

**The Lutheran Student Movement
Gulf Atlantic Region**

CONSTITUTION

Article I

The official name of this organization shall be The Lutheran Student Movement-Gulf Atlantic Region.

Article II

Affiliation

The Lutheran Student Movement-USA is a national organization of Lutheran college students. The Lutheran Student Movement-Gulf Atlantic Region shall be a regional affiliate of that organization or its successor.

Article III

Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. First and foremost, to glorify God the Spirit, Father, and His son, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
2. To bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to announce His call to discipleship in an academic community;
3. To provide a means of allowing members to deepen and express their Christian faith, especially as such is represented by Lutheran traditions;
4. To facilitate communication between the national organization of Lutheran college students and members of this organization;
5. To represent members of this regional organization to the national organization; and
6. To promote the development of lasting friendships among members of this organization.

Article IV

Membership

Section 1. Local Affiliates: Local organizations of Lutheran students may affiliate with this organization by participating in a regional retreat or national gathering. Affiliation shall be granted for one calendar year from the date of affiliation. Local affiliates shall be the main channels of information from the Regional Council to individual members.

Section 2. Individual Members: Full membership shall be open to any students who have been matriculated within the last calendar year at an institution of higher learning and reside within the boundaries of the region. Full membership shall be granted for one calendar year from the date of affiliation.

Article V

Officers

Section 1: The election of officers of this organization shall consist of a Regional Representative, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Secretary of International and Multicultural Concerns (SIMC), a Regional Retreat Coordinator, and an Outreach and Evangelism Chair (OnE).

Section 2: The term in office of the Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary of International and Multicultural Concerns (SIMC), Retreat Coordinator, and Outreach and Evangelism Chair (OnE) shall be from one Regional Retreat to the next. The term in office of the Regional Representative shall be from one National Gathering to the next, including a commitment of active participation until the following Regional Retreat.

Section 3: Officers shall be members of this organization in good standing and shall attend Regional Council Meetings and Regional Retreats.

Section 4: The responsibilities of the officers shall be as follows:

1. The Regional Representative shall lead all regional meetings, including those of the Regional Council and the Regional Assembly and shall serve as the Regional Representative to the National Gathering from the time of the National Gathering following the election to the next National Gathering.
2. The Secretary shall take minutes of all regional meetings and shall publish the regional newsletter. The Secretary shall assume the responsibility of the Regional Representative if for any reason that person is unable to do so.
3. The Treasurer shall administer the funds within the region and shall keep all the financial records. The Treasurer shall clear all debts one month following the closing of the Regional Retreat. All financial records and funds will be turned over to the Treasurer-elect within one week of closing all debts.
4. The Secretary of International and Multicultural Concerns shall be a resource person who provides information about various aspects of social ministry both independently and in conjunction with the national secretaries for such matters.
5. The Regional Retreat Coordinator shall be responsible for planning and directing the annual Regional Retreat.
6. The Outreach and Evangelism Chair (OnE) shall be responsible for making and maintaining contacts within the region and synods within the region for distribution of publications by the region.
7. The Regional Council shall have the power to appoint replacements for those council members excluding the Regional Representative who for any reason are unable to fulfill their responsibilities.

Article VI

Advisor

The Regional Advisor shall be a professional staff person from a Lutheran Campus Ministry located within the boundaries of the region. The Regional Advisor shall attend Regional Council meetings and Regional Retreats. It is hoped that the Regional Advisor shall also attend the National Gathering and the ELCA Staff Conference held each summer. The Regional Advisor shall serve from one National Gathering to the Regional Retreat of the following year. During the last couple months of the term, between the National Gathering and the Regional Retreat, the old and new Regional advisors will overlap.

Article VII

Parliamentary Procedures

Section 1: All business meetings shall be governed by the procedures contained in Robert's Rule of Order.

Section 2: There shall be time scheduled for Regional Assembly meeting during the annual Regional Retreat. The Regional Assembly shall be the final authority governing the region.

Section 3: The Regional Council shall be authorized to conduct necessary business between Regional Assemblies.

Section 4: Elections for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary of International and Multicultural Concerns, Retreat Coordination and Outreach and Evangelism Chair shall be held at the annual Regional Retreat. Election for the Regional Representative and Regional Advisor shall be held at the Regional Assembly during the National Gathering. The person elected to an office shall be the candidate who receives a simple majority of votes from those cast. In the event that a simple majority is not reached by one candidate on the ballot, the top candidates whose total votes make up simple majority shall be placed on the next ballot. Persons elected shall begin their terms at the close of the Regional Assembly during which they are elected.

Section 5: All voting shall be limited to those individuals at the Regional Retreat or National Gathering who are members of this organization.

Article VIII

Bylaws

Bylaws in harmony with this constitution may be adopted at the Regional Assembly and upon two-thirds majority of those present.

Article IX

Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of all members present at a Regional Assembly provided announcement of intention to amend the constitution had been in a Regional Notice to Affiliates 30 days prior to the Regional Assembly.

BYLAWS

Article 1

Regional Finances

Section 1. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year for this organization shall run from April 1 to March 31.

Section 2. Financial Responsibilities: The regional shall be financially responsible for:

1. Travel expenses for the Regional Representative to attend all National Council beginning with the National Council meeting held in conjunction with the National Gathering and up to but not including the next such meeting.
2. The publishing and mailing of regional publications.
3. All other business as deemed necessary by the Regional Council.

Section 3. Regional Retreats: Regional Retreats shall be planned to be financial self-supporting. They shall be planned to include the Regional Representative's and Regional Retreat Coordinator's registration fees in the event's budget. Three (3) dollars shall be included in the registration fees of every participant, one (1) dollar to be given to the National organization and two (2) dollars to be given to the Regional organization.

Section 4. Local Affiliate Contributions: All Local Affiliates shall be encouraged to contribute \$35 to the region for the current fiscal year.

Article II

Regional Retreats

An annual Regional Retreat shall be held in February or March of every year.

Article III

Regional Council Meetings

An annual Regional Council meeting shall be held in September or October following the National Council Meeting and the commencement of all council members' school's calendars.

Article IV

Regional Boundaries

The region shall contain the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and the U.S. territories of the Caribbean.

Article V

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of all members present at a Regional Assembly.

Definitions:

Regional Assembly: A Regional Business Meeting held at a Regional Retreat, National Gathering, or LSM event in which the Regional Representative or designee is present to preside over.

Regional Retreat: An event sponsored by the Regional Council which students from within the Gulf-Atlantic Region attend.

National Gathering: An annual gathering of college students sponsored by LSM or the Ecumenical Council.