

Amended by Annual Congregational Meeting, Feb. 10, 2019,

## **Constitution and By-Laws of The Congregational Church of Belmont, California**

### **CONSTITUTION**

#### **ARTICLE I - Name and Organization**

##### **NAME**

The name of this church is and shall be THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BELMONT United Church of Christ

##### **ORGANIZATION**

This church is a religious corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of California on January 12, 1955.

#### **ARTICLE II - Object**

The object of this church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing in the worship of God and in making God's will dominant in people's lives, individually and collectively, especially as that will is set forth in the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

#### **ARTICLE III - Government**

The government and property ownership of this church are vested in its members who control its affairs according to their understanding of the Word of God. This church is subject in legal matters to the Articles of Incorporation granted it by the Secretary of State of the State of California, to the laws of the State of California and its political subdivisions, to this Constitution and to any by-laws adopted hereunder. This church is not accountable to any other ecclesiastical body. It accepts the privileges and responsibilities of the free fellowship of the United Church of Christ, the Northern California Nevada Conference and the Golden Gate Association of the United Church of Christ. The official year shall begin on January first. All officers shall assume their duties upon election and continue in office until the successors are elected.

#### **ARTICLE IV - Faith**

This church acknowledges Jesus Christ as its head and finds in the Holy Scriptures, interpreted by the Divine Spirit through reason, faith, and conscience, its guidance in matters of faith and discipline.

We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join with the Fellowship of the United Church of Christ in the Statement of Faith adopted by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, not as a test, but as an expression of the spirit in which the church interprets the Word of God.

##### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus, our brother, and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the Divine image and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all nations and all humanity by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the Gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the Gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen

#### **ARTICLE V - Covenant**

The Covenant by which the church exists as a distinct body, and which every member accepts, is as follows:

I make this covenant with God and the members of this church.

I am here to seek God's truth and guidance for my life.

I will support this church with my time, my resources, and myself.

As God has shown love to me through Jesus, I will share this love with others.

#### **ARTICLE VI - Mission Statement**

As members of the Congregational Church of Belmont, United Church of Christ, we accept each other's diversity and remain open to one another's spiritual interpretations as we strive to:

- Worship together seeking spiritual growth, inspiration and inner peace;
- Develop a close relationship with God;
- Experience the joys and risks of allowing God to work within each of us;
- Be aware, with humility and love, of the individual struggles and joys within our collective lives;
- Minister faithfully and effectively to one another as an extended family within the local community;
- Do justice in the world God loves;
- Practice inclusiveness and openness to provide a sense of worthiness and acceptance of all people;
- Enable each of us to live a meaningful life.

We undertake this mission with the help of Jesus Christ.

## **ARTICLE VII - Membership**

### QUALIFICATIONS

Any person who gives evidence of desiring to live a Christian life and who is in harmony with the spirit and methods of this church may be received into membership on recommendation of the minister or the Board of Deacons (or Church Council) and confession or reaffirmation of faith or on the submission of a Letter of Transfer from another church.

### RECEPTION

Applicants for membership shall be received into fellowship upon acceptance of the church's covenant during a worship service or privately with the pastor, Board of Deacons or Church council. If the acceptance is made privately, the new members will be announced publicly, in worship and/or in The Messenger.

### CLASSIFICATIONS

An Active Member is one who attends the worship of the church, partakes of its fellowship, upholds its government, shares its support, and is eligible to vote at all congregational meetings.

An Inactive Member is one who has been transferred to an inactive list by the action of the Board of Deacons (or Church Council) as provided hereinafter, and is able to express opinions at any congregational meeting, but may not vote.

An Associate Member is one who is residing in the community who for good and valid reasons desires to retain membership in another church but who otherwise qualifies as an active member. He or she may be received into this church as an Associate Member with the rights and privileges of an active member so long as they reside in the community.

### TERMINATION AND CHANGES IN STATUS

A. A letter of transfer on behalf of a member shall be sent to another specifically named Christian church only upon the request of that church or by request of that member. The Board of Deacons (or Church Council), or minister acting for the church, will authorize the issuance of the letter. Membership shall cease upon date of mailing of letter of transfer.

B. If, because of change of faith or for other reasons not involving unchristian conduct, a member in regular standing requests in writing to be released from our covenant obligation, the church shall patiently endeavor to secure the member's continuance in its fellowship; failing in such effort, the Board of Deacons (or Church Council) or minister may grant the request and terminate such membership.

C. Members who for a period of one year, in spite of repeated contacts, have not attended the church nor contributed to its support may, by vote of the Board of Deacons, be transferred to an inactive list. From the date of such transfers, these persons shall cease to be reported on the active membership rolls.

D. Persons on the inactive list may be restored to active membership by the Board of

Deacons (or Church Council).

E. Any person whose status has been changed as provided above shall be notified by the Clerk if possible.

### **ARTICLE VIII - Officers**

The officers of this church shall be the Pastor(s), Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Chair of Trustee.

### **ARTICLE IX - Church Council**

#### Section 1. Purpose

The Church Council shall be an executive body which shall act on behalf of the church membership. The lay members of the Church Council shall also form the Board of Directors of the Church Corporation. Specific duties shall be set forth in the by-laws.

#### Section 2. Membership

The Church Council shall consist of: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Minister(s), Clerk, chair or a designated alternate from each board and one to three delegates at large. Delegates at large shall each be elected for a term of three years at the Annual Meeting.

### **ARTICLE X - Boards**

The church shall have the following boards:

- Deacons
- Trustees
- Christian Education
- Social Action
- Communications

The duties and responsibilities of each board are outlined in ARTICLE III of the bylaws.

### **ARTICLE XI - Committees**

#### Section 1. Standing Committees

The standing committees of this church and the Board to which they report shall be:

- a. Building and Grounds (Trustees)
- b. Pastoral Relations (No Reporting Requirements)
- c. Nominating (Council)
- d. Altar Guild (Deacons)
- e. Music (Deacons)

#### Section 2. Other Committees

Any other committees as may from time to time be deemed necessary may be created by the Church Council or at any regular meeting of the church.

## **ARTICLE XII - Auxiliary Organizations**

The church regards as integral parts of itself all organizations formed for the purpose of carrying on the work of the church. All auxiliary organizations shall be approved by the Church Council and function under its general oversight. They shall make a yearly report to the church in writing at the Annual Meeting and at such other times as the church may request. All such organizations functioning at the time of this adoption of the Article shall be deemed approved.

## **ARTICLE XIII - Services, Meetings, Election and Regulations**

### Section 1. Services of Worship

A. Services of worship shall be held at given hours each Sunday except when temporarily suspended by vote of the church.

B. The church recognizes the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism. Baptisms shall be administered at such time as the minister or, in the minister's absence, the Board of Deacons may provide.

C. The minister may officiate at all weddings and other religious services at the discretion of the minister except in unusual circumstances. In the absence of the minister approval will be given by the Board of Deacons or Church Council.

### Section 2. Annual Meeting

There shall be an annual meeting of the church held early in the new year on a date determined by the Church Council. Yearly reports shall be presented by all officers, boards, committees, and auxiliaries at the annual meeting with recommendations for the ensuing year. Officers, boards, or chairs, and committee members shall be elected for the ensuing year or terms of office as provided for in the by-laws. Election and other votes shall be by voice vote or, upon request of any member present, by secret ballot. A simple majority shall elect or determine a question except as otherwise provided by this Constitution or the by-laws.

### Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the church may be called by the minister, moderator, or any one of the boards or by the clerk on the written request of five members. Notice for such meetings shall be given at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting by announcement from the pulpit. Notice must also be given by posting on the church website and by email/phone as soon as practicable thereafter. The nature of the business to be transacted shall be stated in the notice; no business other than that stated in said notice shall be acted upon.

### Section 4. Quorum

Twenty-five percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the church.

## Section 5. Decorum

All meetings of the church shall be conducted under the rules of parliamentary procedure in common use.

## Section 6. Voting

Voting at all meetings of the church (except the Annual Meeting) may be conducted in person or by email, video conferencing or any other accepted electronic method.

## **ARTICLE XIV - Amendments**

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Meeting of the church. Amendments shall be distributed by hand or emailed to the members of the church at least two weeks before said meeting.

# **BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I - Duties of Officers**

### Section 1. Pastorate

A. The Pastorate, or Ministerial Office, of the Congregational Church of Belmont may be filled by an individual minister, co-pastors, a senior minister and associate (or assistant) or any combination of licensed or ordained clergy that the congregation may approve. Licensed lay ministers may also be called.

Any minister called must have standing in the United Church of Christ. The minister or ministers shall be called for an indefinite period of time and, upon acceptance of the call, shall become members of the church. The Golden Gate Association shall be invited to sit as an ecclesiastical council for the purpose of installation in accordance with established usages. The terms of the call shall be specified in the call letter. Such terms will include compensation and related terms of employment. (rev.1/23/98)

B. The Pastorate shall be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church with the assistance of the Board of Deacons, seek to enlist men and women as followers of Christ; preach the Gospel; administer the sacraments; visit the sick and sorrowing; be available to those who seek counsel; have responsibility for all services of public worship; and administer the activities of the church in cooperation with the various boards and committees. The ministers shall be ex-officio members of all boards and committees.

C. All functions which are within the general mission of the church but which are not specifically provided herein shall, at the discretion of the pastor(s), be carried out personally or by mutual consent.

D. The relationship between a member of the Pastorate and the church may be terminated on sixty days notice by resignation or by majority vote of the church at a duly called meeting. The sixty days notice may be reduced by mutual consent.

E. Pastors serving this congregation may continue their professional practice only as long as they maintain Ministerial Standing within the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

## Section 2. Director of Religious Education

The church may, at its discretion, call a Director of Religious Education upon the recommendation of the Board of Christian Education and subject to the approval of the congregation. Duties shall be coordinated with the Pastorate in consultation with the Board of Christian Education. The director shall be an ex-officio member of the Church Council and of the Board of Christian Education.

## Section 3. Moderator

A Moderator shall be elected annually from the lay membership of the church; shall preside over all congregational meetings; and shall be chair of the Church Council. In the absence of the Moderator and Vice-Moderator, a member of the pastorate shall call meetings of the congregation and Church Council to order and preside until a Moderator pro-tem shall be chosen; provided, however, that when a special congregational meeting shall concern the ministerial office, the chair of the Board of Deacons, shall preside. In the event that the Moderator is unable to perform the duties of the Moderator, the Vice-Moderator will assume the position of the Moderator. The Church Council will determine if and when a special election will be held.

After the Annual Meeting, the Moderator may convene all boards, and committees and may read to each board and committee the sections of the Constitution and by-laws pertaining to its respective duties and responsibilities. Where necessary, the Moderator may preside until the board or committee chair is elected and, in the absence of a permanent minister, shall sit as an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.

The Council will select a Parliamentarian, a Historian, and an Auditor to make sure the operations of the church are managed correctly and preserved as needed.

After serving two consecutive terms, the Moderator shall be ineligible for re-election for one year.

## Section 4. Vice-Moderator

A Vice-Moderator shall be elected annually from the lay membership of the church. In the Moderator's absence, the Vice-Moderator shall act in the capacities of the Moderator. The Vice-Moderator shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

After serving two consecutive terms, the Vice-Moderator shall be ineligible for re-election for one year.

## Section 5. Clerk

The Clerk shall be elected from the lay membership of the church. The Clerk shall keep or cause to be kept a careful record of the proceedings of the church and of the Church Council and a register of the members of the church with date and mode of their reception and removal; shall issue or cause to be issued letters of transfer when authorized by the Board of Deacons; shall preserve or cause to be preserved on file all communications, documents, and written official reports; shall give notice of all meetings

and conduct such correspondence as pertains to the office and shall receive all resignations from elected personnel of the church and report the same to the Church Council.

#### Section 6. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected annually from the lay membership of the church. The Treasurer shall maintain or cause to be maintained the books of accounts and all financial records of the church as directed by the Board of Trustees; shall make or cause to be made monthly financial reports to the Board of Trustees; shall disburse or cause to be disbursed said funds at the direction of the Board of Trustees or the congregation, as appropriate; shall make or cause to be made an annual written report to the congregation of receipts and expenditures properly audited by the auditor; and shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, but may not hold an office thereon.

The Treasurer may have the assistance of the Church Secretary and a bookkeeper (as assigned by the Trustees and Church Council), to manage some of the tasks of the Treasurer's job.

#### Section 7. Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall be elected from the lay membership of the church for a term of two years. The Financial Secretary shall receive the pledge cards from the Stewardship Committee; shall issue offering envelopes and set up an account for each pledge in a manner as directed by the Board of Trustees; shall receive a weekly written accounting from the Board of Trustees' qualified counters of pledges and offerings whose donors can be identified; and shall record all such moneys and issue quarterly statements to all persons pledging and annual statements to all other identifiable donors. All records of the Financial Secretary are to remain confidential.

#### Section 8. Auditor

The Auditor shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees or Church Council. The Auditor shall audit the accounts of the church and present a report to the Annual meeting. With the approval of the Board of Trustees and Church Council, the Auditor may contract for an independent audit.

#### Section 9. Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian shall be selected annually from the lay membership of the church either by nomination or by the Church council. The Parliamentarian may attend Council and shall attend congregational meetings and interpret the Constitution and Bylaws as may be required, and shall be chair of any Constitution or Bylaw committee appointed by the Church Council.

#### Section 10. Corporate Officers

The legally elected Moderator of the church shall be the President of the Corporation; the legally elected chair of the Board of Trustees, shall be Vice-President of the Corporation. The legally elected Clerk of the church shall be Secretary of the Corporation; and the legally elected Treasurer of the church shall be Treasurer of the Corporation.

## **ARTICLE II - Church Council**

### Section 1. General Duties

The Church Council shall be an executive body which shall act on behalf of the church membership and implement the directives and programs of the church decreed by the congregational meetings and the by-laws.

\*\*See Addendum A: Church Council Organization Chart (on page 17)

It shall be the function of the Church Council to visualize the entire task of the church, to advise the pastor or pastors and officers on the general direction of the church's activities, and to cooperate with them in the formulation of a well-rounded program. The Council shall submit to the Annual Meeting a comprehensive program involving the chief objectives of the church for the new year.

### Section 2. Specific Duties

It shall appoint a Pastoral Search Committee of nine church members when a vacancy in the pastorate occurs. The Committee shall work in cooperation with the Conference Minister in selection of the new minister.

It shall review the minutes of all congregational meetings and implement the directives of the church through the proper boards and /or committees.

It shall appoint voting delegates to the Golden Gate Association of the United Church of Christ and the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ by its second meeting.

It shall review the progress of the boards and committees of the church and make decisions as are necessary to expedite their work.

It shall fill vacancies on boards, committees, and elect officers for un-expired terms upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

It shall review the by-laws of the church every four years and offer proposed changes to the congregation.

It shall hold not fewer than eight meetings during the year. Special meetings may be called by the chair or on request of any five members.

It shall maintain a list of the Policies and Procedures adopted by the congregation.

It shall affirm all decisions to fill any permanent staff position (full or part time) that is not subject to a call.

### Section 3. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, with the Vice Moderator as its chair, shall prepare a list of nominations for officers, boards, and committee members for the ensuing year. Nominations shall be presented to the Church Council and posted two weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting. During the rest of the year it shall submit to the Church Council nominations to

fill vacancies in boards and committees.

#### Section 4. Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee shall be chosen by the Moderator and Minister(s) and be confirmed by the Church Council at the first Council meeting following the Annual Meeting of the church. The Committee shall consist of six members of the church and the Moderator. It shall meet at least quarterly to counsel with minister(s) on a confidential basis on matters pertaining to the ministry. During periods of interim minister leadership, the Interim Minister Search Committee shall serve as the Pastoral Relations Committee. (rev.1/23/98)

#### Section 5. Policies and Procedures

The church shall maintain a Policies and Procedures Book or digital file that keeps a record of the church's operating procedures and current policies in effect. The Church Council will assign this responsibility. Policies may be established or modified by Council, a Board or Congregational action, and said action should be updated in the main file.

### **ARTICLE III - Duties of Boards and Committees**

#### Section 1. General Duties

The Board Members shall be elected from the lay membership of the church. If a member shall miss two consecutive regular meetings for reasons other than health, travel, or business, the member's place on the board shall automatically be declared vacant and the vacancy reported to the Church Council. Board members in excess of the numbers hereinafter provided may be elected by the Church Council from nominations made by the Nominating Committee for terms specified for it. All boards shall meet at their discretion. Special meetings may be called by the board chair. Ex-officio members shall not vote or be counted as a quorum.

At its first meeting, each board shall organize by selecting its chair, secretary, and representative to the Nominating Committee. It shall also make assignment of board members to those areas of responsibility given to it.

Each committee shall be directly responsible to that board under which the committee's duties are hereafter set forth. Each committee shall meet at its discretion and as directed by its respective board. Except as otherwise provided, committee members may be elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting to serve one-year terms. A Majority of the members of the board or committee shall constitute a quorum. No business may be transacted without a quorum.

A quorum of any duly called meeting of a board shall be 50% of the specified number of members. If less than 50% are in attendance, all matters of the board, with the exception of monetary matters, can be conducted. All monetary matters will be brought foreword to the Church Council for action.

#### Section 2. Duties of Specific Boards

##### **A. Board of Deacons**

The Board of Deacons shall be concerned with the spiritual well-being of the church and shall inaugurate programs to implement this primary goal. The board shall cooperate with the minister in planning the worship services and shall provide ushers, greeters, and furnishings for worship services. The board shall prepare for and be represented at all services of the sacraments of the church. It shall have custody of the communion ware, baptismal font, flower urns, altar linens, and other altar furnishings. It shall provide for the temporary supply of the pulpit in the event of a pulpit vacancy or absence of the minister.

The board shall seek to enlist followers of Jesus by greeting all persons as they enter the church for worship and visiting prospective members in cooperation with the minister. The board shall discharge those duties concerning membership as set forth in Article VII of the Constitution.

#### Altar Guild

The Altar Guild shall consist of one member to be selected by the board as chair and it is recommended that a minimum of four committee members be selected *from those interested members of the congregation*. The Altar Guild shall be in charge of floral arrangements and related equipment used in worship services; shall be in charge of decorations for weddings at the request of the Building Use Chair and may assess a regular fee approved by the Board of Trustees for this service; and, in consultation with the minister, Deacons, or Building Use Chair, may appoint a wedding consultant to assist persons planning weddings and receptions in the church.

#### Music Committee

The Music Committee shall consist of at least three members. The chair shall be selected by the Board of Deacons and the remainder shall be selected from those interested members of the congregation. The choir director and organist shall be ex-officio members of the committee. The committee shall assist the choir director in the securing of choir members, the choice of music, and the selection of soloists for special services. In the case of a vacancy in the position of choir director or organist, it shall recommend to the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees and Church Council a qualified musician for either of said positions.

### **B. Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees shall consist of at least five members, which includes the Building and Grounds Chair and four other elected members, one of whom will be selected Chair. The elected Treasurer will be an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees shall have the care and custody of the property of the church and have charge of its financial affairs. However, it shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer real property or borrow money without specific authority from the congregation. Disbursements to pay budgeted items shall be made by the Treasurer according to a priority set by the board. It may approve expenditures for purposes not included within the adopted budget from all church accounts except those accounts designated as special-purpose accounts as described in this section to a limit of \$2500; such expenditures up to \$5,000 must be approved by the Church Council; such expenditures above \$5,000 must be approved by the congregation. No such expenditures for purposes not included within the adopted budget shall be made from funds designated for items of the adopted budget.

The Trustees will manage the long-term rentals of the Church Building and negotiate the contracts for same, as well as supervision of the single or short-term rentals.

A minimum of two members of the congregation, trained and approved by the Board of Trustees shall count all moneys received each week by the church, recording amounts and donors on offering envelopes or by listing. Deposits shall be made in a night depository or as directed by the board. Offering envelopes and donor lists shall be handed to the Financial Secretary for recording in such manner as prescribed by the trustees.

The Board of Trustees, with the approval of the Church Council and the congregation, may designate certain special-purpose accounts held by the church to be administrative accounts. These accounts, which must further the goals of the church, will be managed by an administrator, to be appointed by the Board of Trustees and approved by the Church Council. Disbursements from these accounts will be directed by the administrator and will not require approval from the Board of Trustees, the Church Council or the congregation. Interest accrued by administrative accounts will be assigned to the general fund, and the administrator of each account will be required to provide the Board of Trustees with an annual audit of that account.

#### Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds Committee shall consist of several members who are selected annually. The chair of the committee shall be a member of the Board of Trustees. The committee shall make an annual survey of the condition of the church properties and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for repairs and improvements. The committee shall be in charge of all building repairs and improvements and shall supervise the care, upkeep, and improvements of gardens and grounds. The committee shall have charge of all church furnishings and shall take an annual inventory.

The committee shall be in charge of any new church construction and in the event of major construction the committee may be enlarged for the special project.

The committee shall see that a custodian or services are employed in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Church Council. It shall outline the duties of the custodian or services and provide the necessary equipment for the discharge of these duties.

The committee shall prepare and maintain rules and regulations for the use of the church building and grounds, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees and Church Council. It shall have charge of the distribution of all keys for the church building.

#### **C. Board of Christian Education**

The Board of Christian Education shall consist of at least three members, one of whom shall be selected chair. In co-operation with the pastorate, it shall be charged with the formulation of well-defined objectives and policies of Christian education and shall direct the educational functions of the church. Its responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the church school, recruitment, appointment, training, and removal of teachers, youth fellowships and other youth organizations as may come under the supervision of the church, and adult education. It shall supervise the expenditure of funds budgeted for Christian education, oversee the activities of the Director of Religious

Education, if one is called, and the Church School Superintendent, if one is elected, and report annually to the congregation.

#### Church School Superintendent

A Church School Superintendent may be selected annually at the annual meeting. The term of office shall be for one year beginning on the following July 1. The Church School Superintendent shall be the administrative officer of the Church School, functioning under the Board of Christian Education. The Board may appoint such assistant superintendents as are required to fulfill the functions of this office. The newly selected Superintendent shall work with the current Superintendent (if any) during the interim period. The Church School Superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Christian Education.

#### **D. Board of Social Action**

The board shall consist of at least three members, one of whom shall be elected chair. The board shall study, publicize and promote programs of action in areas of social concern including, but not limited to, social problems, health and welfare, human relations, and non-partisan political matters. It shall be acquainted with the missionary program of the United Church of Christ, both national and foreign, and promote those causes within the church by informing the membership and urging participation by such means as it devises. It shall seek to raise the church's goal for "giving to others" to be an amount equal to one-third of the church's current expense budget, shall approve requests for special offerings within the church, and report annually to the congregation.

#### **E. Board of Communications**

The Communications Board shall consist of an elected chair and some interested members of the congregation. The Board will be in charge of all communications for the church, including the Church Web-site and the Church Calendar, as well as the monthly Messenger and advertising. The Chair will be a member of the Church Council.

### **ARTICLE IV Auxiliary Organizations**

All Auxiliary Organizations shall be approved by the Church Council and shall be under its general overview.

### **ARTICLE V Amendments**

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any Annual Meeting or at a special Meeting called for that purpose. Amendments to these by-laws shall not diminish the terms of any persons previously elected to boards and committees.

Revised, February 2019 revisions approved at Annual Meeting.