

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Eugene, Oregon

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

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Original Constitution Committee - 1982

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

EUGENE, OREGON

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the fellowship of the First Christian Church in Eugene, Oregon, a congregationally governed body affiliated with the denomination known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, do hereby adopt this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

The name of this Congregation shall be the First Christian Church of Eugene, Oregon. The use hereinafter of the term “Church” and of the term “Congregation” shall refer to this body corporate.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of First Christian Church of Eugene, Oregon, shall be to function as an organized local fellowship of the universal New Testament Church of Jesus Christ. As such, it will seek to win people to faith in, and obedience to, Jesus Christ as their Lord; to work for the unity of all Christians; and with other followers of Christ to engage in the common task of building the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Membership

The membership of this Congregation shall consist of those Christians who are now identified as members; those who make confession of their faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior and are baptized by immersion; and those who through transfer of membership reaffirm their faith and commitment to Christ.

These acts of witness serve to establish the individual as a member of this Congregation; only God has the power to accept the individual as a member of His Church, the body of Christ.

Section 2. Active Membership

An active member is one who practices attendance and/or giving with regularity, or otherwise affirms an active relationship to First Christian Church.

Section 3. Inactive Membership

An inactive member is one who does not avail himself or herself of regular attendance or regular giving, but who indicates a desire to remain on the membership rolls of First Christian Church.

ARTICLE III. CHURCH BOARDS

Section 1. Board of Directors

- A. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of First Christian Church. The Board shall refer such policy decisions and matters of business to the congregation(s) as may be required by the Constitution and Bylaws, or as the Board may deem appropriate and necessary.

The Board of Directors of First Christian Church shall consist of sixteen (16) persons:

- (1) The President of the Congregation.
(a) The President of the Congregation shall vote only in the case of a tie.
 - (2) The Vice-president of the Congregation (also chairs the Program Division).
 - (3) The Treasurer of the Congregation.
 - (4) The Secretary of the Congregation.
 - (5) The Chairperson of the Personnel Committee.
 - (6) The Chairperson of the Division of Administration.
 - (7) The representative of the Board of Elders.
 - (8) The representatives (2) of the Board of Deacons.
 - (9) The representative of the Board of Trustees.
 - (10) Six (6) representatives of the Congregation at large.
- B. Ministers and professional staff members shall serve ex-officio as non-voting advisors to the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Auxiliary Boards

- A. Board of Elders. There shall be a Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall include a number of members approximating 4.0% to 5.5% of the active membership of the Congregation.
- B. Board of Deacons. There shall be a Board of Deacons consisting of both men and women, with the number of one gender not to exceed 60% of the total number of the Board. The Board shall consist of a minimum of 24 persons and a maximum of 30, to be selected from the active membership of the Congregation.
- C. Honorary Elders and Deacons: Honorary members may be elected to the Auxiliary Boards as Elder Emeritus/Emerita, or Deacon Emeritus/Emerita. The office of Emeritus/Emerita shall be conferred in recognition of long and meritorious service to the Church.

Section 3. Board of Trustees

- A. The Board of Trustees shall consist of three (3) members.
- B. The Trustees shall serve, together with such other duly elected officers as the Articles of Incorporation may specify, as corporate officers of the Church. The trustees shall serve as signatories to all legal and binding contracts which may be entered into between the Church and any other body corporate, agency of government, or individual; and shall advise the officers of the Church, the Board of Directors, and the congregations on matters of business and property.
- C. The Trustees shall serve at the direction of the Board of Directors and the Congregation.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. President. The presiding officer of First Christian Church shall be the President of the Congregation.

- A. The President shall be elected annually for a term of one (1) year. The President may be re-elected for not more than one (1) additional term of office.
- B. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Congregation and of the Board of Directors; and shall have such other duties and responsibilities as may be specified elsewhere.

Section 2. Vice-President. There shall be a Vice-President of the Congregation.

- A. The Vice-President shall be elected annually for a term of one (1) year. The Vice-President may be re-elected for not more than one (1) additional term of office.
- B. The Vice-president shall preside at meetings of the Congregation and Board of Directors in the absence of the President. In the event of incapacity, death or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall succeed as President and a new Vice-President elected. The Vice-President shall be chair of the Program Division and shall have such additional duties and responsibilities as may be specified elsewhere.

Section 3. Treasurer. There shall be a Treasurer of the Congregation.

- A. The Treasurer shall be elected annually for a term of one (1) year. The term shall coincide with the church fiscal year. The Treasurer may be re-elected for additional terms of office and shall be installed at the annual meeting. On or before the first day of the 8th month of each program year, the Nominating Committee shall present to the President of the Congregation a candidate (or candidates) for Treasurer.

- B. The Treasurer shall serve as custodian of all Church funds and accounts, and shall report regularly to the Board of Directors and the congregations the status of all such funds and accounts. The Treasurer shall have such other duties and responsibilities as may be specified elsewhere, as required by Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution.

Section 4. Secretary. There shall be a Secretary of the Congregation.

- A. The Secretary shall be elected annually for a term of one (1) year.
- B. The Secretary shall attend and record the meetings of the Congregation and Board of Directors. The Secretary shall have such additional duties and responsibilities as may be specified elsewhere.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Nominating Committee.

A nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President of the Congregation by the first (1st) day of the seventh (7th) month of each church program year. The Nominating Committee shall consist of seven (7) members: one (1) representative from the Board of Elders, one (1) male and one (1) female representative from the Board of Deacons and four (4) representatives of the Congregation at large.

Section 2. Nomination of Candidates for Church Boards

- A. On or before the first (1st) day of the eighth (8th) month of each church program year, the Nominating Committee shall present to the President of the Congregation a slate of candidates for positions as Elders and Deacons nominating in every instance, if possible, a greater number of candidates than is to be elected.
- B. On or before the first (1st) day of the eighth (8th) month of each church program year, the Nominating Committee shall present to the President of the Congregation a slate of candidates for representatives to the Board of Directors. Nominees shall include representatives of the Board of Elders, the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, and the Congregation at large.

Section 3. Nomination of Candidates for Officers

On or before the first (1st) day of the eighth (8th) month of each church program year, the Nominating Committee shall present to the President of the Congregation a slate of candidates for the offices of President of the Congregation, Vice- President of the Congregation, Treasurer of the Congregation, and Secretary of the Congregation.

Section 4. Presentation of Nominees

- A. At congregational meetings, such as New Celebration and Traditional, held subsequent to the first (1st) Sunday of the eighth (8th) month of each church program year, but not later than the second (2nd) Sunday of the eighth (8th) month of each church program year, the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates shall be presented to the congregation(s).
- B. Opportunity shall be provided at these meetings for nominations from the floor for any position to be placed upon the ballot. Nominations for all positions shall be closed by appropriate motion and action by the congregations.
- C. Any nominee(s) so presented from the floor who is determined to be eligible for the position for which nominated and who agrees to serve shall be added to the ballot for election.

Section 5. Election

Election of Officers, representatives to the Board of Directors, and members of the Board of Elders, Deacons and Trustees shall be by written ballot. The election shall be held at congregational meetings held on or before the fourth (4th) Sunday of the eighth (8th) month of each church program year.

Section 6. Vacancies occurring during the Church Year

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year and shall continue to function throughout the course of the year. In the event of vacancies in office among church officers, Board of Directors, Auxiliary Boards, or Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee shall present nominees for replacements as appropriate to the Board of Directors for approval. In the event of a vacancy on the Nominating Committee, the President shall appoint a replacement.

ARTICLE VI. MINISTERS AND STAFF

Section 1. Senior Minister

The Senior Minister shall perform the functions and duties which normally pertain to that position. The Senior Minister shall serve as spiritual counselor and guide to the congregations and to the various bodies of the Church.

The Senior Minister shall have such specific responsibilities, duties and rights as may be set forth in the job description and/or in the employment agreement.

Section 2. Associate Minister

Positions of Associate Minister may be created by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee or upon the Board's own determination of need. The establishment of such positions of Associate Minister is subject to confirmation by the Congregation.

Associate Ministers shall perform the functions and duties assigned; they shall also support the Senior Minister in the overall ministry and spiritual nurture of the Congregation.

Associate Ministers shall have such specific areas of assignment, position titles, responsibilities, duties, and rights as may be set forth in job description and/or employment agreements.

Section 3. Other Staff Members

Staff positions other than the Senior Minister and Associate Minister(s) may be established upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee by action of the Board of Directors, or by the Board upon its own determination of need.

Staff members shall perform the functions and duties set forth in the various job descriptions. They shall serve under the direction of the Senior Minister and of the Personnel Committee.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Congregation shall be held on, or prior to, the first (1st) Sunday of the second (2nd) month of each church fiscal year.

At such time, the Treasurer elected at the annual election shall be installed and the annual report shall be presented. Other appropriate business may be conducted.

The annual meeting shall require at least two (2) weeks prior notice.

Section 2. All Other Congregational Meetings

- A. Not later than the second (2nd) Sunday of the eighth (8th) month of the church program year, the Nominating Committee slate of candidates shall be presented to the congregation(s), as required by Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution.
- B. On or before the fourth (4th) Sunday of the eighth (8th) month of the church program year, the election of candidates shall be held, as required in Article V, Section 5 of the Constitution.
- C. On or before the second (2nd) Sunday of the eleventh (11th) month of the program year, the candidates elected at the annual election (with the exception of

the Treasurer) shall be installed.

- D. Additional regular and/or special meetings of the Congregation shall be called by the President upon the President's own initiative; at the request of the majority of the Board of Directors; or upon the petition of the Congregation.
- E. Except in an emergency, any special Congregational meeting shall require at least one (1) week's prior notice.

Section 3. Meetings of the Board of Directors, Auxiliary Boards, and Board of Trustees

Regular and special meetings of the Boards of this church shall be called according to the requirements and procedures established by each.

Section 4. Rules of Order

The parliamentary authority for the conduct of all meetings of the Congregation and of the Board of Directors shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendment

This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Congregation, provided that proper notice of the intent to amend has been given.

Section 2. Notice

Notice of intent to propose and to ballot upon an amendment to this Constitution shall be given in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the Congregational meeting at which the proposed amendment(s) is to be voted upon.

The notice shall include a draft of existing and amended language of the section(s) in question and information explaining the absentee ballot privilege.

Section 3. Voting

Amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those ballots cast. Balloting shall be by written ballot. Provision shall be made for the receipt of absentee ballots, all such ballots received by the date of the Congregational meeting at which the vote is to be taken shall be counted.

ARTICLE IX. INCORPORATION

This church is a non-profit, religious corporation, duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Oregon and governed by the Articles of Incorporation as well as by this Constitution.