



Resurrection Lutheran Church

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[Juneau Live! Studio on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)

One-Page Constitutional Overview

Why This Is a Governance Dispute – Not an Ecclesiastical One

This dispute arises from efforts by a small faction within Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC) — backed by former Bishop Shelley Wickstrom and, more recently, Bishop Timothy Oslovich—to bypass RLC’s constitutionally defined governance by unlawfully removing Pastor Karen Perkins and reasserting control over ministries and finances.

Key Constitutional Violations

1. Unauthorized Congregational Meeting (June 9, 2024)

- **Violation:** Called by bishop without council authorization; used a **51% vote threshold** to “end call” (C9.05 requires **2/3**).
- **Status:** Actions taken at this meeting are **void** under RLC’s constitution.

2. Improper Reappointment of Council Officers

- **Violation:** The bishop cannot appoint or reappoint council officers (C11.01.01 requires council election of officers).
- **Result:** Lisa Brendle’s “reappointment” as president had **no legal basis**.

3. Term Limit Breach

- **Violation:** Lisa Brendle exceeded the six-year term limit for council service in 2024 (C12.02).
- **Result:** She was **ineligible to serve** or preside over meetings; all subsequent actions taken under her authority are **void**.

4. Interference with Ministry Programs and Grants

Over \$205,000 in **restricted grants** (Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Food Network, CBJ Youth Activities Board) were **unlawfully removed** from RLC accounts. Ministries such as food services, shelter support, and broadcast programs were endangered—contradicting the church’s mission.

Why This Is a Legal (Not Ecclesiastical) Dispute

- The dispute centers on constitutional compliance, fiduciary responsibility, and non-profit governance. Neither the RLC Constitution nor the Alaska Synod Constitution authorizes the bishop to override congregational officer elections or ignore term limits.
- The Alaska Superior Court accepted this case under neutral principles of law, not ecclesiastical abstention. However, In 2025, the court dismissed the suit deciding that the issues raised were a matter of ecclesiastical law, rather than non-profit law, but also declaring that the reappointed president was president. RLC has appealed this dismissal to the Alaska Supreme Court.

What the RLC Council Seeks

- Restoration of constitutional governance, financial accountability, and rightful leadership.
- Public acknowledgment from the Synod that constitutional processes were violated.
- A commitment to reconciliation through the rule of law and congregational autonomy.

[Visit our website reference documents and position papers](#) or email: office@rlcjuneau.org.

Prepared by Congregation Counsel of Resurrection Lutheran Church Council and reaffirmed as an official position statement by the Council on September 18, 2025, on information and belief, subject to reasonable amendment by Counsel, with concurrence of the Congregation President, which was been done on September 7, 2026.