

**CONSTITUTION**  
**FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**College Station, Texas**

Adopted: 2/3/79  
Amended: 1/16/83, 1/20/85, 1/22/89, 5/18/91, 11/20/94, 6/23/99, 6/27/04, 9/21/08, 6/23/13,  
5/17/15, 6/14/2020

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this Church will be Friends Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located in College Station, Texas.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this church is to gather people of diverse backgrounds to celebrate our love of God with joy, enthusiasm, and faith. We desire to remember old traditions and affirm our new creations and to invite others to share mutual gifts.

**ARTICLE III: POLITY**

**SECTION A. AFFILIATION WITH NATIONAL CHURCH**

This Church will be a part of the United Church of Christ and it will 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 as subsequently amended, relating to local churches.

**SECTION B. GOVERNANCE**

The government of this Church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all of its affairs, subject, however to the Laws of the State of Texas relating to ecclesiastical corporations.

**ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION A. REGULAR MEMBER**

1. Any person desiring to join in the ministry of this church, embracing the purpose as stated in Article II, may be admitted to membership by Confirmation, Adult Baptism, Letter of Transfer from another Church, or Reaffirmation of Faith.
2. All members are encouraged to take part in the joy and fellowship of congregational life and share in the responsibility of supporting the work and mission of the Church.

**SECTION B. ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

Associate membership may be extended to students in higher education during their period of study or to others for a period not to exceed one year. Associate members have the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as full members.

**ARTICLE V: ADMINISTRATION**

**SECTION A. GOVERNANCE**

The governing body of this Church will be the membership of the Church assembled in a Congregational Meeting.

## **SECTION B. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be at least three Congregational Meetings each year. In June, the Congregation will (1) elect officers and (2) receive the annual report. In September, the Congregation will be presented with an estimated Annual Statement of Faith and Mission (estimated budget) for the following year. In December, the Congregation will be presented with an official Annual Statement of Faith and Mission (budget) for approval by vote. If scheduling conflicts prevent a congregational meeting during these specified months, the Church Council will establish a meeting date on the nearest available month.

## **SECTION C. QUORUM**

A quorum will consist of FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) of the members of the church. The number for the quorum will be established each year at the time the official count is sent to the national church.

## **SECTION D. DECISION MAKING**

A majority of all votes cast will decide matters and elections except for the following which will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting: calling or dismissing a Pastor; removing any chairperson, or other elected officer; amending the Constitution; buying, selling, transferring, mortgaging, or otherwise encumbering real property of the Church.

## **ARTICLE VI. CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **SECTION A. FUNCTION**

The Church Council will be the policy making and visioning body of the Church.

### **SECTION B. MEMBERSHIP**

The Church Council will consist of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Deputy Moderator for the Board of Trustees, Deputy Moderator for Programs, Church Council Secretary, Treasurer, Diversity and Inclusion Representative and two Congregational Representatives

## **ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **SECTION A. FUNCTION**

The Board of Trustees will have oversight over the building and property.

### **SECTION B. MEMBERSHIP**

The Board of Trustees will consist of the Deputy Moderator as Chairperson, Financial Secretary, Youth Representative, Chairs of Stewardship, Property, and Personnel Ministries.

### **SECTION C. AUTONOMY**

The Board of Trustees reports to the Church Council. Any action will be in accordance with established purpose and goals of the Church. All meetings are open, except when addressing personnel issues.

## **ARTICLE VIII. PROGRAMS MINISTRY**

### **SECTION A. FUNCTION**

The Programs Ministry will serve as the scheduling and coordinating body for the ministry and activity life of the church.

### **SECTION B. MEMBERSHIP**

The Programs Ministry Team will consist of the Deputy Moderator as Chairperson, Youth

Representative, and Chairpersons of the following Ministries: Christian Education, Justice and Missions, Worship, Outreach and Evangelism, Spiritual Life, Fellowship, and Nurture. Leaders of church-wide events and other groups are invited to send representatives as appropriate.

### **SECTION C. AUTONOMY**

The Programs Ministry Team reports to the Church Council. Any action will be in accordance with established purpose and goals of the Church. All meetings are open.

### **ARTICLE IX. SENIOR PASTOR**

The Senior Pastor will be ordained, with standing in the United Church of Christ, and will be a member of the Congregation. The Senior Pastor will be the spiritual leader of the Congregation and will administer the program of the Church in cooperation with the officers, ministries/committees, and Church membership. The Senior Pastor will be a member, ex-officio, without vote, on all ministries/committees. The Senior Pastor will evaluate the Associate Pastor and the Director of Music Ministries annually – celebrating successes and setting goals for the coming year. The Senior Pastor will make salary recommendations for each (based on guidelines from the United Church of Christ) to the Stewardship Chair for preparing the Annual Statement of Faith and Missions.

### **ARTICLE X. ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

The Associate Pastor will be ordained, with standing in the United Church of Christ, and will be a member of the Congregation. The Associate Pastor will provide spiritual support of the Congregation and will assist in administering the program of the Church in cooperation with the Senior Pastor, other church staff, officers, ministries/committees, and Church membership. The Associate Pastor will be a member, ex-officio, without vote, on any assigned ministries/committees.

### **ARTICLE XI. PASTORAL RELATIONS MINISTRY**

#### **SECTION A. FUNCTION**

The Pastoral Relations Ministry exists to support and assist the Pastor and Associate Pastor.

#### **SECTION B. MEMBERSHIP**

Each of the Pastoral Relations Teams will consist of an equal number of members appointed by the Church Council and elected by the Congregation

### **ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution of the Congregation, its remaining assets, if any, shall vest with the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ.

### **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

The By-Laws may be amended by majority of those present and voting at any Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of amendment. The Constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting at any Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of amendment. Proposed amendments will be a part of the notice of the Meeting at which they are to be considered.