



Woodland Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
143 Woodland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43203
(614) 258-0058

The Constitution

PREAMBLE

We, the members of The Woodland Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), a Congregationally-governed body eager to respond more effectively to the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, do hereby adopt this Constitution.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Congregation is the Woodland Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), located at 143 Woodland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43203. This Congregation is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this Congregation is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through all areas of its life and work, witnessing in all situations to the grace of God in Jesus Christ, thereby seeking in all people a response in faith and commitment to Him. This Congregation will strive to cooperate with other Christians in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in carrying out the mission of the Church and in making a united witness for Jesus Christ.

This Congregation will participate in the cooperative life of its denomination through support of and participation in the life and work of the congregational, regional, and general expressions of the Church. It will report to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or its legal successors.

This Congregation will work co-operatively with Christians in other communions, through such agencies as councils of churches, and in all other ways possible, in order to testify to the unity of Christ's Church.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section A – General

Membership in this Congregation shall consist of those who are now members, those who shall unite with us by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, giving expression to their faith through baptism and personal commitment to Him, and those who unite by transfer of membership, thereby making a reaffirmation of their faith and commitment to Christ. Members will enjoy all rights and privileges of Woodland Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Section B – Types

1. Participating. Those who regularly attend worship services, Church celebratory and other special events and make regular financial contributions for the welfare of the Church and its ministries. Only participating members who meet the criteria listed in the By-Laws shall have voting rights or be able to run for office.
2. Nonparticipating. Those who are shut-ins, serving in the United States military, attending college, missionaries serving in other countries, etc.

ARTICLE IV – INCORPORATION

The incorporation of this Congregation shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and the Office of the Ohio Secretary of State. This Congregation is also identified as an integral part of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as required to remain covered by the group tax exemption under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

ARTICLE V – RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATION

The Congregation will manage its affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ; own and control its property; organize and carry out the mission and witness of the Congregation and establish its budget and financial policies.

The Congregation will participate, through voting representatives, in regional and general assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), thereby participating in the denominational decisions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

The Congregation will voluntarily demonstrate its mutual concern for the nurture, mission, and witness of the entire Congregation, and among other responsibilities, it will call a pastor, proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, administer baptism and the Lord's Supper, provide for the spiritual nurture of its members, grow in understanding that the Church is a universal fellowship, transcend all barriers within the human family, such as race and culture, be faithful in the Christian stewardship, work, and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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

ARTICLE VI – ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH

Section A – Officers

Officers shall be elected by the Congregation at an annual meeting having been recommended by the Nominating Team. The officers shall hold office until their successors are duly elected. The elected officers shall be:

Moderator of the General Board and Congregation
Vice-Moderator of the General Board and Congregation
Secretary of the General Board and Congregation
Assistant Secretary of the General Board and Congregation
Treasurer of the General Board and Congregation

Section B – General Board

The General Board shall be responsible to the Congregation and have authority to act on behalf of the Congregation between congregational meetings.

In keeping with the traditions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the ultimate authority of the Church 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.

The General Board shall be composed of members as set forth in the by-laws and for terms of office therein stated.

The General Board shall receive written reports from the various organizations within the Congregation and from the pastor. It shall (1) establish, by its actions, the program and budget of the Congregation, subject to action by the Congregation at its meetings, (2) conduct all legal business matters of the Congregation, and (3) carry out such other responsibilities as may be defined in this Constitution and the By-Laws.

Regular meetings of the General Board shall be held a minimum of six times a year as established by the General Board. The date, time and place of the meetings shall be set by the General Board at its first meeting of each year.

Special meetings of the General Board may be called:

1. upon the Moderator's own cognizance,
2. upon request of the pastor, or
3. upon request of three (3) or more members of the General Board.

Notice of special meetings shall be made at least ten (10) days in advance. The purpose, date, time, and place of the meeting shall be indicated in such notice.

The General Board has the right and a responsibility to conduct meetings in a closed executive session as needed when dealing with sensitive matters. Specifically, sensitive matters shall include, but not be limited to, the following types of issues: personnel matters, including evaluation of the pastor, questions regarding questionable conduct, staff compensation or real estate issues. The reasons for the closed meeting shall be disclosed and the meeting shall be for discussion purposes only.

No spouse, family member, or significant other, etc. will be permitted to remain in an executive session. Only voting members of the General Board shall participate in the discussion. Any action recommended as a result of an executive session shall be made a part of the minutes of the General Board through motion and vote in an open meeting.

Section C – Executive Team of the General Board

The Executive Team of the General Board shall be composed of members as set forth in the By-Laws. The Executive Team shall meet in the months wherein the full Board does not meet or whenever necessary.

The Executive Team shall act in place of the General Board on behalf of the Congregation. A decision of the Executive Team shall carry the full weight and authority of a decision by the General Board.

The Executive Team shall arrange for an audit of the financial records, of both income and expenditures of the Church, upon election of a new Treasurer or at least every two (2) years, for appropriate action by the General Board and the Congregation.

Minutes of meetings of the Executive Team shall be distributed at the next General Board meeting.

Section D – Elders, Elder Emeritus/Emerita, Diaconate, Diaconate Emeritus/Emerita

The Congregation shall have Elders and a Diaconate. Their election, qualifications, and responsibilities shall be set forth in the By-Laws. The Congregation may designate individuals who have faithfully served the Church for many years to the position of Diaconate Emeritus/Emerita or Elder Emeritus/Emerita.

Section E – Trustees

The Congregation shall have no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) Trustees. Their election, qualifications, and responsibilities shall be set forth in the By-Laws. The Trustees shall hold title to all properties, including real estate and capital equipment valued above five hundred dollars (\$500) for the Congregation. This shall include all trust funds, legacy gifts, both physical and monetary, and shall be managed under the direction of the General Board and the Congregation.

Section F – Finance/Stewardship Team

1. The Finance/Stewardship Team shall be a standing Team. The Team 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 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.

2. The Team shall 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 of all expenditures; make regular written reports to the Board on all actions and accounts.
3. It shall be the duty of this Team to develop within the Congregation an understanding of the full meaning of Christian stewardship and to so direct the financial program of the Church that it will supply its financial needs and provide a means of spiritual enrichment and character building for each person participating.
4. The Team shall be responsible for keeping alive in the Congregation the realization of its stewardship obligations; promoting stewardship education; supervising the preparation and subscribing of the Church budget; keeping accurate records; and encouraging endowments for future development in the Church and world work.
5. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance/Stewardship Team. The election of other members shall be set out in the By-Laws.

Section G – Ad Hoc Teams

The Board may establish ad hoc teams as necessary for the work of the Congregation. The purpose of each ad hoc team and the duration of its existence shall be spelled out at the time of its creation. The chair of an ad hoc team shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board for the duration of the team's existence.

Section H – Ministries

The men, women and children of the Church may organize themselves into groups such as the Disciples Men's Fellowship, Disciples Women's Fellowship and the Disciples Youth Fellowship to further the Church's mission. The purpose and responsibility of each of these ministries shall be consistent with that outlined by the general Church.

Interested members may also choose to be organized into a music ministry which shall be responsible for the provision of appropriate musical selections both prior to and during the service.

Each of these groups shall organize themselves with officers, including a president. The presidents of these groups shall be voting members of the General Board.

Section I – Auxiliaries

An auxiliary shall be an organization which provides services which allows both Church members and visitors to understand and enjoy the Church services. It is the responsibility of an auxiliary to ensure both the comfort and safety of all who enter the Church. An auxiliary president shall be a voting member of the General Board.

ARTICLE VII – CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Congregational meetings shall be held annually on the second Sunday of the months of October and December. The October meeting shall be used primarily to (1) request additional information for issues scheduled for a Congregational vote, (2) to accept nominations from the floor for officers, and (3) to request the addition of any issues not currently listed on the agenda. Final votes shall be held at the December Congregational Meeting.

Notice of all Congregational meetings shall be announced at a regular Sunday morning worship service of the Congregation and by means of Church announcements at least two weeks in advance.

A quorum shall be established by the presence of fifteen percent (15%) of the members currently on the Church roll. A simple majority of the members, present and voting, shall be required to transact all business at a congregational meeting other than a property transfer or where otherwise stated.

A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members, present and voting, in the Congregational Meeting shall constitute the necessary authorization for the Trustees to transfer, buy, mortgage, or sell real estate. This includes buildings, land, etc., as generally understood under the term “real estate.”

Special Congregational meetings may be called:

- a. upon the Moderator’s own cognizance,
- b. upon the request of the pastor,
- c. upon the written request of three (3) or more members of the General Board, or
- d. upon the written request of ten (10) or more participating members of the Congregation.

ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the conduct of all meetings of the General Board, Executive Team, all Organizations and the Congregation unless in conflict with this Constitution.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be tentatively amended upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting at a meeting of the General Board. The General Board shall recommend these amendment(s) to the Congregation. The Congregation shall approve or disapprove the recommended amendment(s) by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting. The proposed amendment(s) shall be circulated to each household in the Congregation by email and/or distributed to the Congregation at a regular worship service two weeks prior to the meeting of the Congregation at which the amendment(s) is to be considered.

Any member in good standing may offer an amendment to the Constitution to the General Board for review. Proposed changes must be submitted in writing. An affirmative vote by the General Board shall be required prior to submission to the Congregation.

This Constitution, adopted by the Congregation of Woodland Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on January 8, 2017, shall become effective immediately. This Constitution shall supersede any previously adopted Constitution or rules of procedure, except that all persons currently holding elected positions shall continue to hold and to function in their respective positions until their term under the previous Constitution and By-Laws expires.