

CONSTITUTION

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn

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ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Church is “First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, United Church of Christ”. It is organized and exists under the laws of the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit corporation in the Village of Glen Ellyn, County of DuPage, according to the affidavit of incorporation, as amended, filed in the office of the Recorder of Deeds, DuPage County, Illinois.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn shall be to:

- a) Praise God in fellowship with others, and proclaim and teach the gospel;
- b) Create and sustain a community of mutual care, support and acceptance;
- c) Help people find a system of ethical values based on the teachings of Jesus, and to provide a vehicle for applying those values in the community and the wider world;
- d) Foster spiritual growth, both individual and collective; and
- e) Enable individuals to recognize and use their talents in the service of God and humanity.

ARTICLE III – COVENANT

The members are bound by the Salem Church Covenant of 1629 to which each member agrees:

We covenant with the Lord and with one another and do bind ourselves in the presence of God to walk together in all His ways, according as He is pleased to reveal Himself unto us in His blessed word of truth.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this congregation is open to any person who requests it, who confesses faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, who agrees to the purpose and covenant of the organization, and who agrees to abide by the responsibilities of a member.

ARTICLE V – RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MEMBER

The responsibilities of a member are determined by the Connections Committee and will be distributed to all members annually and to new members during orientation and confirmation.

ARTICLE VI – RIGHTS OF A MEMBER

Each member is entitled to participate in and vote in the transactions of the membership.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWAL

Any member may voluntarily withdraw from membership by written request. The member may request a letter of transfer.

Any member who, after two consecutive years, fails to abide by the responsibilities of members determined by the Connections Committee, may have their membership withdrawn. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Connections Committee is required to withdraw membership. The Connections Committee shall notify in writing any member under consideration for withdrawal of membership and shall give such member an opportunity to appear before it at a scheduled meeting to respond to the proposed withdrawal before it votes on the proposed withdrawal.

Any person whose membership has been withdrawn may become a member as set forth in Articles IV and V.

ARTICLE VIII – CLERGY

The clergy are the ordained spiritual leaders of the congregation.

ARTICLE IX – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CLERGY

- a) Support the purpose and covenant;
- b) Provide spiritual leadership to members; and
- c) Become a member and fulfill the responsibilities of a member.
- d) The Senior Minister shall act as the Executive Director of the organization.

ARTICLE X – DECISION MAKING

The governance of the corporation resides with the members except as specifically stated in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution or Bylaws. The Corporation's Council may exercise those powers specifically delegated to it in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws and by the membership. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein or in the Articles of Incorporation, any action may be taken at a duly called meeting of membership or Council at which a quorum is present. An action taken with the affirmative vote of the members or Council having a majority of the total votes present shall be the action of the Corporation.

The Council may buy, sell, mortgage or transfer real property of the Corporation or borrow money, only when directed by the members at a special meeting called for that purpose.

The Council may issue a Call to Clergy only when directed by the members at a special meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE XI – GOVERNMENT

Under this Constitution, the Corporation is a self-governing body and its government is vested in its members. As a member of the United Church of Christ, it recognizes and accepts its covenanted obligations with United Church of Christ member churches. It seeks to be in fellowship with churches of other denominations.

Officers

The Officers are the Moderator, Moderator-Designate, Assistant Moderator, Senior Minister, all full-time Associate Ministers, Treasurer and Clerk. All officers shall be members.

The responsibilities of the officers are detailed in the Bylaws.

Council

The Council, acting on behalf of the members, shall govern and supervise the work of this organization. The Council shall be composed of the Officers, the Assistant Treasurer and the committee chairs from the Education, Administration & Property, Service & Worship, and Connections Committees.

The Senior Minister is a voting member of Council.

The responsibilities of the Council and the four standing committees are detailed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII – ENDOWMENT TEAM

The Endowment Team will be responsible to the Council and to the members. The Endowment Team will administer and invest a separate fund known as the Endowment Fund. Annually its income from the Endowment Fund will be distributed to the church. The responsibilities and duties of the Endowment Team are detailed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII – HUMAN RESOURCES TASK FORCE

The Human Resources Task Force shall have responsibility for management of the organization's human resources under the direction of the Council and in accordance with current Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV - MINISTRIES

The ministries shall be carried out by ministry teams formed as specified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND CONSTITUTION

The Articles of Incorporation and Constitution may be amended in any duly called meeting of the membership by a two-thirds majority of those members present.

ARTICLE XVI – REVIEW OF BYLAWS

A formal review of the Bylaws will take place within two years of the acceptance of this Constitution and as needed thereafter but in any event not later than three years after the preceding review. An ad hoc committee for this purpose will be named by the Moderator and approved by the Council and will be chaired by the Moderator-Designate.