

Draft approved by the Congregational Board on January 17, 2021

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF EUGENE

CONSTITUTION

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First Christian Church of Eugene

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

The First Christian Church of Eugene was organized in 1866. The Congregation has met for worship at 1166 Oak Street, Eugene, Oregon, a property to which they hold title and have occupied since 1911.

ARTICLE I

Name

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

First Christian Church of Eugene is a Congregationally governed body affiliated with, and an integral part of, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purposes of this Congregation are; to gather as a worshipping community of faith to follow Jesus Christ; to engage in service with our community and our world; to educate persons on the history and practice of Christianity as taught in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) tradition; and to equip persons for the practice of the Christian faith.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1 –Members

The Membership of this Congregation shall consist of persons who have made, by their own choice, a confession of faith in Jesus Christ and are baptized; those who, through transfer of membership, reaffirm their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ and become baptized or have their baptism from elsewhere acknowledged.

- A) Active Membership: An active member is one who attends worship, serves, and/or gives of their time and/or finances with regularity.
- B) Inactive Membership: An inactive member is one who no longer attends or gives for two years, but who indicates a desire to remain on the membership rolls of First Christian Church.

ARTICLE IV

Authority and Responsibilities of the Congregation

Section 1 – Authority

In keeping with the polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, the ultimate authority for all decisions rests with the Congregation.

Section 2 – Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Congregation are:

- A) To manage its legal and financial affairs.
- B) To organize and carry out its purpose as stated in Article II.
- C) To own, control, and encumber property.
- D) To adopt an annual budget and establish financial policies.
- E) To employ or terminate the employment of the Minister(s).
- F) To participate through voting representatives in regional and general denominational assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

ARTICLE V

Election of Board and Officers

Board and Officers of the Congregation are elected in accordance with the policies found in the most currently adopted Bylaws of the Congregation.

ARTICLE VI

Authority of the Congregational Board

Section 1 - Formation of the Congregational Board

The Board of Directors of First Christian Church shall consist of the following:

- A) The First Moderator of the Congregation
- B) The Second Moderator of the Congregation
- C) The Treasurer of the Congregation
- D) The Secretary of the Congregation
- E) Five (5) Representatives At Large of the Congregation.

Section 2 – Responsibility of Board

The Congregational Board has the authority to act on behalf of the Congregation, with the exception of matters that require Congregational approval. The Board adopts Bylaws consistent with this Constitution.

Section 2 – Committees

The Congregation shall establish program and administrative committees in accordance with the most current version of the Congregation's Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

Congregational Meetings

Section 1 – Meetings

- A) At least one Annual Meeting is to be held as described in the Bylaws.
- B) Special meetings are to be called when needed as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 2 - Voting Privileges

All participating members present who have shown an active interest through attendance, service, and/or giving, within the last two years may vote at Congregational meetings.

ARTICLE VIII

Employing and Terminating employment of Minister(s)

Section 1 – Responsibility of the Board

With regard to the employment of the Minister(s), the responsibilities of the Board shall be as follows: To recommend to the Congregation a candidate (or candidates) for Minister(s). These candidate(s) shall have been recommended by a Pastoral Search Committee made up of

members of the Congregation, and shall be approved by a vote of three fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of all Board members present where a quorum has been reached as outlined in the most recently adopted version of the Congregation's Bylaws.

To terminate employment of a Minister, the Board will follow the practice outlined in the most recently Board adopted Congregational Bylaws.

Section 2 – Responsibility of Congregation

With regard to the employment or termination of employment of a Minister, or Ministers, the responsibilities of the Congregation shall be as follows:

- A) To execute a vote with three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) agreement of the participating members present and voting at a legally-called Congregational meeting.
- B) To follow additional guidelines as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX

Rules of Order

All business meetings of the Congregation and its Board that require votes on finances, elections, personnel, and/or property shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order latest edition.

ARTICLE X

Distribution of Assets on Dissolution

Section1 - Dissolution of Congregation

If it becomes necessary to dissolve this Congregation:

- A) Referral of a recommendation for dissolution of the Congregation will be made by a vote of the Congregational Board with three-fourths (3/4) approval by *all* Congregational Board members at a regular or a special meeting of the Board, called in accordance with the most recently adopted Bylaws of the congregation.
- B) Notice of the pending dissolution will be announced at regular worship services and sent through all available communication instruments of the Congregation, no later than three weeks prior to the meeting date. The topic of the meeting will be included in the meeting announcement.
- C) The Congregation shall vote at a Congregational meeting on the recommendation of the Congregational Board for dissolution of the Congregation. Adoption of the recommendation of dissolution will require three-fourths (3/4) approval by participating members present and voting.

Section 2 - Assets on Dissolution

After paying all liabilities, any assets remaining become the property of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon and Southwest Idaho, or its successor organization.

Section 3 - Amending Article X

Article X and all sections thereof cannot be amended.

ARTICLE XI

Amendment and Revision

Section 1 - Amending the Constitution

If it becomes necessary to amend or revise this Constitution, referral of a recommendation to the Congregation of the change requires a vote with three-fourths (3/4) approval of all Congregational board members. Notice of pending amendment(s) or revision will be announced at regular worship services and sent through all available communication platforms used by the Congregation, no later than two weeks prior to the meeting date, and copies of all proposed changes will be available for members at the time of announcement of the meeting time and place. A vote at a Congregational meeting to amend or revise this Constitution requires a written ballot with three-fourths (3/4) approval of participating members present and voting. Amendments are referenced on the Constitution document with the amendment date and the approved amendment will be attached to the Constitution document.

Section 2 - Amending Article X of the Constitution

Article X of this Constitution cannot be amended.

ARTICLE XII

Incorporation

First Christian Church of Eugene 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.

ARTICLE XIII

Effective Date of this Document

This revised Constitution will be in full force and effect on the date approved by the Congregation. This Constitution is to replace all previous versions of the Congregational Constitution. Copies will be provided to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon and Southwest Idaho or its successor organization and filed with Lane County.

Date of Approval

President or Moderator of the Congregation

Secretary of the Congregation