

January 18, 2004

Community United Church of Christ
Raleigh, North Carolina

CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name

The name of this church shall be Community United Church of Christ, located in Raleigh, State of North Carolina.

Article II. Purpose

The avowed purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal; to render loving service toward humankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace.

Article III. Polity

Section 1. This church shall be part of the United Church of Christ and it shall sustain that relationship to the United Church of Christ described in those portions of the Constitution and By Laws of the United Church of Christ, adopted July 4, 1961, and so subsequently amended, relating to local churches.

Section 2. The government of this church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, subject, however, to Laws of the State of North Carolina relating to unincorporated religious congregations.

Article IV. Covenant

We covenant with one another to seek and to respond to the Word and Will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our forebears, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Article V. Membership

Section 1. Charter Members

Those persons who on March 30, 1969, on the occasion of the final services of the First Evangelical and Reformed Church (UCC) of Dixie Trail and Wade Avenue, Raleigh, were members of either of these churches and who, prior to the adoption of this constitution, have not withdrawn or transferred or resigned their membership in the Community United Church of Christ shall be classified as Charter Members of this church.

Section 2. Qualifications for New Members

Membership in this church shall be open to any person who has been baptized, has been confirmed, has made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, or who sincerely desires to live a Christian Life through the worship of God and the service of creation. In accordance with the covenant of the Gospel, which binds into unity faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races, membership is open to all without regard to race, color, sex or sexual orientation.

Section 3. New Members

Persons having qualifications as given in Section 2, who make application for membership shall become members when accepted by the congregation at an appropriate service.

Section 4. Number of Resident Members

For purposes of determining a quorum, congregational assessments, or similar matters, the number of resident members shall be determined as specified in the By-Laws.

Article VI. Governing Body

The governing body of this church shall be the membership assembled in the congregational meeting. The vote of a majority of members present at the meeting shall be the action of the church. A quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the resident members.

Article VII. Government

Section 1. Officers

- A. The officers shall be (1) The Pastor(s), (2) The Moderator, (3) The Clerk, (4) The Treasurer, (5) The Assistant Treasurer.
- B. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:
 - (1) The Pastor(s) shall minister to the spiritual welfare of the church, shall be voting member(s) of the Church Council and non-voting member(s) ex-officio of all Ministries and Committees, and shall have supervision over any administrative/clerical personnel employed at the church office.
 - (2) The Moderator shall preside at congregational meetings and shall serve as Chair of the Church Council and preside at Council meetings.
 - (3) The Clerk shall be responsible for the records of church meetings, minutes of congregational meetings, the register of church members with addresses and other data, and all correspondence not otherwise provided for. The Clerk shall provide minutes of Church Council meetings to the church office.
 - (4) The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving all moneys of the church and maintaining the financial records. The Treasurer shall use discretion in determining the order in which bills are paid, except as advised by the Church Council or the congregation, and hold in trust all special and reserve funds. The Treasurer shall be given orders to pay bills from the various Ministries with respect to items for which they are responsible. The budgeting categories are upper limits on what the Ministries and the Treasurer may spend in each category. The Church Council may authorize transfers from one budgeting category to another. The total amount of the General Budget may not be exceeded without the approval of the congregation assembled in meeting. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Stewardship Ministry.
 - (5) The Assistant Treasurer shall act in the absence of the Treasurer in his or her duties. The Assistant Treasurer shall be a member of the Stewardship Ministry.
- C. The Pastor(s) shall be called to serve an indefinite term. The other officers shall be elected annually by the congregation.

Section 2. Ministries

- A. There shall be (1) Deacons Ministry (2) Property Ministry (3) Social Justice Ministry (4) Community Outreach Ministry (5) Religious Education Ministry (6) Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth Ministry (7) Stewardship Ministry.
- B. The duties of the Ministries shall be to administer the conduct of the affairs of the church within their areas of calling as follows:
 - (1) The Deacons Ministry, in cooperation with the Pastor(s), shall be called to minister to the spiritual interests of the church. They shall join the Pastor(s) in caring for the sick, the poor, the sorrowing, and the stranger. They shall assist the Pastor in the administration of the sacraments and shall be responsible for arrangements supporting worship services. The Ministry shall act as a committee in supplying the pulpit in the absence of the Pastor(s), and shall initiate the movement for a permanent supply in case of a vacancy. In addition, they are responsible for hiring, monitoring and assessing the church personnel and providing support to them.
 - (2) The Property Ministry shall be called to be stewards of the church's physical property. The Property Ministry shall have no right to sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber the same without the consent of the congregation. The Property Ministry shall be responsible for custodial care of the church and for supervising repairs and maintenance of all church property not specifically assigned as the responsibility of another Ministry or organization.
 - (3) The Social Justice Ministry shall be called to discern and act upon issues relevant to the Social Gospel within God's created world, be they local, state, national, or international and to be a witness for justice and peace.
 - (4) The Community Outreach Ministry shall be called to encourage our Congregation's participation in mission programs within the wider United Church of Christ as well as local, state, and national charitable organizations to feed, clothe, shelter and spiritually nurture the stranger and those in great need and any other such charitable actions.

- (5) The Religious Education Ministry shall be called to provide religious opportunities to learn for children, youth, adults and for children and youth fellowship groups and programs. They shall function as a policy and reviewing body considering and passing on such matters as the adoption of objectives and curriculum.
- (6) The Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth Ministry shall be called to welcome and nurture relationships with members, visitors, and prospective members. They shall also provide ongoing nurturing and fellowship functions to meet the needs of the congregation for Christian fellowship and growth.
- (7) The Stewardship Ministry shall have as its purpose and function to plan, organize, implement and conduct the annual budgeting process, to establish financial goals and objectives to meet expenses for church programs and to make long term plans for growth of the church. This Ministry shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the church and shall have power to borrow funds or to make contracts for the improvement or replacement of church property as approved by the congregation, acting as agents of the church without its members individually incurring any personal liability. Also, they shall endeavor on an ongoing basis to acquaint the church members with opportunities for serving the church with their time, talents, and treasure. They shall also be charged with meeting with new members in order to inform them of our pledging goals.

Section 3. Ministry Functions

Each Ministry may organize itself through Committees in order to carry out the functions specified.

Section 4. Additional Positions

- A. There shall be a Church Historian elected annually by the congregation. The Historian shall maintain a current history as well as written accounts of the history of the church. The Historian shall also maintain a file of documents pertaining to important activities that are completed.
- B. There shall be a Church Librarian elected annually by the congregation. The Librarian shall maintain a library to meet the needs of the congregation.

Section 5. Church Council

There shall be a Church Council which shall transact all general affairs of the church not otherwise provided for. Its action shall be final unless changed by action of the governing body of the church. The Council shall review and coordinate the overall program and activities of the church.

Article VIII. Fellowship Groups

Groups of persons in the church who share common interests may organize to promote fellowship and participation in the programs and activities of the church. Fellowship Groups shall operate under their own rules except that membership in any group shall be open to all members of the church sharing the interests which define membership in the group. Because Fellowship Groups are where we build community, it is especially important that they be responsible for inviting people to participate, welcoming those who attend, and communicating with Council, the congregation and the church office.

Article IX. Property

Section 1. The Stewardship Ministry in the church name may 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; they 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.

Section 2. If the church is dissolved, its assets and all property and interests of which it shall then be possessed, including any devise, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be transferred to the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ or its legal successor.

Section 3. The Church Council Moderator, or the Treasurer, or the Chairperson of the Stewardship Ministry shall be authorized ex officio to bind the church in all matters of finance, property and money in dealing with all third parties, including among others, governments, banks, brokerage firms, et al.

Article X. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended or revised by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a meeting of the congregation provided a quorum is present and at least two weeks written notice of the meeting and the proposed amendments or revisions shall have been given.