

# **The Constitution of Columbia United Church of Christ**

Columbia, Missouri

*2020 Congregational Approval date to be added here*

## **Article I – Name**

The name of this church shall be Columbia United Church of Christ, located in Columbia, Missouri; previously known as “The Chapel United Church of Christ.”

## **Article II – Purposes**

**Section 1.** The purpose of this church shall be to worship God; to share the Good News of Jesus Christ; to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church universal; to render loving service toward humanity; to strive for righteousness, justice and peace; and to invite others to join this adventure of faith.

**Section 2.** Consistent with these purposes, the members of Columbia United Church of Christ shall develop and approve a Mission Statement at least every five years. This Mission Statement shall be included in the Bylaws of Columbia United Church of Christ. The Mission Statement will give direction to the ministries and programs of the congregation.

## **Article III – Polity**

**Section 1.** The governance of this church shall be vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs as set forth in the Bylaws of Columbia United Church of Christ (hereafter, “bylaws”), subject to the Laws of the State of Missouri.

**Section 2.** Columbia United Church of Christ is and shall remain a local church of the United Church of Christ, and it shall sustain that relationship to the United Church of Christ described in those portions of the most recent Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ relating to local churches.

**Section 3.** Columbia United Church of Christ shall hold standing in the Western Association in the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ (or its successor) and by virtue of this standing shall be affiliated with the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor.

**Section 4.** Columbia United Church of Christ has a God-given responsibility for the United Church of Christ, its labors and extension, even as the United Church of Christ has a God-given responsibility for the well-being, needs, and aspirations of its local churches. Actions by, or decisions or advice emanating from the United Church of Christ General Synod, the Missouri Mid-South Conference, or the Western Association and/or other expressions of the United Church of Christ shall be held in highest regard by Columbia United Church of Christ.

*Approved by the CUCC Council April 21, 2020*

## **Article IV – Faith**

**Section 1.** Columbia United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world. It acknowledges all persons as kindred. It looks to the Word of God in the scriptures and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It affirms the responsibility of the church in each generation to make this faith its own. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among Protestant Churches, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion.

**Section 2.** This church affirms the following expressions of our faith, not as tests, but as testimonies to those beliefs commonly held and cherished:

- a. The Apostle’s Creed;
- b. The Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ  
(*Original Version, 1959; Robert V. Moss Version, 1977; Doxological Version, 1986*)

**Section 3.** Columbia United Church of Christ encourages all members to develop their own understanding of the Christian faith and their own personal spiritual life and witness. Members shall faithfully examine their spiritual development and at such time as they so decide may be baptized, confirmed, or make other public statement of faith. Members of Columbia United Church of Christ are free in conscience to accept or reject any or all the foregoing historic expressions of faith. Individual members of Columbia United Church of Christ shall respect the different understandings and expressions of all other members.

## **Article V – Membership**

**Section 1.** The Pastor in consultation with the Membership and Care Ministry Team and the Church Council may list any person who regularly attends worship, supports Columbia United Church of Christ with time, talent, and/or treasure as a member of Columbia United Church of Christ.

**Section 2.** Members shall pledge themselves regularly to attend worship and to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion; to support the life and work of the church by offering their time and talents and to provide financial support for the ministries and outreach of the congregation as they are able.

**Section 3:** Members who by reason of temporary absence from the area for college, military service, work or family obligations, residence in health care facilities, group homes, or extended care facilities shall continue to be members during such period of absence.

**Section 4:** Members who so desire may hold membership in Columbia United Church of Christ concurrently with membership in another Christian Church.

## **Article VI – Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of Columbia United Church of Christ will be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Treasurer.

**Section 2.** These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee, whose duties shall be specified in the Bylaws.

**Section 3.** Members of Columbia United Church of Christ shall be eligible to serve as officers of this church. The method of their election, terms of office, and responsibilities shall be specified in the Bylaws.

## **Article VII – Organization**

**Section 1.** The Church Council shall manage the affairs of this church as specified in the Bylaws and as assigned to them at the Annual and Special Meeting of this church. It shall consist of the officers of the church and other members as specified in the Bylaws. The responsibilities of the Church Council shall also be specified in the Bylaws.

**Section 2.** Members of Columbia United Church of Christ shall be eligible to serve on the Church Council. The method of election and terms of office shall be specified in the Bylaws.

**Section 3.** In order to fulfill the purposes of Columbia United Church of Christ and enact its current Mission Statement, the Bylaws shall designate specific committees, ministry teams and boards and how they shall be constructed.

## **Article VIII – Congregational Meetings**

**Section 1.** There shall be at least three Congregational Meetings each year.

- a. The Church Council shall call a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of approving a budget at least a month prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year.
- b. The Church Council shall call the Annual Meeting of the congregation for the following purposes:
  1. The church officers, pastor(s), committees, and/or ministry teams shall make their Annual Reports at this meeting;
  2. The Congregation shall elect officers and other persons to the Church Council, committees, and/or ministry teams as specified in the Bylaws;
  3. Any member, board, committee, or ministry may bring other items of business before the Annual Meeting provided that such items meet the requirements set forth in the bylaws.
- c. The Church Council shall call an additional Congregational Meeting at any appropriate time for the purpose of Congregational Assessment and Planning.

**Section 2.** A quorum shall consist of 20% of the membership. The list of members published in advance of the Annual Meeting by the Membership and Care Ministry shall determine who has voice and vote. No business shall be conducted without a quorum present.

**Section 3.** Special meetings of the congregation shall be called in accordance with the Bylaws.

## **Article IX – Ordained Pastors**

**Section 1.** When there is a pastoral vacancy at this church, the Church Council shall appoint a Search Committee in accordance with the Bylaws which shall function as prescribed in the Bylaws.

**Section 2.** The Search Committee shall nominate one candidate for consideration by the congregation at a duly called Congregational Meeting.

**Section 3.** The members shall elect as a pastor of Columbia United Church of Christ only an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ in good standing with that pastor's current Association or an ordained minister from another denomination who has been granted Privilege of Call, Dual Standing, or Ordained Ministerial Partnership Standing by an Association of the United Church of Christ. A newly called Pastor shall transfer ministerial standing to the Western Association in the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ and shall maintain that standing for the duration of the pastorate.

## **Article X – Property**

**Section 1.** Columbia United Church of Christ may, in its corporate name, sue and be sued, hold, purchase and receive title by gift, grant, or other conveyance, of and to any property, real or personal with power to mortgage, sell, or convey the same.

**Section 2.** In case of a division in the membership of the congregation, both parties shall submit the question of the right to the property to the Board of Directors of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and the decision of that body shall be binding on all members of the congregation.

**Section 3.** In the case of dissolution of the congregation, the title to the property shall vest in the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor.

## **Article XI -- Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special Congregational Meeting of the church called in accordance with the Bylaws. Any person or group proposing an amendment shall submit same in writing to the Church Council at least 60 days before the meeting during which it is to be considered. The Church Council shall publish the proposed amendment to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting during which it is to be considered. The Church Council may make a recommendation on said proposed amendment. Two-thirds of the members present must vote to adopt the proposed amendment. If adopted, the amendment shall become effective at the end of the Meeting at which it was adopted.

## **Article XII – Parliamentary Authority**

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11<sup>th</sup> Edition (copyright 2011) shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by this Constitution and Bylaws.