

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) OF GRANTS PASS
OREGON**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the First Christian Church, a congregational, deliberative governed body, in order to promote the work of the Church in the given spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, and thusly, advance His Kingdom, do hereby adopt this Constitution, on the 10th day of December in the year 2017.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of this Congregation is the *First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Grants Pass, Oregon*, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Oregon and Southwest Idaho.

Note: The terms herein of “the Church”, “the Congregation” and “corporation” refer to the entity identified above.

ARTICLE II

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this Congregation shall be as directed in the New Testament: to bring glory to God, to praise and worship God, to win people to faith in Jesus Christ, to draw people into active participation in the Church Body, to help them grow in grace and knowledge of Christ, to work for the unity of all Christians, and to minister to the needs of His people.

ARTICLE III

SITUS

The registered location of the office of the Church is 305 SW “H” Street, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERS

The membership of this church shall consist of those who are now identified as members of the congregation and those who shall unite with it by baptism or by transfer of membership. This church is committed to the conviction that immersion is the form of the Christian baptism taught and practiced in the New Testament and declares that immersion shall be the preferred form of baptism practiced by this congregation.

Congregational voting privileges shall be accorded to all members who have shown an active interest through a recent continuity of attendance, service or giving.

ARTICLE V

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE CONGREGATION

SECTION A. The Executive Board of the Congregation shall consist of the following positions:

1. Chairperson
2. Vice-Chairperson
3. Personnel Chairperson
4. Financial Secretary
5. Church Clerk
6. Elder Chairperson- Elected by Elders
7. Diaconate Chairperson- Elected by Diaconates
8. Trustee Chairperson-Elected by Trustees
9. Immediate Past Chairperson

Note: The terms “Board”, “Executive Board” and “Board of Directors” are interchangeable terms and denote the same entity.

SECTION B. Voting privileges

Only the officers of the Executive Board are voting members.

SECTION C. Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall carry out the administrative affairs of the Church.

SECTION D. Election and term of office

It is preferable that members of the Executive Board have no familial relationship to any other member of the Executive Board.

Note: The term “familial relationship” shall include the following classification of individuals: spouse, son, daughter, offspring, brother, sister, mother, father, or any ‘in- laws’.

All officers of the Executive Board shall be elected at the annual congregational meeting, except the Chairpersons of the Elders, Diaconate, and Trustees who shall be elected by their respective bodies.

The term of office shall be one year.

No elected member of the Executive Board shall hold more than one office at a time.

In the event of a mid-term vacancy on the board, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the Executive Board, for approval, the name of the nominee to fill the remainder of the term. The Executive Board shall appoint the replacement.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

SECTION A. Congregational Meeting

A1. The congregation shall hold an annual business meeting in December, on any Sunday prior to December 15, for the purpose of:

1. electing the officers of the Executive Board,
2. electing the Elders and Diaconates,
3. vote on the approval of the operating budget for the coming calendar year, and
4. vote on any other matter at hand.

A1(a). Nominations from the floor shall be allowed with the stipulation that the designee has given prior consent to perform the duties of the position.

A2. Voting shall be conducted by written ballot.

A3. If a special meeting of the Congregation is required, it shall be called by the Chairperson of the Executive Board. The purpose of the special meeting is to consider one or more items of business specified in the call of the meeting. Only business mentioned in the call of a special meeting can be transacted at such a meeting.

A4. In addition, a special meeting may be called by the Chairperson of the Executive Board at the written request to the Board by ten or more members of the Congregation.

A5. Notice of all regular or special business meetings of the Congregation shall be given at the regular Sunday services of the church at least one week in advance of the meeting. In an emergency situation the notice time element may be shortened to allow for expeditious remedy.

SECTION B. Quorum

The quorum for the general Congregational meetings shall consist of those members present.

SECTION C. Executive Board Meetings

C1. The Executive Board shall hold regular open meetings. The location, date, and time of the regular meetings shall be scheduled by the Chairperson, and announced in the weekly bulletin the Sunday prior to the scheduled meeting.

C2. If a Special Executive Board meeting is necessary, it shall be called by the Chairperson of the Executive Board.

C3. Quorum – The specific number that constitutes a quorum for Executive Board meetings shall be determined, by motion, at the first meeting of the calendar year.

ARTICLE VII

LEGAL PROVISIONS

SECTION A. Indemnification

The Church shall indemnify up to the fullest extent not prohibited by law, any person who is made, or threatened to be made, a party to an action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or other (including an action suit, or proceeding by or in the right of the Church), by reason of the fact that the person is or was a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Church, or serves or served at the request of the Church as a Director, Officer, employee or agent, or as a fiduciary within the meaning of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 with respect to any employee benefit plan of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise.

This section of Article VIII shall not be deemed exclusive of any other provisions for indemnification or advancement of expenses of Directors, Officers, employees, agents and fiduciaries included in any statute, bylaw, agreement, general or specific action of the Executive Board or other document or arrangement.

SECTION B. Distribution of Assets Upon Dissolution.

Upon dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the

corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

SECTION C. Organized for Religious Purposes

This corporation is organized exclusively for religious purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

SECTION D. Cannot Influence Legislation

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE VIII

RULES OF ORDER

Whenever business is transacted by the Board or any of its subcommittees, the procedures should be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE IX

MINISTER SELECTION

SECTION A. Selection

The minister shall be chosen by the congregation as hereinafter provided:

1. A Search Committee of no less than seven (7), nominated by the Board Chairperson and elected by the Board, shall be responsible for recommending a prospective minister to the Board.
2. The Search Committee shall utilize the services of the congregation's Executive Regional Minister for information and counsel concerning prospective candidates.
3. The Search Committee shall consult only one prospective minister at a time; however, information may be secured on several persons in a given period.
4. The Board, at a stated or called meeting, may approve the recommendation of the Search Committee by at least three-fourths (3/4) majority of those present and voting. Upon approval, the Board shall recommend employment of the prospective minister to the congregation.
5. The Congregation, in a stated or called meeting, may approve the recommendation of the Board by at least three-fourths (3/4) majority of the members present and voting.
6. Upon approval of the congregation, a call shall be extended to the prospective minister by the Board on behalf of the congregation.

SECTION B. Terms of Employment

1. An agreement of employment, as negotiated by the Search Committee and prospective minister, setting forth the salary to be paid to the minister and other conditions of the call, shall be provided to the minister, with a copy filed in the church office and with the regional office.
2. The term of ministry shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either party upon no less than sixty (60) days notice. By mutual consent the sixty days can be waived.

SECTION C. Resignation

1. Voluntary resignation of the minister shall be submitted to the Board, in writing, after consultation with the Board Chairperson and the Elders.
2. Involuntary resignation of the minister shall be dealt with confidentially between the minister, the Board Chairperson, the Elders, and the Regional Minister.
3. The Board shall approve the resignation, voluntary or involuntary, of the minister by at least three-fourths (3/4) majority of members present and voting.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the congregation, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented at least two (2) weeks prior to the vote.

