

**ROUGH DRAFT #2** DISTRIBUTED 2.19.2017

*\*\*\*ASTERISKS DENOTE IMPORTANT REVISED WORDING FROM PREVIOUS ROUGH DRAFT  
In this rough draft development stage, grammar improvements and slight clarifications in wording with same meaning will be underlined but will not result in a new draft version*

## **Membership Article Proposed for New Federated Constitution and Bylaws of Huff's Union Church Inc**

*Sentences in italics are for information only and will not be part of final document.*

### **Article 9. Membership**

**1.** Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and by-laws, policies and practices that may be established by the Church Council.

**2.** It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- (a) Make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments.
- (b) Live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and teachings of the Lutheran and United Church of Christ traditions.
- (c) Support the work of this congregation, the Synod, the Conference, and their Church wide organizations through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

**3.** Members shall be classified as follows:

(a) **Baptized** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other affiliate congregations or by affirmation of faith.

(b) **Confirmed** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other affiliate congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.

(c) **Active** members are confirmed members who during the current or preceding calendar year, have communed on record or made a contribution on record to this congregation. There is no minimum contribution. Active Members have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation. Only Active members are eligible to serve on Church Council, or be an officer of boards, committees, or organizations of the Church.

(d) **Inactive** members are confirmed but have no communion on record or contribution on record to this congregation in the current or preceding calendar year. Inactive members have voice but do not have the privilege of vote, or eligibility to serve on Church Council, or be an officer of boards, committees, or organizations of the Church. Any provision in this constitution or bylaws relating to notification of congregational meetings and votes shall not apply to Inactive members.

(e) **Associate** members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. Associate members have voice but do not have the privilege of vote, or eligibility to serve on Church Council, or be an officer of boards, committees, or organizations of the Church. Any provision in this constitution or bylaws relating to notification of congregational meetings and votes shall not apply to Associate members. *Anyone including Inactive and Associate members (as well as non-members) can help or participate at a Church event, and assist with any board, organization or committee of the Church. For example, someone can volunteer to be a Sunday School teacher or assist in Bible School without being an active member as long as they meet the requirements of the Church's Child Protection Policy. We value the participation and ideas of anyone sharing in the work of the Church and this proposal provides for them to have "Voice" to share ideas at Church meetings and in organizations, committees, and meetings of the Church. However, someone who is serving on Church Council, or holding an office in a committee, organization, or board of the Church shall be an Active Member. Only Active Members have the privilege of voting at congregational meetings.*

4. All requests for membership shall be submitted to the Pastor.

### **5. Change of Membership Status**

(a) The President of Church Council shall appoint a committee including the Pastor to review the membership rolls annually.

(b) A member whose address has been unknown for a period of at least one (1) year, or who has been inactive for a period of at least two (2) years in spite of the availability of spiritual care may be removed by the Committee from the Active membership roll and be placed on the Inactive membership roll. Church Council shall be advised of members moved to inactive status and official church records shall be so documented. The Church Council may authorize exceptions due to extenuating circumstances of a member. Written notice of placement on an Inactive membership roll shall be sent to the members if the address is known.

(c) Persons who have been placed on the Inactive membership roll shall remain persons for whom this congregation shall have a continuing pastoral concern. The congregation shall, at least on an annual basis, invite all inactive members to renew their participation in the life and mission of this congregation.

(d) An Inactive member may be reinstated to Active status provided that the member has resumed participation in the life and mission of the congregation, and has requested reinstatement to active membership in consultation with Pastor.

(e) The Church Council may terminate the membership of any Inactive member who continually fails to respond to invitations for renewed activity in the life and mission of this congregation, or any Inactive member whose address or whereabouts has been unknown for a year or more.

### **6. Membership in this congregation may be terminated by any of the following:**

- (a) Death.
  - (b) Resignation.
  - (c) Transfer or release.
  - (d) Disciplinary action by the Church Council
  - (e) Removal from roll due to inactivity as outlined in Section 5-Change of Membership Status.
- All persons removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern