

Interim Parish Agreement

Circle of Faith Parish & First Lutheran Church of Trimont

Article I – Purpose

The purpose of this Interim Parish Agreement is to authorize a relationship between Circle of Faith Parish (St. Peter Lutheran, Ceylon, Minnesota; Trinity Lutheran, Welcome, Minnesota; and Waverly Lutheran, Trimont, Minnesota) and First Lutheran, Trimont, Minnesota.

Article II – Mission Statement

Saved by Grace – Gathered in Faith – Called to Serve.

(Short version)

Saved by grace, gathered in faith, and nurtured by Word and Sacrament, we commit ourselves to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, share a hope for the future, to use our resources and talents as guided by the Holy Spirit, and to work together to grow our ministry, welcome our neighbors, and serve others in Christ's name.

(Long version)

Article III – Congregational Identity

Each congregation will maintain its own identity as it now exists and will be accountable for representation at Southwestern Minnesota Synod and Watonwan River Conference events and for the expenses of such representation at those functions.

Article IV – Property

1. Circle of Faith Parish and First Lutheran will retain ownership of its respective church property and parsonage.
2. Each party is responsible for the physical upkeep of their own parsonage and property.

Article V – Worship

1. Each congregation may determine its own order of worship.
2. We affirm the integrity of each congregation, therefore we commit to ensuring weekly worship.

Article VI – Financial Obligations

1. Circle of Faith Parish and First Lutheran will be responsible for their own financial obligations, including their property, debt, pastoral and support staff, and office expenses.
2. Circle of Faith Parish agrees to pay First Lutheran \$335 per month for parsonage expenses.

Article VII – Parish Council

1. First Lutheran may elect two or three members from their congregation to the Circle of Faith Parish Council.
2. At least one representative from each congregation is required to establish quorum of the parish.
3. First Lutheran will have voice and vote for all matters that pertain to this Interim Parish Agreement (e.g. Pastoral staff responsibilities, worship, sacraments, education, etc.).
4. First Lutheran will have voice only for all other matters that do not pertain to this Interim Parish Agreement (e.g. Circle of Faith Parish budget, administrative staff, office operations, etc.).

Article VIII – Parish Officers and Executive Board

1. Parish Officers and Executive Board positions will be held by members of St. Peter Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Waverly Lutheran.
2. First Lutheran Parish Council members will not hold Executive Board positions unless the congregation officially joins the parish after a congregational vote.

Article IX – Pastoral Staff

1. The call status of the pastoral staff at Circle of Faith Parish and First Lutheran will remain unchanged.
2. Duties of the pastoral staff will be shared between Circle of Faith Parish and First Lutheran. This includes: coordinating and providing spiritual leadership through worship, sacraments, pastoral care and education.

Article X – Terms of Agreement

1. Circle of Faith Parish and First Lutheran will commit to this Interim Agreement for six months from the formal start date.
2. This Interim Agreement may be extended or suspended upon a majority vote by both the Circle of Faith Parish Council and the First Lutheran Church Council.
3. This Interim Agreement will be adopted upon a majority vote by both the Circle of Faith Parish Council and the First Lutheran Church Council.
4. This Interim Agreement may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) day written notice.

Article XI – Adoption


1. Circle of Faith Parish voted to ratify and adopt this Interim Parish Agreement on December 8, 2020 and First Lutheran Church voted to ratify and adopt this Interim Parish Agreement on December 23, 2020. This Interim Parish Agreement will begin on January 1, 2021.



Circle of Faith Parish
Council President

1-12-21

Date



Circle of Faith Parish
Lead Pastor

1/12/21

Date



First Lutheran Church
Council President

1/12/21

Date



First Lutheran Church
Pastor

01/12/21

Date