

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
of
MITCHELL, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Adopted February 11, 2018
(Amended June 17, 2018 and Sept. 20, 2020)

We, the members of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Mitchell, South Dakota, duly assembled on February 11, 2018, do hereby revoke all previous constitutions and hereby adopt the following to be immediately effective:

ARTICLE I. THE NAME of this church is the Congregational United Church of Christ (Congregational UCC) of Mitchell, South Dakota. We recognize that God calls the whole Church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in church and society. The avowed purpose of this church is to worship God, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the sacraments; to achieve Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the church universal; to render loving service in an inclusive, open and affirming relationship toward all people; to seek the establishment of the kingdom of God; and to strive for righteousness, justice, peace and truth. This church is in direct covenantal fellowship with the Two Rivers Association, the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ, and is a part of, and will retain that relationship to, the United Church of Christ. The ultimate government of this church is vested in its members, independent of any other ecclesiastical body; within the United Church of Christ the various expressions of the church relate to each other in a covenantal manner. In this covenant the various expressions of this church, and the greater United Church of Christ, seek to walk together in all God's ways and be faithful to God's mission.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP in this church is open to any person who presents a letter of transfer of membership, has been baptized, has been confirmed, or has made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ, and has been received into fellowship by public acceptance of this church's covenant. Members pledge themselves to attend the regular worship of the church and the celebration of the Lord's Supper; to live the Christian life; to share their time, talent and treasure in support of the life and work of the church and church property; and to seek, diligently, the spiritual welfare of the membership and the community. A member acts individually and has 1 vote in any business of the church. The governing body of this church is the membership assembled in a meeting of the congregation. The vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting of the congregation will be the action of the church. An annual meeting will be held. Special meetings may be called.

ARTICLE III. PASTOR, CHURCH OFFICERS, MINISTRIES & DELEGATES will be selected in the following manner. The officers of this church are the Pastor, the Moderator, the Moderator-elect, the Clerk, and the Financial Chairperson. The latter 4 officers will be elected by the members from the membership.

- A. The Pastor will be selected by the congregation with any potential candidate being recommended by an elected Pastoral Nominating Committee. The selected Pastor must at all times maintain standing within the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ. The term of the Pastor is indefinite. If the Pastor chooses to resign he/she must provide a 60 day written notice. The congregation and the Pastor may, by mutual agreement, waive the 60

day notice. By a 2/3rds majority vote at a congregational meeting called for such purpose, the church may terminate the Pastor to be effective 60 days after written notice of termination is issued.

- B. The Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Clerk, and Financial Chairperson will be elected at the annual meeting.
- C. Members of Ministries, other than the officers set forth above, are elected at the annual meeting.
- D. Vacancies in Ministry membership occurring between annual meetings will be filled by appointment by the Executive Ministry.
- E. The Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Clerk, Financial Chairperson, and Ministries have the duties as from time to time established by the congregation. These include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Clerk: record minutes.
 - b. Moderator: set, plan and preside over all congregational meetings; call *ad hoc* ministries; represent the church in all business matters; will be a non-voting member of all ministries except when a tie breaking vote is needed.
 - c. Moderator-Elect: participate in all moderator responsibilities to prepare for the position; in the absence of moderator conduct duties as needed.
 - d. Financial/Building/Grounds Ministry: chaired by the Financial Chairperson; conducts the general business of the church; maintains authorized signatures for accounts; authorizes timely payment of bills; oversees all financial functions of the church; monitors maintenance; makes recommendations for repairs and capital improvements; prepares and presents budget; records offerings (which require 2 people and 2 signatures).
 - e. Mission/Education Ministry: recommends and oversees church mission projects; plans, prepares, and executes educational activities.
 - f. Worship/Music Ministry: focuses on worship and communion, changes altar paraments for liturgical seasons, both special plans music (and long term); oversees greeters and ushers; hospitality and fellowship. [Changing altar paraments added/adopted Sept. 20, 2020 by Congregational vote.]
 - g. Social Action Ministry: oversees church activities for social actions.
 - h. Outreach/Stewardship/Technology Ministry: recommends and oversees projects that can bring in or reach out to people in the community, can bring income to the church, and can improve our technology and church building to be more inviting.
[Subsection 'h' added/adopted June 17, 2018 by Congregational vote.
Technology added/adopted Sept. 20, 2020 by Congregational vote.]
 - i. Church Council: consists of the Pastor, Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and one representative from each Ministry. Members will serve for a term of 2 years. The Church Council will, in the time between meetings of the congregation, be the governing body of the church and will resolve all questions and undertake and discharge all duties relating to the operation of the church.
 - j. Executive Ministry: consists of the Pastor, Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and Financial Chairperson. It will act on behalf of the church in emergencies.
- F. Conference & Association Delegates: any member is welcome to volunteer to attend the various business meetings of the conference and association (as outlined in the conference and association bylaws) as Delegate(s) and other events as they arise.