

First Christian Church of Corvallis, Oregon
CONSTITUTION
Revised Edition
Adopted by Congregation, January 30, 2011
Amended by the Congregation January 23, 2022
Amended by the Congregation April 30, 2023

PREAMBLE

We, the Congregation of First Christian Church of Corvallis, Oregon, a self-governed body, in voluntary affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), do hereby subscribe to the following Constitution. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

ARTICLE I
NAME, PURPOSE AND DECLARATION

Section 1. Name. The name of this Congregation shall be First Christian Church of Corvallis, Oregon, affiliated with the denomination known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of the Congregation shall be to call people to faith in Jesus Christ and commitment to his Church, to encourage spiritual development so that all may increasingly understand and accomplish the will of Christ, to work for the unity of all Christians, to build the Kingdom of God, and to serve as a Shalom congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Section 3. Declaration. First Christian Church of Corvallis, Oregon, is opposed to doctrines and acts of hatred, harassment, vandalism or violence based on race, gender, religion, national origin or sexual orientation. This Congregation offers encouragement and support to individuals and groups who work for mutual understanding, respect and cooperation among all.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Definition. The membership of this Congregation shall consist of those who are now identified on the current roll as members and those who shall subsequently unite with the Congregation by baptism or transfer of membership from another organization of the Christian faith.

Section 2. Voting. Active members of this Congregation are eligible to vote at regular and special Congregational business meetings.

Section 3. Dual Membership. Individuals may place their membership in First Christian Church of Corvallis, Oregon, while retaining membership in another congregation.

ARTICLE III INCORPORATION

The incorporation of the Congregation was registered with the State of Oregon on August 9, 1913, File No. 18426, and was amended to conform to Article I, Section 1, adopted July 28, 1963.

These Articles are now superseded by the Restated Articles of Incorporation, adopted by the Congregation of the First Christian Church of Corvallis, Oregon, on April 26, 2009, and filed with the Secretary of State. The Restated Articles of Incorporation are located in the First Christian Church safety deposit box.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Congregation shall be: President, Vice Presidents, Clerks, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Trustees. Elders, Deacons, Board members and elected Program Cabinet representatives are also officers of the Congregation. Duties and numbers of the officers are outlined in the By-laws.

Section 2. Eligibility for Office. To be eligible for office, members shall be able to perform the duties of that office in accordance with the spirit of the New Testament. All, except Deacons, shall have been active members of the Congregation at least one year prior to their election to office. The President, Vice Presidents, Trustees, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary shall not be employees of the Congregation.

Section 3. Nominations.

- A. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) to seven (7) members, appointed by the President of the Congregation. At least one (1) member will be an Elder past or present and at least one (1) member will be a Deacon past or present. The President will appoint one of the committee members as chair.
- B. These appointments shall be approved at the January Board meeting.
- C. Nominations shall be made for: President of the Congregation, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Program, Vice President of Personnel, Clerks, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Trustees, Elders, Deacons, At-Large Board Members, At-Large Program Cabinet Members, and Emeritus and Honorary Positions.
- D. Suggestions from the Congregation for nominees shall be in the hands of the Nominating Committee at least twenty (20) days prior to the annual election of officers.
- E. The Committee shall secure consent from all nominees, nominate officers and report the nominations at the April Board meeting for approval prior to presentation for voting at the next Congregational meeting.
- F. The Nominating Committee shall serve for one (1) year and shall make nominations for vacancies during the year.

Section 4. Elections and Vacancies.

- A. Election of officers shall take place at a Congregational meeting by May 1.
- B. Notification of the election date and a list of nominees shall be mailed or e-mailed to all members of the Congregation at least seven (7) days prior to the annual election. The list of nominees shall also be posted on the website and in the narthex of the Church at least seven (7) days prior to the annual election.
- C. Voting for any office shall be by secret ballot of active members of the Congregation. Absentee ballots may be requested through the church office and by e-mail.
- D. Votes shall be counted from those members whose ballots have been received prior to the conclusion of the annual Congregational Election. Absentee ballots received after said Election shall be void. The President shall appoint the persons to count the ballots.
- E. Nominees for offices vacated after the election shall be elected by the Board. Nominees who receive a majority vote shall assume the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V MINISTER(S)

Section 1. Senior Minister(s). The Senior Minister(s) shall perform the functions and duties which normally pertain to that position. The Senior Minister(s) shall serve as spiritual counselor(s) and guide(s) to the Congregation, to the various bodies of the Denomination and the Church at large. The Senior Minister(s) shall have such specific responsibilities, duties and rights as may be set forth in the job description and in the employment agreement.

Section 2. Search Committee for Senior Minister(s). The Search Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members, including two (2) Elders, one (1) Deacon, and two (2) members at large.

- A. Two (2) members shall be elected by majority vote of the Elders from their own ranks.
- B. One (1) member shall be elected by majority vote of the Deacons from their own ranks.
- C. The remainder shall be appointed by the President from the Congregation at large, taking care that there be broad representation from the Congregation.
- D. The Committee shall be approved by the Board.

Section 3. Search Process for Senior Minister(s)

- A. The Search Committee shall follow the most recent revision of the official policy of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon.
- B. The Search Committee's recommendation must be voted upon by the Board. If accepted, the recommendation will be presented to the Congregation. Congregational acceptance requires a three-quarters (3/4) majority vote in a regular or special Congregational meeting before a call may be extended.
- C. A written statement explaining the compensation package, other conditions of the call, and the termination policy shall be prepared. A copy shall be given to the Minister and one copy filed with the appropriate Clerk.

Section 4. Associate Minister(s).

- A. Positions of Associate Minister may be created by the Board upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee or upon the Board's own determination of need. The establishment of an Associate Minister position is subject to approval by the Congregation.
- B. The Associate Minister(s) shall support the Senior Minister in the overall ministry and spiritual nurture of the Congregation.
- C. The Associate Minister(s) shall have specific areas of assignment, position titles, responsibilities, duties and rights as may be set forth in job descriptions and employment agreements.
- D. The search process for Associates shall be determined by the Board.

**ARTICLE VI
THE BOARD**

Section 1. Responsibilities.

- A. The role of the Board shall be to ensure that the Purpose and Vision of the Congregation are carried out.
- B. The Board reviews and sets the policies of the Congregation and receives reports.
- C. The Board shall recommend to the Congregation for approval those policy decisions and matters of business that are required by the Constitution and By-laws.
- D. Board actions shall always be subject to Congregational review.

Section 2. Membership. Membership of the Board shall consist of the following elected and special officers of the Congregation:

- A. President(s) of the Congregation
- B. Vice President(s)
- C. Clerk(s)
- D. Six Members at Large which must include one Elder and one Deacon past or present.
- E. Minister

Section 3. Quorum.

- A. A majority of the above Board members must be present to constitute a quorum.
- B. Each office shall have one vote regardless of the number of people sharing the office.

Section 4. Removal of Board Member or Officer of Congregation.

Any elected Officer or Board member may be removed at any time, with or without cause, at a Congregational meeting called for that purpose, by a vote of a majority of the members entitled to vote at any official Congregational meeting.

**ARTICLE VII
CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

Section 1. Number, Procedure and Notification.

- A. Two (2) regular business meetings of the Congregation shall be held each year. The first shall be held in January to approve the annual budget. The second shall be held by May 1 to elect Officers.
- B. Special meetings of the Congregation may be called at any time by the Senior Minister or President of the Congregation. Special meetings may also be called by at least twenty (20) members of the Congregation addressing a written petition to the Board.
- C. Notice of all regular and special business meetings of the Congregation shall be given at regular Sunday services of the Congregation and in the Congregational newsletter at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting.
- D. Only members of the Congregation shall have a vote.

Section 2. Quorum Thirty-Five (35) members of the Congregation, including those who have submitted absentee ballots, shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Congregation.

Section 3. Rules of Order. The latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all regular and special business meetings of the Congregation or Board.

**ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended, changed or abolished at any regular or special business meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present and voting on such action. Written notice of the proposed action shall be announced at all regular Sunday services and also announced in two (2) consecutive issues of the Congregational newsletter at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. No absentee ballots will be available.