

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
IN MACON, MISSOURI, INC.
Revised November 22, 2009**

Preamble

We, the members of the First Christian Church, in Macon, Missouri, Inc., a congregational governed body, in order to promote the work of the church in the spirit of Christ and thus advance His Kingdom, do hereby adopt this Constitution.

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section A. Name -- The name of this organization shall be the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Macon, Missouri, Inc. It shall be affiliated with the brotherhood known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and committed to the historic principles of this body.

Section B. Purpose -- The purpose of this church shall be as revealed in the New Testament to win people to faith in Jesus Christ and commit them actively to the church, to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will, and to work for the unity of all Christians and with them engage in the common task of building the Kingdom of God.

Article II. Membership

The membership of this church shall consist of those who are now identified as members of the congregation and those who shall have complied with the terms prescribed in the New Testament, namely: faith in God and Jesus as the Son of God, repentance toward sin, confession of faith in Christ, and baptism in water in likeness to His burial and resurrection as an act of obedience to Him. Members shall be admitted by primary obedience to the above terms or by letter of transfer from another congregation or, in the absence of such letter, upon their own statement.

Article III. Congregational Autonomy

All matters of great importance involving a large sum of money, important documents or other decisions involving the congregation and the welfare of the church must be approved by a majority of the members present and voting at a duly called congregational business meeting.

Article IV. Officers

Section A. Officers --The following officers shall be elected from the church membership by the congregation at its annual congregational business meeting for a term as designated for each or until such time as a successor is elected and assumes office.

1. Chair of the Congregation and General Board: for a term of one year. (The chair may succeed in office only once and will become a General Board member, if not already a member, while serving.)
2. Vice-chair of the Congregation and General Board: for a term of one year. (The Vice-chair may succeed in office only once and will become a General Board member, if not already a member, while serving.)
3. Secretary of the Congregation and General Board: for a term of one year. (The Secretary may succeed in office and will become a General Board member, if not already a member, while serving.)

4. Treasurer of the Congregation: for a term of one year. (The Treasurer may succeed in office and will become a General Board member, if not already a member, while serving.)
5. Financial Secretary: for a term of one year. (The Financial Secretary may succeed in office and need not be a member of the congregation.)
6. Elders: not to exceed twelve (12) in number, one-third of whom shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years.
7. Deacons: not to exceed twenty four (24) in number, one third of whom shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years.
8. Trustees of the Permanent Fund: five (5), shall serve 3 year terms staggered such that not more than two Trustees complete their terms per year. (Trustees may be reelected, but may not serve more than six consecutive years. Trustees shall be nominated by the current Permanent Fund Trustees, approved by the Board and elected by the congregation.)

Those elders, and deacons-who have served more than eighteen months, or who have served a term of office, either by election or appointment, are not eligible for reelection to that position until one year has lapsed.

Section B. Other Officers - Honorary Officers: Those selected by the Congregation whose service and consecration to the church merits this honor may be designated Elder Emeritus, Deacon Emeritus or Deaconess Emeritus.

Section C. Duties of Officers --

1. The chair shall fulfill the usual duties of such an officer, call and preside at all regular or special business meetings of the congregation, and serve as Chair of the General Board, designate the Registered Agent for the Corporation and file the Annual Corporation Report.
2. The Vice-chair shall fulfill the usual duties of such an officer, call and preside at all regular or special business meetings of the church in absence of the chair.
3. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all regular or special business meetings of the church, serve as Secretary of the General Board, keep a record of all its regular or called meetings, and perform such other duties as may be assigned.
4. The Financial Secretary shall receive and make a record of all funds and deposit them in the proper accounts of the church. Regular reports of income shall be made to the congregation.
5. The Treasurer shall oversee the disbursement of all funds of the church according to the authority designated by the congregation and Church Board. All disbursements for items in the annual church budget may be made by computer check without signature of, or previous authorization of, the Treasurer by the Church Office as defined in the Bylaws. The Church Office shall regularly, not less than weekly, provide to the Treasurer a record of all checks computer generated and the purpose for which written. Regular reports of disbursements shall be made to the congregation. The books shall be subject to audit. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Stewardship Team.
6. The Elders shall be members whose lives are a demonstration of Christian faith and witness. They shall be expected to be regular in attending Sunday morning church services at which they shall serve at the Lord's Table and in other worship roles when called upon. They shall also serve as advisors to the Minister and spiritual leaders of the church.
7. The Deacons shall be members whose lives are a demonstration of Christian faith and witness. They shall be expected to be regular in attending Sunday morning church services at which they shall prepare and serve at the Lord's Table when called upon.
8. The Trustees of the Permanent Fund of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Macon, Missouri shall manage the Permanent Fund according to the policy established by the General Board. Undesignated gifts in the form of bequests, the residual value of charitable trusts and charitable gifts, and life insurance shall be the property of the Permanent Fund. An annual withdraw of up to one hundred percent (100%) of the Permanent

Funds annual income from investment shall be spent (according to the Permanent Fund Policy established by the General Board) to further the mission of the Church. All gifts designated for the Permanent Fund shall be considered permanent and therefore cannot be spent. In the event of a catastrophic event, monies of the Permanent Fund may be spent when the expenditure is approved by 3/5 of the Trustees, followed by 2/3 of the General Board, followed by 2/3 vote at a called Congregational Meeting.

Section D. Election of Officers --

1. A Nominating Team composed of - the current Vice-Chair, one Elder (selected by the Elders), one Deacon (selected by the Deacons); whose terms do not expire at the end of the current year - and two members of the congregation who are not Officers (as defined in Article IV, Section A) shall be appointed by the chair, approved by the General Board, and announced to the congregation at least six (6) weeks prior to the annual congregational business meeting to nominate candidates for officers of the church.
2. All suggestions from the congregation for nominees shall be in the hands of the Nominating Team within two weeks after the announcement of the Nominating Team members in the church newsletter. The team shall secure consent from nominees and prepare a slate consisting of one nominee for each vacancy.
3. Care must be exercised that no more than a total of eight married couples shall be elected members of the next year's Officers (as defined in Article IV, Section A) at the time of the annual congregational business meeting.
4. The Nominating Team shall secure approval of the nominees from the General Board before reporting them to the congregation at the annual congregational business meeting.
5. In case of nominations from the floor all nominees who receive a majority of the votes cast by secret ballot of those present and voting shall be declared elected.
6. Vacancies in any office of the church shall be filled for the unexpired term of nomination of the chair of the General Board in consultation with the minister and election by the General Board.

Section E. The General Board --

1. The General Board shall consist of:
 - a. The officers of the church as designated in Article IV, Section A.
 - b. The designated leader of each current Ministry Team as designated
 - c. The preceding year's General Board chair
2. It shall be the duty of the General Board:
 - a. To consider and recommend to the congregation general policies.
 - b. To conduct the business of the church.
3. Each member of the General Board shall have one vote.
4. The General Board shall perform its duties according to the authority granted in this constitution or designated to it by the church. The General Board shall report to the congregation through its Chairmen at the annual congregational business meeting.

Article V. The Minister

Section A. Duties - The Minister of the church shall perform the duties which usually pertain to that office, and as spiritual administrator of the church the minister shall be an ex-officio member of all organized groups, auxiliaries, teams and departments. The Minister is expected to bring to the attention of the Elders from time to time matters that pertain to the spiritual welfare of the church, and to make such suggestions as, in the Minister's judgment, are the general advancement of the work of the church.

Section B. Selection

The Minister shall be chosen by the church congregation as hereinafter provided.

1. A representative team of up to seven, nominated by the chair and elected by the General Board shall serve as Search Team and be responsible for recommending a prospective minister to the General Board. At the time of appointment there shall be a minimum of one Elder, two Deacons and up to four from the congregation on the team, at least two of whom shall not be officers of the Church (as defined in Article IV, Section A).
2. The General Board shall consider the recommendation of the Search Team and if approved recommend the prospective minister to the congregation. It shall be the policy of the church to consider only one minister at a time.
3. The recommendation of the General Board must be accepted by at least two-thirds majority of members present and voting in a regular or special congregational business meeting of the church before a call may be extended.
4. A written contract setting forth the salary to be paid and other conditions of the call shall be made in duplicate, one copy for the minister and one for the church. Additional copies shall be provided to the appropriate offices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Section C. Termination

1. The minister may voluntarily terminate the contract of employment by giving to the General Board at least sixty day notice of intent.
2. The General Board may initiate termination of the minister's contract of employment, or termination of the minister's contract of employment may be initiated upon presentation to the Chair of the General Board of a written petition requesting said termination signed by at least 20% of the members of the church as calculated upon the church's annual average attendance as published in the most recent yearbook from the Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Indianapolis, Indiana. Either the General Board's or the members' initiative procedure must be ratified by the congregation at a special meeting considering only the issue of the minister's termination and shall require at least a two-thirds majority of the voting church members present at the meeting to be enacted.
3. Any special congregational meeting called to terminate the minister's contract of employment shall be set upon a date selected by the Chair of the General Board, not less than 30 days and not more than 45 days, from the action taken in paragraph C2. Notice of this meeting shall be published in the weekly church newsletter and announced at the regular Sunday service/s of the church at least two weeks in advance of the meeting date.
4. Within 5 days of either termination procedure, the minister shall be provided with a written notice of the reason/s for the termination of the contract of employment and the date of the special congregational meeting. The minister may appear at the special congregational meeting and may address the members present.
5. The church office shall be vacated by the minister within 7 days, and the church parsonage shall be vacated by the minister within 30 days, if there is an affirmative vote to terminate the contract of employment.

Article VI. Congregational Meetings

Section A. Meetings to be held - There shall be an Annual Congregational Business Meeting on a Sunday between October 1 and Thanksgiving Day; the Board or Chair to set the date thereof. Special congregational business meetings as required, such meetings to be called by the Chair, Vice-Chair, Minister, request of the General Board, or written request of at least 20% of the members of the church. No special congregational meeting shall be called on the same subject matter by petition from members of the church more frequently than every 90 days.

Section B. Notice - Notice of all regular or special congregational business meetings of the congregation shall be given at a regular Sunday service of the church at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

All congregational business meetings of the church and the General Board shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order.

Article VII. Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any congregational business meeting of the church by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting on the amendment, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members of the congregation at least four weeks before said meeting.