

THE CONSTITUTION OF
Faith United Protestant Church
Park Forest, Illinois

ARTICLE I
Name

The name of this church shall be Faith United Protestant Church of Park Forest.

ARTICLE II

Statement of Affirmation

We affirm God, the Eternal Spirit, who has created and who continues to create the world and humankind in the divine image.

We affirm Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord, who came to share our human experience, to reconcile and make new.

We affirm the Holy Spirit, God's spirit within us and among our community of faith, binding us together and inspiring us to be co-creators with God of a world of justice and peace.

We affirm our heritage as an ecumenical inclusive church, welcoming members from all denominations and being strengthened by the great and diverse traditions of the whole Church.

Statement of Mission

Faith United Protestant Church is a body of Christ seeking God's vision to minister to its congregation, the community and to be a witness of the Holy Spirit by:

- providing a spiritual home to young and old where they can share their time, talent and treasures;
- inviting others to Christ and to share the gospel of God's boundless love by word and deed;
- providing a variety of opportunities for fellowship, worship and learning;
- responding to individual concerns and needs for care and counsel;
- and, being peacemakers and providers of local, national and worldwide support.

Our mission is to grow spiritually as a family of God. We seek to be a welcoming community of faith, where all who seek to follow God as made known through Jesus Christ can grow in understanding of self, our Christian heritage and God's will for us in this unique time and place.

ARTICLE III Covenant

The covenant by which this church exists as a distinct body and which every member accepts is, as follows: Acknowledging Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord and accepting the Holy Scriptures as our Rule of Faith and Practice, and recognizing the privilege and duty of uniting ourselves for Christian Fellowship, the public worship of God and the advancement of His Kingdom in the world, we do now in the sight of God and invoking His blessing solemnly covenant and agree with one another to associate ourselves to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, as warranted by the word of God.

ARTICLE IV Affiliation

Faith United Protestant Church of Park Forest was established in 1951 under the sponsorship of the Evangelical and Reformed Church (now United Church of Christ). The church shall be a member of the Council of United Protestant Churches of Park Forest or its successor and shall have the obligation of such membership.

ARTICLE V Membership

Section 1. This church will welcome into its fellowship any person who accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and who proposes to follow Him. The fellowship of this church shall consist of members and associate members.

Section 2. Members shall be those who unite with this church through profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer from another church.

Section 3. Any persons joining this church may have their previous denomination recorded in the official roster of the members of this church. Differences in the rites and sacraments of such denominations shall be respected and provided for upon request when practical and reasonable, as determined by the minister and the Church Council.

Section 4. Associate members shall be those with church membership elsewhere who join this church without withdrawing from the churches to which they belong.

Section 5. All members and associate members shall share equally the duties and responsibilities, and also the rights and privileges of membership in this church.

Section 6. A constituent is a participating nonmember who may serve only on committees but not on a ministry or Church Council.

ARTICLE VI
Church Governance

Section 1. The primary governing body of this church shall be an 18-member Church Council comprised of the Moderator, the Vice Moderator, the Corporate Secretary, Finance Officer, Treasurer, Chair of the Personnel Committee, Chair of the Nominating Committee, the Chair of each of seven constitutional ministries and four members elected at-large. The pastor/s and/or other staff, as deemed appropriate by the Council, shall be a non-voting member of the Council.

Section 2. The Chairs of the Personnel and Nominating Committees shall be elected by the congregation for terms of two years each and shall serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

Section 3. The four at-large members shall be elected by the congregation for terms of three years. One at-large member shall be a representative to the Council of United Protestant Churches of Park Forest. No at-large Church Council member shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Section 4. In the discharge of its duties, the Church Council will have the authority to:

- a) Call upon standing ministries, officers, groups and other persons for reports, service and recommendations;
- b) Hold standing ministries, officers, groups, staff and other persons accountable for the performance of their duties and responsibilities;
- c) Call conferences of members, leaders and other groups to consider, discuss and exchange views with respect to any phase of the operations or concerns of this church;
- d) Cooperate with other churches in matters of mutual interest or concern;
- e) Fix the time for the filing of annual reports and designate the officers and groups to make said reports at the annual meeting;
- f) Authorize the establishment of societies within the church, approve the scope of their activities and, when appropriate, terminate their existence;
- g) Review the tentative budget and the recommended budget and approve the final budget for the fiscal year as prepared by the Budget Committee;
- h) Perform other duties as assigned in this constitution;
- i) Manage other affairs of the church which are not assigned or delegated to the voting membership or a standing ministry, committee or officer of the church;
- j) Arrange for an annual audit of the financial accounts and funds of the church.
- k) Approve the financial policy and be responsible for the oversight and management of the finances and legal matters of Faith United Protestant Church.
- l) Develop and maintain membership participation in the Council of United Protestant Churches of Park Forest and the United Church of Christ.

Section 5. The Church Council shall submit at the annual meeting of the church a recommended comprehensive program outlining the goals of Faith United Protestant Church for the coming year and a strategy plan for the achievement of these goals.

Section 6. The Church Council shall appoint such committees as it deems necessary to complete the work of the church not specifically assigned elsewhere. Appointments to the Church Council committees shall be made by the Moderator and Vice Moderator, with recommendations from the Council. Except where specifically stated, the size of each committee shall be determined by the

Council. Such committees shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) Personnel Committee
- b) Nominating Committee
- c) Pastoral Relations Committee
- d) Finance Committee
- e) Budget Committee
- f) PADS Committee

Section 7. The Church Council shall:

- a. Hold Title to and manage the property, real, personal and mixed, of this Church;
- b. Manage the financial affairs of this Church;
- c. Receive, accept, transfer and discipline, when appropriate, members of this Church;
- d. Have authority to perform all other required duties and functions of a managerial nature not specifically set out herein;
- e. In all matters be subject to the direction of the Congregation in the manner as set forth herein.

Section 8. The Church Council shall hold a regular meeting at least once a month, on a day, time and place to be designated by the Church Council at its first meeting following the annual meeting of the congregation. Additional meetings may be held by resolution of the Church Council. Ten members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Church Council.

Section 9. The Church may, in its corporate name, sue or be sued, acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, and own, hold, invest, reinvest, or dispose of property, both real and personal, for such work as the Church may undertake, and may purchase, own receive, hold, manage, care for, and transfer rent, lease, mortgage, or otherwise encumber, sell assign, transfer, and convey such property for the general purposes of the Church; it may receive, and hold in trust both real and personal property and invest and reinvest the same, and make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Church through the Memorial and Endowment fund of the Church.

Section 10. The Church Council shall have no authority to sell or mortgage church property or to expend funds exceeding ten thousand dollars [\$10,000] without specific authority from the congregation by a vote thereof. This limitation shall not apply to salaries of pastors and of other employees or the benevolence obligation of this church to the Council of United Protestant Churches of Park Forest or its successor. The Church Council shall have authority to set such salaries and authorize payment thereof. Except for funds budgeted for specific materials or services in the annual budget adopted by the Church Council, no funds belonging to this church, however acquired, shall be expended without specific authority of the Church Council or from the congregation at a meeting thereof.

ARTICLE VII Church Officers

The officers of Faith United Protestant Church shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Corporate Secretary, Finance Officer, and Treasurer. The officers shall be elected by the voting members of this church from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee of the Church Council at the annual meeting to serve for terms of two years. At the conclusion of said term, the Vice Moderator shall

accede to the position of Moderator for a term of two years. No person shall serve more than one consecutive term as Vice Moderator or Moderator of Faith United Protestant Church. The Corporate Secretary, Finance Officer and Treasurer may serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

ARTICLE VIII Constitutional Ministries

The standing constitutional ministries of Faith Church shall be:

- The Reaching Out Ministry
- The Financial Ministry
- The Christian Education Ministry
- The Buildings and Grounds Ministry
- The Worship and Music Ministry
- The Fellowship Ministry
- The Care and Nurture Ministry

Each standing ministry shall promptly organize after the annual meeting and shall elect a Chair/Co-Chairs and/or Vice-Chair, and Secretary and shall promptly advise the Church Council of the result.

Each ministry will maintain a record of its members, finances, objectives, minutes, and other significant data in a neat and orderly fashion. Each shall develop goals, objectives and action plans to carry out its policy and coordinate and communicate decisions regarding its responsibilities.

Each ministry shall consist of 5 to 7 members as needed. Each ministry will follow its specific charge as outlined in the By-laws.

The chair of each ministry will serve as a member of the Church Council concurrent with the term as chair of the specific ministry. A chair may serve not more than two consecutive two-year terms as chair.

Members of each ministry will be elected by the congregation from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee at the annual meeting for terms of two years, which shall be arranged so that the terms of one-half of said members shall expire each year. No member shall serve more than three consecutive two-year terms on the same Ministry. No member shall serve on more than one ministry at a time. Members, however, may serve on a ministry and a committee(s) at the same time. Each committee must include one member from the sponsoring ministry.

Reaching Out Ministry

The Reaching Out Ministry, with the guidance and direction of the pastor or designee, shall raise awareness of the congregation to needs in the community and the larger world; identify and develop policies and programs to help meet these needs.

Financial Ministry

The Financial Ministry, with the guidance and direction of the pastor or designee, shall develop the philosophy of committing time, talent, and treasures by members of Faith United Protestant Church to the work of the church in the local, as well as the larger world. It shall be responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining all fiscal duties of the church subject to Church Council approval.

Christian Education Ministry

The Christian Education Ministry, with the guidance and direction of the pastor or designee, shall oversee the educational opportunities for all age groups of Faith United Protestant Church. It shall provide for a broad range of programs incorporating Biblical principles to broaden understanding of Christian life.

Building and Grounds Ministry

The Building and Grounds Ministry, with the guidance and direction of the pastor or designee, shall oversee use, occupancy and care of real and personal property of the church with an eye to maintaining the sanctity of the physical plant.

Worship and Music Ministry

The Worship and Music Ministry shall assist the ordained staff in planning and coordinating the worship services, including liturgy and music. The Ministry shall be responsible for reaffirming and developing further the sound theological position from which worship practices emerge in the United Church of Christ tradition. In cooperation with the pastoral staff, it shall also be responsible for encouraging innovative, inspiring and dynamic worship services.

Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Ministry, with the guidance and direction of the pastor or designee, shall develop and nurture a deep sense of Christian fellowship among all age groups of Faith United Protestant Church.

Care and Nurture Ministry

The Care and Nurture Ministry, with the guidance and direction of the pastor or designee, shall develop a planned systematic approach to determine the best methods of overseeing and providing care, concern and nurture to all members. It shall develop and maintain a comprehensive volunteer program that promotes the philosophy of stewardship of service.

ARTICLE IX Ordained Staff

Section 1. The ordained staff of Faith United Protestant Church shall consist of a pastor, who shall serve as the senior ordained staff member of the church, and will supervise all staff, as directed by the Church Council. Additional ordained staff may be called as needed. The duties of the ordained staff shall be specified in job descriptions approved by the Church Council.

Section 2. When a vacancy occurs among the ordained ministers of this church, the Church Council shall call a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing a Pastoral Search Committee. This committee shall contact the United Church of Christ. Having agreed upon one candidate, the committee shall submit the name to the Church Council. The Church Council shall present the candidate's name to the congregation, and the Pastoral Search Committee shall be automatically discharged.

ARTICLE X
Professional Staff

In consultation with the pastor, the Church Council may appoint a professional staff as deemed necessary for the operations of the church. The duties of the professional staff shall be specified in job descriptions approved by the Personnel Committee and reviewed by the Church Council.

ARTICLE XI
Congregation Meetings

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the congregation is to be held no later than the third Sunday in June on a date to be set by the Church Council.

Section 2. Special meetings of the congregation shall be limited to consideration and disposition of the items of business for which such meeting is called. A special meeting may be called by resolution of the Church Council. The items of business or subjects to be considered must be stated in the resolution and in the written announcement to the congregation which shall be made by publication on two successive Sundays.

Section 3. At any meeting of the congregation a quorum shall consist of fifty members present at such meeting. All questions properly coming before a meeting shall be decided by a majority vote of the members of this church present at the meeting, except that a two-thirds vote of such members present at the meeting shall be required for the expenditure of funds exceeding ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars and for the sale, lease, pledge or other transfer of the real property of this church, or of all of the assets of this church, including such real property.

Section 4. At any regular or special meeting of the congregation, the membership may elect to suspend or vary from the provisions of this constitution by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Anticipation of such action must be included in notice made of the meeting.

ARTICLE XII
Installations

Section 1. Ordained ministers shall be installed at an Installation Service arranged by the Worship and Music Ministry.

Section 2. Members of the Church Council and of the constitutional ministries elected at the annual meetings of the congregation shall be installed at a Sunday service within three months of assuming office.

Section 3. The Church Council shall determine the installation procedure and forms for the installation of pastors and members of the Church Council and constitutional ministries.

ARTICLE XIII
Effective Date of This Constitution

This constitution shall become effective upon its adoption at an annual meeting of the congregation by two-thirds of the members of this church present at such meeting and shall supersede any previous constitution.

ARTICLE XIV
Amendment

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of this church present at the annual or a special meeting of the congregation provided that a statement of the proposed amendment be published on two successive Sundays before such meeting, and provided further that the announcement of meeting required by Section 2 of Article XI hereof states that amendment of the constitution will be considered.

.....Revised 6/12/2011.....