These will include a Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet), and a Statement of Income and Expenses. The Guardian will report on other funds, such as any Discretionary Fund, being careful to protect anonymity, but sharing with the Community the uses to which the monies have been put. These financial reports will be sent to the Members unable to attend Chapter.

(2) Reporting will adhere to the standards set by the *Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs* or other accepted procedures.

(3) The Community has an "open book" policy by which the accounting documents (with the exception of individual donation records) are open to review by any Professed Member during normal hours of operation.

(4) Upon National Recognition of this Community by the House of Bishops' Committee on Religious Communities, the Community's financial records will be audited in a manner acceptable to the Committee.

Section 4. Federal and State Taxes

(1) Each Member of the Community is obligated to pay their own individual taxes as required by local, state and federal law. At no time should the Community of the Gospel, incorporated in the State of Wisconsin, become responsible for the taxes of individual Members.

(2) All fees, charges, custodial care, taxes of any kind, of any trust held by the Community, are to be paid from current balances, dividends, interest or other accruing mechanism.

(3) If by agreement the Community is benefited by a trust, estate, or inheritance, all fees, charges, custodial care, taxes of any kind are to be paid from the same unless approved by the Guardian and Chapter.

Section 5. Insurance

(1) Because of the diverse nature of the Community, each member is responsible for his or her own insurance protection of liability, property, casualty, life and health insurance. The Community cannot assume expenses associated with illness or subsequent billing made by health care providers on behalf of its Members.

Article XI. Of Alterations to the Constitution

(1) It is the Guardian's responsibility to present to the Chapter revisions to the Constitution that s/he has determined merit consideration following consultation with the Council.

(2) Any proposed alteration to the Constitution [other than those falling under (7) and (8) below] shall be presented to the Chapter at a properly called meeting, at a central location or virtually, using technology, absent members having been informed, and after due consideration and discussion, it shall be voted upon, absent members voting by proxy.

(3) Amendments and alterations shall be approved if said amendment or alteration receives at least two-thirds majority of the eligible votes cast. If approved by a two-thirds majority, it shall be sent to the Bishop Visitor for his or her review. If no adjustments are needed, the Chapter shall be informed of it as soon as practical, and the amendment or alteration shall then become an integral part of the Constitution, displacing or annulling any previous relevant part thereof.

(4) If said amendment or alteration is not approved by Chapter, the matter may not be presented to Chapter again within one year unless there have been changes made to present a significantly different proposition.

(5) Changes to the Constitution shall be reflected by a dated copy of the Constitution, previous versions being archived for reference.

(6) No changes may be made to this Constitution which are in conflict with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the canons of the Episcopal Church, Internal Revenue Service regulations, or in any way endanger the tax-exempt status obtained by this organization.

(7) Certain sections, subsections, sentences or words within the Constitution must reflect compliance with Episcopal canon, Wisconsin State corporation laws, and IRS regulations and are therefore not matters for a vote. When these types of changes come to the attention of the Guardian, s/he will determine how these changes will be properly and accurately reflected in the Constitution, and inform Chapter of the changes needed along with the rationale. The Guardian will then effect the changes to the Constitution and distribute it to Members and may post the revised Constitution on the Community's website.

(8) The Guardian may freely correct typographical errors found in the Constitution or make minor adjustments to wording to clarify intent after consultation with Council. When these types of changes are implemented by the Guardian, s/he will inform Chapter of same and redistribute corrected copies to Community Members and the Bishop Visitor, and may post the corrected version on the Community's website.

9-28-11 CG Membership Name Change Proposal passed by Chapter unanimously, effective 10-1-11. Aspirant changed to Postulant, Associate Member changed to Novice, Full Member changed to Professed.

6-4-12 Following approval by Chapter at Convocation 2012, Section 2. Oblates, added under Article IV.