

CONSTITUTION OF MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH [Rock Island, Illinois]

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Memorial Christian Church, a congregationally governed body eager to respond more effectively to the power of the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, do hereby adopt this Constitution on this 29th day of January 2012.

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of this Congregation shall be Memorial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

Our purpose is to be a faith community whose doors, minds and hearts are open to all. We gather to praise our God, break bread and hear His word proclaimed; scatter to serve His people in the Quad Cities and throughout the world; and grow into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 3. INCORPORATION AND DISSOLUTION

The incorporation of the Congregation shall be in accordance with the decree of incorporation, number 260442, dated March 1, 1929, and recorded on page 153, book no. 10, Miscellaneous Records, in the office of the Recorder of Rock Island County in the State of Illinois.

Should Memorial Christian Church cease to be a viable congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or of a new denomination including that body, all of the assets of the Congregation, including all real and other properties, endowments, trust funds, and accounts of gifts and bequests shall be transferred to the Christian Church Foundation (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, Indiana, or its successor and assigns, in a fund in the name of Memorial Christian Church [of Rock Island], the income from which shall be distributed to all causes participating in the Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or its successor and assigns.

ARTICLE 4. POLITY

A. Affiliations

This Congregation is an integral part of the denomination known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It actively supports the following:

- The General Assembly of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ),
- The Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, and
- Their associated agencies.

B. Government

This Congregation shall be totally self-governing and operate within the scope of its Purpose statement. The execution of the government shall be vested in the members operating within the Constitution and the Bylaws

ARTICLE 5. FINANCES

The financing of this Congregation shall be through free will offerings, pledges and funds from activities and events conducted for the purpose of raising funds.

ARTICLE 6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of this Congregation shall consist of:

- Those who are members as of the effective date of this Constitution;
- Those who shall unite with it by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, giving expression to their faith through baptism by immersion and personal commitment to Him;
- Those who unite with it by transfer of membership, thereby reaffirming their faith and commitment to Christ;
- Those who affiliate with this Congregation while retaining membership in another congregation and who reaffirm their faith and commitment to Christ. An Affiliate Member may not serve as an Officer of the Congregation or as a member of the Church Council, but shall otherwise have the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as any other member.

There shall be Participating and Non-Participating Members, as defined in the Bylaws of the Congregation.

ARTICLE 7. RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATION

In keeping with the traditions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the ultimate authority for all decisions shall rest with 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 policies;
- call, employ and terminate employment of its minister(s) and other staff;
- 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:

- proclaim the gospel;
- administer baptism and the Lord's Supper;
- provide for the spiritual well-being of its members;
- grow in understanding that the church is a universal fellowship;
- transcend all barriers within the human family such as race, age, gender, nationality, physical impairment and culture;
- 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);
- choose voting representatives to the general and regional assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
- 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 Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin.

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

ARTICLE 8. MINISTER(S)

The minister(s) shall serve as the spiritual leader(s) of the Congregation, providing support to the Congregation in general and to individuals in particular. The minister(s) shall be seminary trained and ordained. The minister(s) shall become a member(s) of the Congregation. The minister(s) may participate in denominational, educational and community activities in order to further the broader purposes of the Congregation. Specific responsibilities and titles shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE 9. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND ROLES

A. Officers

The Congregation shall elect from its members a Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Church Clerk. These officers shall be elected at the annual election meeting of the Congregation and shall serve as Officers of the Congregation as set forth in the Bylaws. Where necessary to comply with certain legal requirements, the Moderator may be designated as Chairman and the Vice Moderator as Vice Chairman.

B. Church Council

The Congregation shall have a Church Council which shall be responsible to the Congregation and have authority to act on behalf of the Congregation when it is not in a Congregation meeting. The Church Council shall be composed of members as set forth in the Bylaws and for terms of office therein stated. The Church Council shall be responsible for receiving reports from its Minister(s), Officers, and the various organizational bodies within the Congregation. 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. The Church Council shall report to the Congregation at its Annual Meeting.

C. Functional Organization

The Congregation, acting through its Church Council, shall establish such ministries, committees, task groups and other organizational bodies as it determines are necessary for conducting the work of the Congregation.

D. Ministry Leadership Team

The Congregation shall have a Ministry Leadership Team composed of men and women, which shall be responsible for coordinating the ministries, programs and work of the Congregation, generally assisting the minister(s) in administering same and serving as a planning body for the activities of the Congregation. It will initiate programs, subject to oversight by the Church Council. The Ministry Leadership Team composition, terms of service, authority and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

E. Elders

The Congregation shall have Elders composed of women and men who are Participating Members as defined in the Bylaws. Their election, qualifications, and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

F. Elders Council

The Congregation shall have an Elders Council, composed of women and men who are Elders. Their election, terms of service, qualifications and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

G. Deacons

The Congregation shall have Deacons composed of women and men who are Participating Members as defined in the Bylaws. Their recognition and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

H. Trustees

The Congregation shall have Trustees. Their qualifications, election, and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

I. Department of Bequests, Special Gifts, Memorials, and Endowments

The Congregation shall have a Department of Bequests, Special Gifts, Memorials, and Endowments ("the Department"), which shall be responsible directly to the Congregation and shall be governed by its own constitution and bylaws (which shall, in case of conflict, be superseded by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Congregation). The purpose of the Department shall be:

1. To provide educational and promotional programs concerning the giving of gifts to the Congregation through its bequest, memorial, endowment, or special gift plans.
2. To administer such gifts in accordance with the stated wishes of the givers.
3. To provide recognition and acknowledgement of gifts and givers as appropriate.
4. To oversee investment of funds acquired through the bequest, memorial, endowment, and special gift plans.
5. To advise the Church Council concerning use of income from investment of such gifts.

Gifts handled by the Department may be in the form of cash, securities, or other property. The following definitions shall apply:

- Bequests - Gifts given by a will.
- Memorials - Gifts given in memory of a person deceased or living.
- Endowments - Gifts given to be placed in an endowment fund for the purpose of generating income.
- Special Gifts - Gifts given to be used as specified by the givers or given without specification. The Church Council shall be responsible for gifts specified as being for the general operating fund or the missions fund, or for a special fund as described in Bylaws Article 10.

ARTICLE 10. MEETINGS

The number and purpose of regular Congregational meetings to be held and the notice to be given concerning those meetings shall be as set forth in the Bylaws. The calling of special Congregational meetings to be held and the notice to be given concerning those meetings shall also be as set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any stated or called meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Participating Members of the Congregation present and voting on the amendment, provided written notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been circulated to the Congregation by mail and/or email at least ten (10) days prior to the Congregational Meeting or read at worship service(s) on two successive Sundays before the vote is taken.

ARTICLE 12. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Constitution shall be effective after adoption by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Participating Members of the Congregation present and voting at a duly called Congregational meeting. From the date of adoption forward, it shall be in effect as amended from time to time in accordance with the amendment provisions herein.