

Constitution

&

By-Laws

of

Benton Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

10-14-16

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# CONSTITUTION

## PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Benton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), located at Benton, Pennsylvania, a congregationally governed people, in order to promote the work of the Church in the Spirit of Christ, and thus advance His Kingdom, do hereby adopt this constitution.

## Article I PURPOSE

The purpose of this Congregation is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in faithful response to God's will and purposes as revealed through Jesus Christ and in the world; to seek in all persons a faith and commitment to Jesus Christ; to serve the community of which it is a part; to bring the gospel message to bear upon society; to sustain and be sustained by the general and regional manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); to work cooperatively with Christians in other communions; to seek the oneness of the body of Christ; and in all ways to seek to make known the love of God.

## Article II MEMBERSHIP

Membership of this Congregation, as a part of the whole family of God on earth, shall consist of the following: (1) those who are now members of the Congregation, (2) those who shall unite with it by public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, giving expression of their faith through baptism by immersion and commitment to Him, (3) those who unite by transfer of membership from another congregation and reaffirming their faith and commitment to Christ, publicly.

The right to vote shall be accorded to all persons identified as members of the congregation.

NOTE: Baptism by immersion is not a requirement for those who transfer membership; however, we continue to affirm baptism by immersion as a significant symbol, rich in meaning for the individual and Congregation.

## Article III

### RIGHT - PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATION

The Congregation shall manage its affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ; determine its faithfulness to the gospel with respect to the basis of membership; own, control and encumber its property; organize and carry out the mission and witness of the congregation; establish its budgets and financial policies; call its minister(s) and other staff; and participate, through voting representatives, in regional and general assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in forming the corporate judgments of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Congregation shall demonstrate voluntarily its mutual concern for the nurture, mission, and witness of the whole church, and among other responsibilities, it shall: (1) proclaim the gospel; (2) administer baptism and the Lord's Supper; (3) provide for the spiritual nurture of its members; (4) grow in understanding that the church is a universal fellowship; (5) transcend all barriers within the human family, such as race and culture; (6) be faithful in Christian stewardship, striving to share proportionately in providing resources for the total life, work and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); (7) choose voting representatives to the general and regional assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); (8) seek to realize the oneness of the church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other churches of the community and with present and emerging ecumenical structures.

The Congregation shall sustain its minister(s) in faithfulness and honor, and in matters pertaining to relationships with the minister(s), seek counsel from the executive regional minister.

The Congregation shall exercise and enjoy all other rights, privileges, and responsibilities requisite or appropriate to carrying out its purpose.

## Article IV

### OFFICERS, GENERAL BOARD, ELDERS, DIACONATE (DEACONS – MEN & WOMEN), TRUSTEES, PASTOR'S CABINET

#### Section A OFFICERS

The Congregation shall elect from its members a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, and Historian. These officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and shall serve as officers of the Congregation and the General Board as set forth in the by-laws.

#### Section B GENERAL BOARD

The Congregation shall have a General Board which shall be responsible to the Congregation and have authority to act on the behalf of the Congregation when it is not in a Congregational Meeting.

The General Board shall be responsible for receiving reports from the minister(s), officers, and the various organizations within the congregation. It shall establish by its action the program and budget of the Congregation, subject to action by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting. It shall be responsible also for conducting all legal business matters of the Congregation and carry out such other responsibilities as may be defined in the bylaws.

Stated meetings of the General Board shall be held monthly. Special meetings of the General Board shall be called by the Moderator of the Board upon request of the minister(s) or three (3) members of the General Board. Notice of the special meetings shall be made by telephone or by announcement at a Sunday morning worship service, or by mail. The purpose, date, time and place of the meeting shall be indicated in each notice.

#### Section C Elders, Diaconate

The Congregation shall have Elders and members of the Diaconate. Their election, qualifications and responsibilities shall be set forth in the bylaws.

#### **Section D Trustees**

The Congregation shall have Trustees. Their election, qualifications, and responsibilities shall be set forth in the bylaws. (The Trustees shall hold title to all properties of the Congregation, which shall normally include all trust funds belonging to the Congregation and shall manage the same under the direction of the General Board of the Congregation and shall perform such other duties as may be required of the Trustees by the laws of this state).

#### **Section E Pastor's Cabinet**

The Congregation shall have a Pastor's Cabinet which shall be responsible for coordinating the program and work of the Congregation and generally assisting the minister(s) in administering the same. It may also initiate program. It shall be composed of such members as set forth in the bylaws.

#### **Section F Committees**

The Congregation, through its General Board, shall establish standing committees and other organizations necessary for the conduct of the work of the Congregation as set forth in the bylaws.

### **Article V**

#### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

Congregational Meetings shall be held at least annually within the first ten (10) days of December. Notice of all stated Special Congregational Meetings shall be announced at a regular Sunday morning worship service of the Congregation at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting, and by means of the church newsletter or a written notice sent through the mail and postmarked at least ten (10) days before the meeting. Purpose, date, time, and place of the meeting shall be indicated in each notice.

### **Article VI**

#### **CHURCH YEAR**

The calendar year for the church shall be from January 1 to December 31.

## Article VII

### AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any Congregational Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting on the amendments, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been sent through the mail, to members of the Congregation at least two (2) weeks prior to the time the vote is to be taken, or the proposed amendments have been read at or following two (2) successive Sunday morning worship services immediately prior to the time the vote is taken.

## Article VIII

### INCORPORATION

The incorporation of the congregation shall be in accordance with the degree of incorporation recorded 5, January, 1897, on page 300, Miscellaneous Book No. 5 in the Court of Common Pleas of Columbia County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This amendment is No. 8874-442, found in the certificate of Record of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## Article IX

### ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Upon the adoption of this Constitution by the Congregation all former Constitutions of a business nature shall automatically be rescinded in favor of this adoption, and the Congregation shall then proceed to place this Constitution in operation.

Adopted by the Congregation of the Benton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in special session at the church, called for the purpose of considering this Constitution and its adoption on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 1988.

This constitution has been amended and approved by the Congregation on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1992.



# BYLAWS

## I OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

### A Election

1. The Congregation, at its Annual Meeting, shall elect the following officers:
  - a. Moderator of the Congregation, who shall serve as Moderator of the General Board.
  - b. Vice-Moderator of the Congregation, who also shall serve as Vice-Moderator of the General Board.
  - c. Secretary of the Congregation, who shall also serve as Secretary of the General Board, shall keep the records of all General Board and Congregational Meetings, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Moderator.
  - d. Assistant Secretary - When the Secretary is absent, the Assistant Secretary will perform all of the duties of the Secretary as listed in Section c.
  - e. Treasurer of the congregation, who shall also will serve as Treasurer of the General Board.
  - f. Assistant Treasurer - When the treasurer is absent, the Assistant Treasurer will perform all of the required duties of the Treasurer as listed in Section e.
  - g. Financial Secretary of the Congregation, who also shall serve as Financial Secretary of the General Board.
  - h. Assistant Financial Secretary of the Congregation will also serve as Assistant Financial Secretary of the board, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned with assisting the Financial Secretary.
  - i. Congregational Historian
  - j. Honorary Officers

## **B Qualification**

1. Officers must be members of the congregation.
2. Officers must be active in the congregation's life and give evidence of seeking to grow in their own understanding and practice of the Christian life. Such evidence should include the following:
  - a. Conduct one's life in light of the teachings of Jesus Christ.
  - b. Promotion of good will and Christian fellowship in the congregation and community.
  - c. Attendance at the worship services and stated meetings of the congregation.
  - d. Regular financial contributions to support of the congregation and its outreach programs.
  - e. Willingness to fulfill assignments in behalf of the congregation.
  - f. Demonstrated skills or evident potential in carrying out responsibilities of the particular office.

## **C Responsibilities**

1. The Moderator shall preside at all stated and special called meetings of the Congregation, General Board, and perform such duties normally associated with the office of Moderator.
2. The Vice-Moderator shall serve to support the Moderator, preside in his or her absence at meetings of the Congregation, General Board, and perform such other duties normally associated with the office of Vice-Moderator.
3. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Congregation, General Board, and provide for these minutes to be reviewed and approved by their respective bodies, and shall perform secretarial related duties as assigned by the Moderator.
4. The Assistant Secretary shall act in the absence of the Secretary and shall perform such duties as may be assigned, associated with assisting the Secretary.

5. The Treasurer shall receive all income of the congregation from the financial secretary, pay all accounts of the congregation as authorized by the budget or special action of the general board when such items are not in the budget, provide accurate records to the general board, provide for a semi-annual audit of both income and expenditures for action by the general board, and an annual audit for action by the congregation. The treasurer shall also be a member of the Stewardship/Finance Committee.
6. The Assistant Treasurer shall act in the absence of the treasurer and shall perform such duties as may be assigned, associated with assisting the treasurer.
7. The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for receiving all income of the congregation, keeping accurate records of the source and amount of such income, depositing such income to its proper accounts, providing the treasurer of the congregation with copies of all deposit receipts, and making regular written reports of income received to the general board. The Financial Secretary shall be a member of the Stewardship/Financial Committee.
8. The Assistant Financial Secretary shall act in the absence of the financial secretary, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned, associated with assisting the Financial Secretary.
9. The Congregation Historian shall gather and preserve data pertaining to the history, life and work of the local Congregation, including the names of its ministers and their terms of service, which information shall become available to the Congregation for its information and shall be considered its personal property.
10. The Honorary Officers shall consist of those who, because of disabilities, advanced age, etc. have retired from active service to the Congregation and whose past service and consecration to the Congregation merits the honor. These officers shall be entitled emeritus and are elected for life terms.

## **D Term of Office**

After serving two (2) consecutive two year terms, officers of the Congregation shall be ineligible for re-election to any position on the board until one (1) year has elapsed except for the below listed exceptions.

1. The Congregation Historian shall be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms (should the nominating committee and the person serving decide that an additional consecutive term is desirable).
2. The Congregational Secretary shall be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms (should the nominating committee and the person serving decide that an additional consecutive term is desirable).
3. The Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and the Congregational Clerk shall be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms (should the nominating committee and the person serving decide that an additional consecutive term is desirable).
4. The Moderator shall be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive terms (total of four (4) years) irregardless of previous Church Board service (should the nominating Committee and the nominee agree these additional consecutive terms are desirable).

## II GENERAL BOARD

### A Membership

1. The General Board shall consist of fifteen (15) voting members. They shall be Moderator; Vice-Moderator; Secretary; Financial Secretary, and Treasurer. Chairpersons of the following: Elders; Diaconate; Trustees; Fellowship/Evangelism; Stewardship/Finance; Christian Education; Outreach; Worship; Christian Women's Fellowship Representative; and a Member-at-Large (preferably youth). (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, are elected officers of the General Board and the Congregation. Chairpersons of the Elders, Diaconate, Trustees, Fellowship/Evangelism; Stewardship/Finance, Christian Education, Outreach, Worship, and the member-at-Large are elected officers of the General Board).
2. The minister(s) of the Congregation shall serve as member(s) ex officio of the General Board, without vote.

## **B Election and Term of Office**

1. The term of office for each member shall be two (2) years, with the board on a rotating schedule of eight (8) members being elected on even numbered calendar years, and seven (7) members being elected on odd numbered years, thus keeping a board of fifteen (15) members.
2. After serving two (2) consecutive two-year terms, board members shall be ineligible for re-election to any position on the board until one (1) year has elapsed.

Except for the designated exceptions set forth in Section I, Officers of the Congregation, Sub-Section D Term of Office, which said exceptions shall also apply to those same officers of the General Board.

3. The election of the following officers to take office on January 1 of Even Numbered Calendar Years will be: Office of Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Chairpersons of the following: Elders, Trustees, Stewardship/Finance, Outreach, and Diaconate.

The election of the following officers to take office on January 1 of the Odd Numbered Calendar Years will be: Moderator, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Chairpersons of the following: Fellowship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Worship, a Representative of the Christian Women's Fellowship, and a Member-at-Large.

4. The Moderator shall be responsible for appointing any person to fill any vacant position, subject to approval of the board.

## **C Authority**

1. The General Board shall perform its duties according to the authority granted in the Constitution, or otherwise delegated to it by the Congregation.
2. In keeping with the traditions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the ultimate authority of the Congregation shall rest with the Congregation. All organizations within the Congregation shall be responsible to and report regularly to the General Board, and through it, to the Congregation.
3. The General Board shall concern itself with policy rather than administration matters, taking into full account the responsibility of



the congregation to the total nurture, witness and mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the needs of the immediate community in which members of the congregation live.

4. All business meetings of the General Board shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).
5. Quorum: A quorum of the board will consist of 55% of the filled positions of the members of the board. Example: if 15 positions of the board are filled, eight (8) members are needed to be present for a quorum to conduct a meeting and transact business.

## **D Responsibilities**

1. The General Board shall conduct its affairs in harmony with the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Congregation, and shall report to and be responsible to the congregation.
2. The General Board shall be responsible for conducting the business affairs of the Congregation and providing for the planning, coordination, resourcing, evaluation, and implementation of the work and activities of the Congregation.
3. The General Board shall work with and give guidance to the Pastor's Cabinet.
4. The General Board shall establish, when necessary, a Pulpit Committee for the purpose of securing a minister for the Congregation. Membership and responsibilities of the Pulpit Committee shall be as described in the Bylaw III, B-1.
5. Due to the size of the board, it shall be necessary for a member who knows they will be absent from a regularly scheduled meeting, to notify the Moderator and their assistant/replacement where applicable, to be there in their stead, thus having voting privileges.
  - a. If any member misses three (3) consecutive (regular) meetings, their position may be declared vacant.
6. The General Board may establish special committees to perform its work.
7. The General Board shall receive regular reports from the Pastor's Cabinet, from special committees, and from other organizations, within the Congregation; and it shall act upon such reports with

approval, modification, or referral back to the Pastor's Cabinet, special committees, etc.

8. The General Board shall receive the proposed Annual Budget of the Congregation from the Stewardship/Finance Committee and recommend its approval or approval with amendment to the Congregation at its Annual Meeting. Subsequent requests for over-expenditure or additional funds from organizations within the Congregation shall be approved or disapproved by the General Board.
9. The General Board shall recommend to the Congregation the calling of the minister(s).
10. The General Board shall hire staff as needed (other than minister(s)).

## **E Meetings**

1. Regular monthly meetings shall be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, or at a time designated by the Moderator of the Congregation in consultation with the minister. Any changes in the regular time of the meeting shall require one (1) week advance notice.
2. Special meetings of the General Board may be called by the Moderator of the Congregation at any time he/she deems it necessary, provided that the members of the General Board are given one (1) week advance notice. The Moderator must, upon written request of three (3) congregational members, call a special meeting of the General Board. The same period of advance notice shall be required for these special meetings.
3. All meetings of the General Board shall be open to members of the Congregation, with the privilege of the floor.

## **III MINISTER**

### **A Responsibilities**

1. The Minister of the Congregation shall be the chief administrator of the Congregation, and, in cooperation with the Moderator of the Congregation and the General Board, encourage orderly procedures in the life and work of the Congregation in compliance with the

Congregation's Constitution and Bylaws, and the policies and procedures of the Congregation and the General Board.

2. The minister shall be an ex officio member, without vote, of all boards, committees, departments, commissions, and constituency groups of the Congregation, except the Pulpit Committee.
3. The minister shall give special attendance to the selection and training of the Congregation's leaders.

## **B Selection**

1. The Minister shall be chosen by the Congregation hereinafter provided:
  - a. A representative committee of five(5) nominated by the Moderator and approved by the General Board, shall serve as the Pulpit Committee, (at least one (1) representative from the Elders and one (1) from the Diaconate, and shall be responsible for recommending as prospective minister to the General Board.
  - b. The Pulpit Committee shall utilize the services of the General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pennsylvania for information and counsel concerning prospective candidates.
  - c. It shall be the policy of the Congregation to consider only one (1) prospective minister at a time. However, information may be secured on several prospective ministers in a given period.
  - d. The Pulpit Committee shall recommend a prospective minister to the General Board. The recommendation must be accepted by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present and voting in a regular or specially called meeting of the General Board.
  - e. The General Board shall recommend the prospective ministers in a given period.
  - f. The recommendation of the General Board must be accepted by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present and voting in a regular or special meeting of the Congregation before a call may be extended.

- g. A written statement setting forth the salary to be paid, and the other conditions of the call shall be made in triplicate: one (1) copy for the Minister, one (1) copy for the Congregation, and one (1) copy for the Regional Office.

## **C Terms of Employment**

1. An agreement of employment setting forth the salary to be paid to the Minister and other conditions of the call, shall be provided the Minister, with a copy filed in the Church Office, and with the Regional Office.
2. The term of ministry shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated, by either party, upon sixty (60) days notice.

## **D Resignation**

1. Voluntary resignation of the Minister shall be submitted to the General Board in writing, after consultation with the Moderator and the Elders.
2. Involuntary resignation of the minister shall be dealt with confidentially between the Minister, the Moderator, the Elders, and the Regional Executive Minister.
3. The General Board shall approve the resignation, voluntary or involuntary, of the Minister by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present and voting, and recommend approval of the Congregation.
4. The Congregation, in a stated or called meeting, shall take the final action in approving or disapproving the resignation of the Minister.
5. The Congregation and the Minister shall remember that their relationship is more than a mere contact and should conduct themselves accordingly, in the Spirit of Christ.

## IV ELDERS, DIACONATE, TRUSTEES

### A Election and Terms of Office

1. The Congregation, at its Annual Meeting, shall elect for terms of two (2) years, the following: Elders, Diaconate, Junior Diaconate, and Trustees. The officers may serve two (2) consecutive terms in that office, if re-elected, for a total of four (4) years. They may be eligible for re-election to the same office after one (1) year has elapsed.
2. The number of Elders shall be six (6).  
The number of Diaconate shall be twelve (12).  
The number of Junior Diaconate shall be four (4).  
The number of Trustees shall be three (3).
3. One-half (1/2) of the Elders, Diaconate, and Junior Diaconate shall be elected each year for a term of two (2) years. Two (2) Trustees shall be elected on even years, and one (1) Trustee on odd years.

### B Qualifications

1. The qualifications for Elders, Diaconate, Junior Diaconate, and Trustees shall be the same as described for the Officers of the Congregation in Bylaw 1, B.

### C Responsibilities

1. Elders shall be primarily responsible for the spiritual life and development of the congregation, preside at the Lord's Table, assist and share with the minister(s) in the conduct of his or her pastoral and priestly functions, and provide supportive counsel for the minister(s) regarding the spiritual life and development of the congregation.
2. Diaconate, in cooperation with the minister and other officers, shall help promote the welfare of the congregation, prepare and distribute the Lord's Supper, receive the offerings, and help prepare candidates for baptism. They shall perform such other duties as may be assigned and consistent with this office.



3. Junior Diaconate shall assist the Diaconate in their duties.
4. Trustees, in cooperation with the General Board, shall act as legal agents of the Congregation in all business matters, subject to the approval of the Congregation, hold legal title to all Congregational property, and handle all business transactions related thereto, and prepare such duties as are required by the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and shall be responsible for the care, maintenance, and use of the property.

## **V PASTOR'S CABINET**

### **A Responsibilities**

The Pastor's Cabinet shall consider, initiate and coordinate the activities and programs of the Congregation and review the procedures of implementing such activities and programs as determined by the General Board.

1. The chairpersons of the Membership, Stewardship/Finance, Evangelism, Christian Education, Outreach, and Worship Committees are responsible for obtaining from three (3) to five (5) members to serve on their committees, and to present them to the board for approval not later than January's Board Meeting.
2. The duties and responsibilities of the above mentioned are defined in Policy No. 800 and 900.

### **B Membership and Meetings**

1. The cabinet shall be chaired by the Pastor and shall consist of the Pastor, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, elected chairpersons of the Elders and Diaconate, and chairpersons of the following committees: Membership, Stewardship/Finance, Evangelism, Christian Education, Outreach, Worship, Property/Trustees, Christian Fellowship-CWF/CWM, and such other persons as may be appointed by the moderator.
2. Meeting frequency of the cabinet is at the discretion of the Moderator or Pastor.

## VI NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### A Election of Officers of the Congregation

1. A Nominating Committee, not to exceed five (5) members, shall be appointed by the Moderator of the Congregation, with approval of the General Board, and announced to the Congregation at least four (4) weeks prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting, called for the purpose of electing Congregational Officers.
2. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members; three (3) of which shall be members of the Congregation who are not members of the General Board. All suggestions for nominees shall be in the hands of the Nominating Committee at least ten (10) days preceding the Annual Congregational Meeting when the election of Congregational Officers by the Congregation shall take place. However, nominations for any office may be made from the floor.
3. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to receive and review the qualifications of all suggested candidates for the respective offices. The Nominating Committee shall then present at least one (1) nominee for each vacancy. Meetings of the Nominating Committee shall be open to any member of the Congregation.
4. All nominees receiving the greatest number of votes of those present and voting shall be declared elected. In case of more than one nominee for a given office, a secret ballot shall be taken; otherwise, a floor vote shall be deemed sufficient. All terms of office shall run currently with the church year.
5. Should vacancies occur during the current term of office, the Moderator, with the approval of the General Board, shall fill the unexpired term by appointment.

## VII CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

### A Meetings

1. The Congregation shall hold an annual business meeting within the first ten (10) days of December. The date will be set by the General

Board. This annual meeting shall be for the purpose of electing congregational officers, approving the proposed budget, and caring for other items of business.

2. Special meetings may be called by the Moderator of the congregation, by the General Board, or upon written request of at least ten (10) members of the congregation.

## **B Notices**

1. Notice of all stated or special congregational meetings shall be announced at a regular Sunday morning worship service of the congregation at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting and by means of the church newsletter, or a written notice sent through the mail and postmarked at least ten (10) days before the meeting. Purpose, date, time, and place of the meeting shall be indicated in each notice.

## **VIII ANNUAL REPORT**

### **A Content**

The content shall include a concise and informative report from the previous year, and shall be prepared by the Pastor, Moderator, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Clerk, and such other reports as the Moderator deems necessary. This shall be prepared by March 1 of the new year.

## **IX AMENDMENTS**

Prior to amending these Bylaws, the Policy Book should be consulted.

These Bylaws may be amended, upon a majority vote of the General Board recommending amendment(s) to the Congregation and by a majority vote of the Congregation in stated or special meetings, provided the proposed amendment(s) has been circulated to the Congregation by mail, or read before the Congregation at a regular worship service two (2) weeks

prior to the meeting of the Congregation at which the amendment(s) is to be considered.

## **X      ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

Upon the adoption of these Bylaws by the Congregation, all former Bylaws of a business nature shall automatically be rescinded in favor of this adoption, and the General Board shall then proceed to place these Bylaws in operation.

Adopted by the Congregation of the Benton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in special session at the church, called for the purpose of considering these Bylaws and their adoption on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 1988.

These Bylaws have been amended and approved by the Congregation on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1992.