

Congregational Meeting - **APPROVED**

First Christian Church of Corvallis

April 30, 2023, 11:00 am

President Lee Mason called the meeting to Order

Members counted: 7 online, approximately 33 members were present. A quorum of at least 40 was achieved with early voting as well.

Bylaws & Constitution Editing Report – Mary Cotton (see attached)

The By-Laws changes were already passed by the Board as per our By-Laws. Only the Constitution changes need to be voted on by the congregation. However, the changes go together.

Constitution:

1. Clarify Deacon/Elder Members of Committees
2. Clarify votes allowed for shared offices.
3. Change Quorum Requirement to 35 for Congregational Mtgs

By-Laws:

1. Clarify voting rights of ex-officio and co-officer members.
2. State Specifically that Co-Officers are allowed.
3. Clarify and add Presidential roles.
4. Appoint the Chair of the Disciples House Advisory Committee
5. Changed Minimum number of Elders and Deacons
6. Clarify relationship of standing committees to the Board.
7. Document correct process and documentation for email Board votes.
8. Adjust term and required number for the Pastor/Parish committee.
9. Add Disciples House Advisory Committee as approved in Oct & Jul 2019.

2023 Officer Nomination Report – Lee Mason (see attached)

Nominating Committee: Lee Mason, Mary Cotton, Tom Frederick, Tricia Martin, Sherry Sisson

We were graced by many people continuing in their current role. It was very hard to recruit a VP of Finance, and we are very fortunate to have Janet continue when no replacement could be found. Many thanks go to Tricia Martin who agreed to be a Co-VP to assist with the work load. Thanks to Pat Malone for assisting in the history for the Emeritus nominations.

Ballots were collected and counted by Donna Mason and Bruce Cotton.

How We Meet – Pastor Matt Gordon

Matt clarified that he intends to live stream services going forward regardless. But he would like to have church services, fellowship and meetings in person as much as possible.

What does that really mean?

Zoom allows accessibility for those that need to limit driving after dark, for example. Reassess meeting times, earlier or later if possible. But, don't leave anybody out. Consider that meeting in person is important for our relationships. If we can transition to in person meetings, masks are always welcome. We want to always provide a way for people to stay connected.

Matt is open to your feedback.

Lee Mason brought up a couple things that were mentioned to him.
Driving in the dark and some are still concerned with the risk of exposure

Prayerfully consider what the options are. Doesn't have to be 100% one way for the other.
Board works well with hybrid meetings for example. They are very business-like and include people that are working. In some cases, it allows people to attend while traveling that would otherwise miss the meeting.

Use a case-by-case basis. Is the timing working? We want to continue to allow both to continue. Hybrid may allow some to actually continue with the group/meeting because of being able to save a lot of time online.

One commenter would also like us to think about our format of how we do the hybrid meetings or include people that are actually in the room as well as on the screen. Seating arrangements may not always be conducive. You can come away from that feeling alone.

Also look at the content of the meeting. Maybe it is not much relational or social and more business oriented. But if we are holding sacred space and we need the relational aspect, then try to have it all in person if possible or figure a way to include all in a way that all in person and online can get some relationship or social benefits.

The hybrid does allow us to enhance the ability to come together. Our Fellowship time is one where we need to be here for each other as much as we can. Matt appreciates that people are making extra effort to be here.

Ballot Count – Lee Mason

Both the 2023-2024 slate of officers and the changes to the Constitution passed.

7 paper ballots in favor turned in before the meeting.

36 paper ballots in favor turned in at the meeting.

3 in favor attending online

Total of 46 in favor of both items to accept the changes to the constitution and the ballot of officers for 2023-2024

Ann moved to destroy ballots. It was seconded by Mary Frederick. Via voice vote, all approved.

Pastor Matt closed us in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Mary Cotton,
Clerk of the Board

CLERK'S EXPLANATORY NOTE:

By passing this ballot:

- Per policy 410, the Treasurers, President and Vice-Presidents on the ballot will be check signers on the Oregon State Credit Union Account. Additionally, the Finance Cabinet has also approved Bruce Cotton, Chair of House and Grounds as a check signer on this same account.
- Per our bylaws, trustees shall be responsible for the safe deposit box at the Oregon State Credit Union and
- Per policy 440 be signers on the permanent fund investment accounts at Christian Church Foundation.
- Per policy 440, the Financial Secretaries will be signers on accounts used to sell stocks, mutual funds, etc.
- Per policy 410, Vice Presidents of Finance plus Treasurers Tom Garbacik and Lauri Morris based on their duties will be signers on the Disciples Church Extension Fund account.

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.



You may check this box to vote for the entire slate of nominees.
Or write in the names of nominees you DO NOT support

Executive Officers-Election Required

President

Lee Mason

Vice Presidents

Co-Personnel – Beth Baird, Tom Frederick
Co-Finance – Tricia Martin, Janet Chenard
Program - Steve Herb

Financial Secretary

Tom Garbacik
Lee Mason (Assistant)

Program Cabinet

Prill Zobel
Michelle Varner
Tricia Martin (Elder)
Vicki Young (Deacon)
Emily Herb
Miranda Gordon
Lauri Morris (Clerk)

Trustees

John Evans (first year - election required)
Michelle Varner (second year – no election required)
Carol Garbacik (third year – no election required)

Co-Treasurers

Ann Smart – Recon/Rptg
Sherry Sisson - Payables
Tom Garbacik - Payroll
Lauri Morris - Back up

Clerks

Board - Mary Cotton
Finance – Pamela Doerksen
Program - Lauri Morris

Church Board

Susan Latham (Deacon)
Chuck Varner
Don Zobel
Linda Stinson (Elder)
David Sisson
Teanna McMahan
Mary Frederick
Beth Baird

Elder Emeritus – Election Required

Jeanette Maier (Deceased)

Deacon Emeritus – Election Required

Sylvia Baarstad (Deceased)

Elders

First 2-year term (ends 2025)-Election Required

Mary Cotton
Tom Frederick
Linda Stinson
Patricia Eide
Kathy Crawford
Neil Reynolds

Continuing First 2-year term (ends 2024)

Tom Garbacik
John Evans
Michelle Varner
Christy Wright
Tricia Martin
Steve Herb
Beth Baird

Second 2-year term (ends 2025)-Election Required

Janet Chenard

Continuing Second 2-yr term (ends 2024 No Election)

Lauri Morris
Bruce Cotton

Deacons – Election Required

First 1 year term (ends 2024)

Cindy Petrovich
Prill Zobel
Moses Gordon
Meredith Weir
Sherry Sisson
Ann Smart

Second 1 year term ends 2024

Donna Mason
Mona Gerig
Sue Cooley
Jim Stinson
Jim Postell
Lee Mason
Susan Latham
Teanna McMahan

Third 1-year term ends 2024

Carol Garbacik
Janet Chenard