

**CONSTITUTION
OF
THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF
EDMOND, OKLAHOMA**
Approved September 30, 2007

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Edmond, Oklahoma, duly organized and chartered under the laws of the State of Oklahoma in ~~1899~~ 1900, do hereby adopt the following constitution on this 30th day of September, 2007, superseding all prior constitutions of this congregation.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this congregation shall be the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Edmond, Oklahoma, affiliated with and an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. In the event that the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Edmond, Oklahoma, should terminate its ministry or cease to be affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the assets of the Permanent Fund and physical plant shall be transferred to the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc., of the Oklahoma Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with instructions for investing in the named endowments of the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this congregation shall be as revealed in the New Testament: to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people; to seek in all persons a commitment to Christian witness and service; to help persons grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will; and to work for the unity of all Christians and engage with them in the common task of building the Kingdom of God.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of this congregation shall consist of the following: those who are now identified as members of the congregation; those who shall unite by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and baptism by immersion; and those who have previously been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and who unite by transfer of membership, thereby reaffirming their faith and commitment to Christ.

ARTICLE IV
RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATION

The congregation shall manage its affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ; determine its faithfulness to the Gospel with respect to the basis of membership; own, control and encumber its property; plan, organize and carry out the mission and witness of the congregation; establish its budgets and financial policies; call its minister(s) and other staff; and participate, through voting representatives, in Regional and General Assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in forming the corporate judgments of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The congregation shall demonstrate voluntarily its mutual concern for the nurture, mission and witness of the whole church, and, among other responsibilities, it shall proclaim the Gospel; administer baptism and the Lord's Supper; provide for the spiritual nurture of its members; grow in understanding that the church is a universal fellowship; transcend all barriers within the human family, such as race and culture; be faithful in Christian stewardship, striving to share proportionately in providing resources for the total life, work and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); choose voting representatives to the general and regional assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and seek to realize the oneness of the Church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other churches of the community and with present and emerging ecumenical structures. The congregation shall sustain its minister(s) in faithfulness and honor and, in matters pertaining to relationships with the minister(s), seek counsel from the Regional Minister. The congregation shall exercise and enjoy all other rights, privileges and responsibilities requisite or appropriate to carrying out its purpose.

ARTICLE V
ELDERS, TRUSTEES, DEACONS, CHURCH BOARD, AND MINISTRIES

Section A: Election by Congregation

The congregation shall elect from its members the Moderator and Moderator-elect of the Congregation/Board, ~~Moderator and Moderator-elect of the Elders and Co-moderators of the Deacons, the Moderators of and~~ the various Ministries,; ~~the members of the Nominating and Personnel Committees; and the Elders, Deacons and Junior Deacons (composed of both men and women), Trustees, members of the Investment/Endowment and Investment Allocation Committees, and such emeritus officers as the congregation may desire to honor.~~ The responsibilities, numbers and terms of office for these leaders shall be set forth in the bylaws.

Section B: Church Board

The congregation shall have a Church Board which shall be responsible to the congregation and have authority to act on behalf of the congregation. ~~The Church Board shall be comprised of the Moderator and Moderator-elect of the Congregation/Board; the Moderators and Moderators-elect of the Ministries; the President of the Disciples Women, the President of the Disciples Men, the Moderator of the Elders and two Co-moderators of the Deacons; and the Trustee in the second year of a three year term. The Senior and the Associate Ministers shall be ex-officio members of the Church Board. The Board shall consider and adopt policies and programs recommended by the congregation; supervise, coordinate and administer such programs through the Ministries; and report on the programs at least annually to the congregation. It shall authorize the church budget, subject to approval by the congregation, and shall be responsible for conducting all legal and business matters~~

~~of the congregation as well as performing such other duties and responsibilities as may be designated in the bylaws.~~ Regular meetings of the Church Board shall be open to all members of the congregation and shall be held ~~each month~~ throughout the year.

Section C: Ministries

The congregation shall have various ministries whose tasks will be to carry out the programs of the church as set forth in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VI **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

Congregational meeting(s), ~~one or more,~~ shall be held ~~at least twice~~ annually. One meeting shall be held ~~prior to planning each year's work,~~ for the purpose of ~~discussing with the congregation goals and suggestions for achieving them.~~ ~~The second shall be held on the first Sunday in December for the purpose of~~ electing the leadership of the church, adopting an annual budget, reporting on previous programs, and considering any other necessary business. Additional meetings of the congregation may be called as necessary by the Church Board on its own motion—or on written request signed by not fewer than fifty (50) members of the congregation. Notice of the purpose, date, time and place of each congregational meeting shall be included in the worship bulletin of the church on the Sunday preceding the meeting and ~~the church newsletters~~ sent to the members during the two (2) weeks preceding the meeting. All voting shall be by written ballot ~~unless unanimous consent is given to the contrary or other Board-approved means.~~

ARTICLE VII **AMENDMENTS**

The constitution may be amended at any congregational meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting. A copy of the proposed amendment must either be included in the notices of the congregational meeting required in Article VI hereof or be posted in the church facilities for at least ten (10) days prior to the congregational meeting. If the proposed amendment is posted, the notices of congregational meeting shall include the location of posting.