

**THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS**

**The Preamble**

We, the members of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Leavenworth, Kansas, a congregationally governed body, who promote the work of the church in the spirit of Christ and thus, advance the reign of God, do hereby adopt this constitution.

**ARTICLE I  
Our Name and Mission**

**Section A. Name.**

The name of this organization is the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Leavenworth, Kansas (herein after referred to as the Church). This Church is a recognized congregation in the denomination known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, which has regional offices in Topeka, Kansas, and general offices in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Section B. Mission.**

We, the members of Jesus Christ's body assembled in Leavenworth, Kansas, who give God praise for showering us with His love and enabling us to give that love to others, do establish this Christian organization to provide a place of prayer, worship, ministry, teaching and fellowship. Therefore, we seek to be a community that reaches up to God, reaches across to one another, and reaches out into the world with the love of Jesus Christ.

**ARTICLE II  
The Congregation**

**Membership.**

**Section A.** The membership of this congregation, as a part of the whole church, will consist of those who:

- Are members of this congregation at the time of adoption of this constitution.
- Unite with it by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, giving expression of their faith through baptism and personal commitment to Christ.
- Unite by transfer of membership, thereby making a reaffirmation of their faith and commitment to Christ.
- Attend First Christian Church, Leavenworth, who are members of other congregations may become dual members without severing membership in their home congregations.

**Section B.** Participating members are members who will continue to show interest in the mission of this church through attendance, offerings, activities or spiritual concerns. Voting privileges and responsibilities of the membership are accorded to all participating members, one vote each.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **The Rights, Responsibilities and Privileges of the Congregation**

**Section A.** The highest governing body in this church will be the membership assembled in a Congregational Meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at such a meeting will be the action of the church, provided that a quorum is present. A quorum consists of 15 percent of the participating members according to the latest publication of the *Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Yearbook and Directory*.

**Section B.** Congregational action is required to:

- Sell or mortgage real estate.
- Acquire additional real estate by purchase or construction.
- Approve the annual budget.
- Elect the Officers of the Church (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer).
- Elect the Elders, Diaconate, Youth Diaconate, Trustees and Emeriti.
- Elect members to the General Board as listed in the bi-laws
- Call or dismiss a Senior Minister or Associate Minister.
- Amend the constitution.

**Section C.** Congregational Meetings will be held annually, on the second Sunday of November. Additional Congregational Meetings may also be called either by the:

- Church Moderator,
- General Board, or by a
- Written request of at least 25 church members submitted to a Church Officer.

Notice of all meetings will be given at the worship service(s) at least one week prior to the meetings and will be published in the church newsletter. The notice will state the purpose, date, time and place of the meeting.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **The Rights, Responsibilities and Privileges of the General Board**

**Section A.** The General Board will be composed of members as stated in the by-laws.

**Section B.** The responsibilities of the General Board will be to:

- Consider and adopt general policies for the congregation.
- Recommend to the congregation a budget and a slate of board members, annually.
- Recommend to the congregation any sale or mortgage of the church real estate and/or acquisition of the real estate.
- Recommend to the congregation the call or dismissal of the minister(s).
- Recommend to the congregation any constitutional amendments.
- Amend the by-laws as necessary.
- Approve expenditures which are over budget.

The members of the General Board will have the power to serve on behalf of the congregation in all matters not specifically reserved to the congregation. A quorum of the General Board will be 15 of the eligible board members.

**Section C.** The General Board meetings will be held as stated in the by-laws.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **The Officers of the Congregation**

**Section A.** The officers of the congregation will be participating members as defined in Article II.

**Section B.** Officers of the congregation will consist of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer.

- The Moderator will fulfill the usual duties of the office and will call and preside at all meetings of the Congregation and the General Board. The Moderator will be an ex-officio member of all organized groups, auxiliaries, ministries and committees.
- The Vice-Moderator will fulfill the usual duties of the office and will call and preside at meetings in the absence of the Moderator. The Vice-Moderator will be an ex-officio member of all organized groups, auxiliaries, ministries and committees.
- The Secretary will keep the minutes of all meetings of the Congregation and the General Board.
- The Treasurer will fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the office as described in the By-laws Position Descriptions.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **The Elders, Diaconate and Trustees of the Congregation**

The Elders, Diaconate and Trustees of the congregation will be participating members as defined in Article II.

- The Elders will provide leadership for the congregation in matters of Christian faith and Christian living.
- Members of the Diaconate will assist in worship and ministries of the church.
- Trustees of the congregation will serve as legal agents of the church.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **The Senior Minister and/or Associate Minister(s)**

**Section A. Duties.**

- Will serve as the spiritual guide(s) of the church.
- Will be ex-officio member(s) of all organized groups, auxiliaries, ministries and committees.
- Will perform the usual duties of the office as described in the Bi-laws Position Descriptions.

**Section B. Qualifications.**

- Prospective minister(s) will have, or be able to obtain, full standing with the region of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ),
- Will be ordained or seeking ordination.

**Section C. Selection.** The Senior and/or Associate Minister(s) will be chosen by the congregation as follows:

- A representative committee of five, nominated by the officers of the congregation and elected by the General Board, will serve as a Pulpit Committee. In consultation with the Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ), the committee will consider candidates. The committee will recommend only one prospective Minister at a time to the General Board.
- The members of the General Board will consider the candidate submitted by the Pulpit Committee. A two-thirds majority vote of the General Board is required to recommend the candidate's name for submission to the congregation for its vote on whether or not to extend a call.

- A call will be extended to a prospective Minister only after approval of a two-thirds majority of members present and voting in a Congregational Meeting.
- The term of the Minister will be indefinite until other circumstances happen such as resignation or retirement.

**Section D. Termination.** The Minister's term of service may be ended either by written resignation of the Minister or by termination action of the congregation. Recommendation for termination must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the General Board. This General Board recommendation must be approved by a two-thirds majority of congregational members present and voting in a duly called Congregational Meeting. In either case, at least a 60-day written notice is required unless waived by both parties. Termination may be immediate with just cause.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Amendments to the Constitution**

This constitution may be changed by:

- Proposed amendments recommended to the congregation by a majority vote of the members of the General Board, and
- Proposed amendments published and disseminated at least one month prior to a duly called Congregational Meeting, and
- A two-thirds written vote of members present and voting at a Congregational Meeting.

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