

CONSTITUTION OF COMMUNITY OF FAITH
United Church of Christ
Elyria, Ohio

Approved July 30, 2023

ARTICLE I: NAME AND MISSION

Section A: Name

The name of this Church shall be Community of Faith United Church of Christ. The address of Community of Faith is 9715 East River Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

Section B: Mission

The mission of Community of Faith is to *be* the living presence of Jesus Christ: witnessing, teaching, and serving with compassion and integrity, and living the Good News of God's unconditional love for all God's children. All are welcomed and embraced in our fellowship of God's grace.

ARTICLE II: DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

This Church shall be a part of the United Church of Christ and maintain the covenantal relationship as described in that denomination's Constitution (adopted July 4, 1961). As articulated in the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith, we acknowledge the Bible as inspired by God, accept the Triune God, and observe two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Persons become members of this Congregation in one of four ways:

- Profession of faith
- Confirmation
- Reaffirmation of faith
- Letter of transfer from another church or denomination

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION

The Congregation is defined as the active members of the church. The government of the Church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, subject, however, to the Laws of the State of Ohio. The governing body of the church will be the active membership assembled in a Congregational Meeting. There shall be at least one Congregational Meeting annually.

Congregational Meetings require the establishment of a quorum to conduct the business of the church. A quorum shall consist of a minimum of 25% of active members. Only for the purpose of establishing a quorum, Members classified as Home-bound (See Article I of the Bylaws) shall not be counted as active members unless they are present at a duly called Congregational Meeting.

A simple majority of the active members present shall affirm or decline a decision with the following exceptions:

Changes to the Constitution and/or Bylaws require a 67% majority affirmation of the active members present as set forth in the Constitution under Article VII: Changes and Amendments. Voting to be conducted by paper ballot.

Calling a Pastor requires a 75% majority affirmation of the active members present as set forth in the Bylaws under Article III: Calling Pastors. Voting to be conducted by paper ballot.

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically outlined in the Constitution or the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V: GOVERNANCE

The Executive Team is the governing body of the Congregation, comprised of nine elected members and two ex-officio members.

The Executive Team must be comprised of active members, and, except for the ex-officio members, may serve up to two consecutive two-year terms, and shall be elected by the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The nine elected members:

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. President | 2. Vice President | 3. Secretary |
| 4. Finance Team Chair | 5. Nominating Team Chair | 6. At-Large Member #1 |
| 7. At-Large Member #2 | 8. At-Large Member #3 | 9. At-Large Member #4 |

Ex-officio Members have a voice but no vote:

1. Pastor – serves at the will of the Congregation.
2. Endowment Team Chair

No employees may be elected or appointed to the Executive Team.

The Executive Team shall meet regularly for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it. The Executive Team will work together to ensure good stewardship of the financial, physical, and human resources of the Church. Special meetings are subject to the call of the President, Vice President, Pastor, or a majority of the voting members of the Executive Team.

ARTICLE VI: PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Church may, in its corporate name, sue or be sued; acquire by purchase, gifts, 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. The Church 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 purpose 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 objectives and purposes of the Church.

Upon dissolution of the Church, its assets and all property and interests of which it shall be possessed, including any devise, gift or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution shall be transferred to Living Water Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ or successors thereof.

ARTICLE VII: CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

Changes and/or amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be made at any duly called Congregational Meeting by a 67% majority vote of the active members present, public announcement of the text of the proposed changes and/or amendments having been made two weeks prior to the meeting.