

UNITED FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.

FOUNDED: MAY 21, 1989

CONGREGATIONAL RULE /by DEACON BOARD

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

GOVERNED by KING JAMES VERSION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF UNITED FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This church shall be called " United Faith Christian Church, Inc."

ARTICLE II. GOVERNMENT AND PRINCIPLES

Section 1. Basic Belief

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Section 2. The Head of the Church

Christ calls the church into being and directs its functions of worship and missions. Christ is present in Spirit and Word, and the Church belongs to him to rule, teach, call, and use as he wills, with authority over its ministry to extend his kingdom.

Christ gives to his church its faith and life, its unity and mission, its officers and ordinances. It is to be obeyed in worship and service of God and government of the church. Any matters of dissension are to be ordered according to the Word by reason and sound judgment, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Section 3 Purpose

The purpose of the church is the proclamation of the gospel, for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

ARTICLE III CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The Right of Individual Judgment

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship. We do not wish to see any religious constitution aided by the civil power, further than may be necessary for protection and security, and at the same time, be equal and common to all others.

Section 2. Corporate Judgment

Our church will be following a congregational rule of church government. It will be through a deacon board elected by the congregation. The deacon board will make recommendations to the congregation at called meetings to be voted on. The congregation will either approve or disapprove these recommendations by majority vote.

Section 3. Officers of the Church

We believe that Jesus Christ hath appointed officers for the edification of the visible church, his body. These officers to preach the gospel and administer the Sacraments and Ordinances but also to exercise discipline, for the preservation of both truth and duty; and that it is incumbent upon these officers and upon the whole church, in whose name they act, to censure or cast out the erroneous and scandalous, observing, in all cases, the rules contained in the Word of God.

That all officers are elected by the congregation according to the rules and guidelines set forth in the Holy Scriptures as to the character and qualification of the individuals.

Section 4. Church Power

That all church power, whether exercised by the body in general or in the way of representation by delegated authority, is only ministerial and declarative; that is to say, that the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and manners; that no church governing body ought to pretend to make laws to bind the conscience in virtue of their own authority; and that all their decisions should be founded upon the revealed will of God. The church to judge only by the laws set forth by Holy Scriptures and not by man-made interpretations.

Section 5. Church Discipline

All scriptural and rational principles are to be steadfastly adhered to, the vigor and strictness of its discipline will Sections Church Discipline contribute to the glory and happiness of any church. MATT. 5: 23-24, MATT. 18: 15-17, GAL. 6:1

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications

Any person who has accepted Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as his personal Saviour and has been baptized by immersion, and made a public profession of faith will be accepted into our church.

Members of another church or faith may be accepted into fellowship of the church when the foregoing conditions are met. When qualified anyone may be received by the right hand of fellowship at a regular church service.

Section 2. Request for Dismissal

Any member in good standing may be dismissed at their own request.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of United Faith Christian Church, Inc. shall consist of at least the following offices:

Pastor
Deacons
Trustees
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Church Clerk
Sunday School Superintendent

Section 2. Election of Officers

Officers of the church shall be elected at our annual business meeting.

Section 3. Terms of Office

Officers of the church shall serve one-year terms, unless otherwise directed by the church at its discretion.

Section 4. Qualification of Officers

Only active members in good standing and meeting qualification as set forth in The Holy Scriptures shall be acceptable as candidates for office.

Section 5. Method of Election

Officers may be nominated by the congregation. These nominations will then be voted on by the congregation to elect the required number of officers.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Pastor

The Pastor shall exercise general spiritual leadership of the overall church program. It shall be his duty to preach statedly at the church, to administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and he shall perform such other duties as are incumbent upon his office.

Section 2. Deacons

The Deacons shall assist the pastor in the supervision of all religious interests pertaining to the church, visit the sick, ascertain the needs of the poor, assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper and the ordinance of Baptism. In the pastor's absence, they shall have charge of all worship services. They, together with the clerk, shall advise with the pastor in securing supply speakers for the church.

Section 3. Trustees

The Trustees shall hold in trust all real and other properties of the church; they shall carefully supervise all repairs and improvements to the church edifice and to other properties belonging to the church, always subject to the church's direction and approval.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall hold in keeping all funds of the church, and by order of the Deacon Board or Church, shall disburse the same, keeping a faithful record of all monies received and paid out, and reporting the same at each regular meeting of the church or Deacon Board. The treasurer shall be bonded, the church paying the premium for said bond.

Section 5. Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in all money matters pertaining to the finances of the church. The Assistant Treasurer shall serve only in the absence or inability of the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer shall sign checks only upon the order of the Deacon Board or Church.

Section 6. Church Clerk

The Church Clerk shall record the minutes of all church meetings, handle church correspondence, preserve and maintain church records and perform any other duties prescribed by the church or that may normally involve a church clerk.

Section 7 Sunday School) Superintendent

The Sunday School Superintendent, in cooperation with the pastor, shall have general supervision of all Christian Education policies, except the pulpit, and of Sunday School activities of the church. He shall make a report to the Church at its quarterly and annual business meetings.

ARTICLE VII. DEACON BOARD

Section 1. Membership

The Deacon Board is to be comprised of deacons elected by the congregation and the pastor.

Section 2. Duties

To transact routine matters between stated or called church meetings.

ARTICLE VIII. BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting shall be scheduled by the Deacon Board as soon as practical before the end of the church fiscal year. The purpose of the annual business meeting shall be to elect officers, hear annual reports of the boards, committees and auxiliaries of the church and to take up any matters deemed appropriate by the church.

Section 2. Quarterly Business Meetings

Quarterly business meetings shall be held on the fifth Sunday night of the year or at such time as may be designated by the Deacon Board or Church.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the church may be called by the Deacon Board at its discretion or upon a written petition of twelve active members in good and regular standing. Said written petition shall be presented to the pastor, or in his absence the chairman of the Deacon Board, who in turn shall call the meeting. Due notice of such a meeting shall be given from the pulpit on the two Sundays preceding the proposed meeting, along with a statement of the business to be transacted at special business meetings. **In case of emergency or absolute necessity, such conditions to be determined by the Deacon Board, a meeting may be called immediately.**

Section 4. Communion Service

Communion services shall be held at least once each quarter at a time designated by the pastor, or in his absence, the Deacon Board. Communion Services will be on fifth Sundays under normal circumstances.

Section 5. Quorums

Twenty-five percent of the members shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of the church, but a lesser number may adjourn to the call of the chair. Four members shall constitute a quorum for the Deacon Board meetings, but a lesser number may adjourn to the call of the chair.

Section 6. Qualifications for Voting

Only active members of the church in good and regular standing shall be entitled to vote. The Deacon Board shall be empowered to determine the qualifications of voters.

Section 7. Procedures

Unless otherwise stated, a majority vote of all members present and voting at any business meeting of the church or Deacon Board is necessary for election and decision.

Where matters pertaining to rules of order are not specifically covered in this constitution, The King James version of the Holy Bible shall apply.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The church fiscal year shall end with the calendar year.

Section 2. Audit

The Deacon Board shall cause the books of the Church Treasurer to be opened for audit and a report submitted to the church at the discretion of the Deacon Board.

Section 3. Pastor's Salary

The question of the pastor's salary will be decided upon by the congregation at its annual business meeting.

The church, acting on its own, may at any time adjust the pastor's salary and/or allowances.

ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Basis

The rule of discipline and spiritual guidance for this church shall be the word and spirit of the Holy Scriptures.

Section 2. Absence and Temporal Support

Members who desert the church and join another (without a letter of dismissal) shall be stricken from the roll by the Church Clerk, when so instructed by the church.

A continued and willful absence of one year from the services of the church, and/or withholding temporal and spiritual support for a period of one year shall be deemed sufficient cause for the church to put a member on the inactive list of the church.

ARTICLE XI. CHURCH AND PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP

Section 1. Vacation

The pastor shall be granted at least two weeks' vacation each year, with pay, at any time of the year he shall desire. He shall notify the Deacon Board or Church in advance of his vacation.

Section 2. Candidate for Pastorate

Any candidate for the pastorate of this church shall first be recommended by a pulpit committee.

Section 3. Calling a Pastor

When, for any reason, it becomes necessary to call a pastor, a special church business meeting shall be called, notice of same having been given from the pulpit. A minister of good report who is favored by two thirds of the members present and voting at said meeting shall be called as pastor. Voting shall be done by secret ballot.

Section 4. Dismissing a Pastor

Pastors, when resigning shall give the church at least ninety days' notice unless a shorter period of time can be mutually agreed upon. A two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a special called business meeting of the church shall be necessary to dismiss a pastor. Voting shall be done by secret ballot. The church, when dismissing a pastor, shall give the pastor ninety days' notice unless a shorter period of time can be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

ARTICLE XII. ASSETS

Section 1. Disbursement of Assets

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

1. Amendment to Article XII Assets.
 - a. Disbursements of Assets, Section I.

In the event of failure of United Faith Christian Church, Inc., all property shall be liquidated and put in a trust fund for perpetual care of the cemetery. This amendment effective as of October 13, 2024, by a unanimous decision.
2. Church Status, Non-Denominational.
 - a. By unanimous decision as of October 6, 1991, the members of United Faith Christian Church, Inc. voted that this church will remain non-denominational as long as it exists, unless voted otherwise by a 100% unanimous secret ballot vote by all active members.