

Major Changes to the Constitution

- Article V: Membership

1. Membership in this Church shall be open to any baptized person who has been confirmed or ***to any person who has*** made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In accordance with the Gospel covenant which binds into a unit “faithful” people of all ages, tongues, and races. Membership is open to all persons. ***Members may be received into the church by congregational approval or by transfer of membership from another UCC Congregation.***

- Article IX: Pastor

1. The Pastor(s) is the ~~primary executive of the local Church, and as such is leader of its life's program~~ **shall faithfully execute duties outlined in the Letter of Call, Covenant, and Constitution and Bylaws of the local Church.**

- Article X: Congregational Meetings

1. The Annual Meeting of the Church shall be held any Sunday in February as directed by the Board of Trustees. ~~At this meeting the Board of Trustees, the Board of Deacons, the Pastor, and other committees of the Church shall submit their annual reports in writing. Also written reports are to be submitted by other Church Organizations relating to their work.~~ **In preparation for the meeting, the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, the Pastor, other committees and Church organizations, shall prepare written reports as directed by the Board of Trustees. These reports shall contain the name of the person preparing the report and their phone number and email address. These reports will be due three (3) weeks before the Annual Meeting, so that the reports can be compiled and available to the Congregation for two (2) Sundays before the Annual Meeting. If someone has a question about a report, they should direct their question to the author of the report at least five(5) days before the Annual Meeting so that all questions can be answered before the meeting. Any questions asked at the Annual Meeting, that cannot be answered easily, will be answered by the report's author no later than two (2) weeks after the Annual Meeting. The moderator will announce rules of order at the beginning of the meeting.**

Major Changes to the ByLaws

- Article II: Boards, Committees and Organizations

- A.1 The members of the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees, shall all be selected by nomination of the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation. ***Members shall not be allowed to serve on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees at the same time.***

B.2 The Board of Deacons shall be composed of ~~eight Deacons~~, **six (6) to eight (8) Deacons**, elected by the Congregation. The term shall be three years.

B.8. Upon the resignation **or termination** of the Pastor, the Board of Deacons, through its chairperson, shall contact the Conference office and Association, and appoint a Pastoral Search Committee. **The Pastoral Search Committee and Chair of Deacons will request current search guidelines from the Conference.** The Board of Deacons, through its chairperson, and in consultation with the Pastoral Search Committee, and Trustees, shall make provisions for interim pastoral service in the Church until a new Pastor arrives.

C.3 ~~The Board of Trustees can authorize borrowing money, not to exceed \$2500.00.~~

- Article VI: Church Congregation Meetings

1. Regular and special meetings of the Congregation shall be called by announcement during the Service of Worship on two successive Sundays prior to the meeting. A quorum shall consist of ~~20% of the membership of this congregation.~~ **the average Sunday attendance for the past twelve months. Weekly attendance shall include individuals who attend online. Members who attend online shall be part of the quorum and shall be eligible to vote.** The Moderator of the meeting shall be the Chairperson of the Trustees, or in his/her absence, the Chairperson of the Board of Deacons.

- Article VII: The Pastor

1. The Pastor of this Congregation shall ~~be consultant, confidant, and coordinator. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to conduct Services on Sundays and such other days as the congregation shall desire, administer the Sacraments, and perform such duties as belonging to the Pastor's office in the United Church of Christ.~~ **perform the duties agreed to in covenant with the Church and the Conference, and shall generally be bound to the ethical and other guidelines as laid out in the Manual on Ministry and the Letter of Call.**
2. An annual report of the Pastor's work shall be made to the Congregation. No other minister shall perform religious ceremonies in the Church without the consent of the ~~Pastor~~ **Board of Deacons in consultation with the Pastor.** ~~Except in cases of emergency, To invite a speaker either during a temporary absence of the Pastor, or for special occasions, the consent of the Board of Deacons is necessary.~~
3. When the occasion arises to select a new pastor, the Pastoral Search Committee **per its guidelines**, shall nominate one candidate for the pastorate to be voted upon by the Congregation **at a special meeting called pursuant to Article VI.** The Congregation shall consider only one candidate at a time and shall vote by ballot for or against election . The Pastor shall be elected by a majority vote of the Congregation present, in which case the Church shall then issue a call, ~~confirmed by the Central Association of the Iowa Conference, according to the form prescribed. The Pastor's moving expenses when assuming the appointment shall be borne in full by the Congregation~~ **per Conference guidelines.**