

FAIRVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Fairview Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of 2701 Campbell Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia, in faithful response to the will and purposes of God as revealed through Jesus Christ and God's continuing revelation in the world, do hereby adopt this Constitution on this *xxxx* day of the month of *xxxxxxxx*, in the year *xxxx*.

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of the Congregation shall be Fairview Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), affiliated with and an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Since the Congregation was established as a mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia in 1905 and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, it shall observe in perpetuity an attitude of goodwill, cooperation and support toward these or their legal successors.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Congregation is:

- To proclaim, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a faithful response to God's will and purposes as revealed through Jesus Christ and in the world.
- To encourage in all persons a faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ and in all ways seek to make known the love of God.
- To serve and embrace the community of which we are a part, bringing the Gospel to bear upon the whole of society.
- To create an environment in which all people can discover their unique, God-given gifts to cultivate them and to use them in meaningful ministry.
- To seek unity of the Church through oneness in the body of Christ where God's love is celebrated and exemplified.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

The Membership of this Congregation, as part of the whole family of God on earth, shall consist of the following: those who are now members of the Congregation; those who shall unite with it by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, giving expression of their faith through baptism and commitment to Him; and those who unite by transfer of membership, thereby reaffirming their faith and commitment to Christ.

ARTICLE 4. FUNCTIONS of the CONGREGATION

The Congregation shall manage its affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ; determine its faithfulness to the Gospel; own, control, and encumber its property; organize and carry out the mission and witness of the Congregation; establish its budgets and financial policies; call its Minister(s) and other staff; and participate, through voting representatives, in regional and general assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in forming the corporate judgments of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Congregation shall demonstrate voluntarily its mutual concern for the nurture, mission and witness of the whole Church, and among other responsibilities, it shall: proclaim the Gospel, provide for the spiritual nurture of its members through baptism and the Lord's Supper, grow in understanding that the Church is a universal fellowship transcending all barriers within the human family, be faithful in Christian stewardship, striving to share proportionately in providing resources for the total life, work, and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), realize the oneness of the Church in Jesus Christ through cooperation with other churches and with present and emerging ecumenical structures.

The Congregation shall sustain its Minister(s) in faithfulness and honor, and, in matters pertaining to relationships with the Minister(s), seek guidance from the Ministerial Code of Ethics [REF: Attachment ONE], instruction from the Ethical Guidelines for Congregational Conduct [REF: Attachment TWO] (especially Section III and its Study Suggestions), and resolution from the Conflict Resolution Process (CRP) Guidelines for a Spiritual and Healthy Congregation [REF: Attachment THREE].

**ARTICLE 5. CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS, The FAIRVIEW BOARD,
ELDERS, DIACONATE, TRUSTEES, The CABINET,
MINISTRIES and COMMITTEES**

SECTION A. CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

The Congregation shall elect from its members a Board Moderator and Vice-Moderator, who shall serve as its President and Vice-President respectively. The Congregation shall also elect a Board Secretary.

The Congregation shall elect from its members a Treasurer, a Co-Treasurer, three (3) Assistant Treasurers, and three (3) Auditors.

Their election and terms of office, qualifications and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 1.

SECTION B. The FAIRVIEW BOARD

The Congregation shall have a Board which shall be responsible to the Congregation and have authority to act on behalf of the Congregation.

The Fairview Board shall be composed of members as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 2. Section A., and for terms and conditions of office stated in the By-Laws, Article 2. Section B.

The Fairview Board shall be responsible for receiving reports from the Minister(s), Congregational Officers, Cabinet, Committees, Funds and all organizational units of the Congregation. It shall establish by its action the programs and budget of the Congregation, subject to approval by the Congregation at its annual meeting. It shall also be responsible for approving all business and legal matters of the Congregation and for carrying out such other responsibilities as may be defined in the By-Laws.

Stated meetings of the Fairview Board shall be held on the third Monday of alternating months beginning in January of each year.

Special meetings of the Fairview Board may be called by the Board Moderator, request of the Minister(s), or a written petition signed by one third (1/3) of the full membership of the Fairview Board. Notice of called meetings shall be made forty-eight (48) hours in advance by telephone or by mail. The purpose, date, time, and place of the called meeting shall be indicated in such notice.

ARTICLE 5.
(continued)

SECTION C. ELDERS and DIACONATE

The Congregation shall have, elect and ordain from its membership the Elders, as spiritual leaders, and shall have and elect the Diaconate, as supportive servants. Their election and terms of office, qualifications and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 4.

SECTION D. TRUSTEES

The Congregation shall have and elect from its membership the Trustees, as legal representatives. Their election and terms of office, qualifications and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 4.

SECTION E. The CABINET

The Congregation shall have and elect from its membership a Cabinet to assist the Minister(s) and the Fairview Board in initiating and coordinating the programs and work of the Congregation. Their election and terms of office, qualifications and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 5.

The Cabinet shall consist of four (4) Ministries and be composed of members as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 5. and for the terms of office therein stated.

SECTION F. MINISTRIES, COMMITTEES and FUNDS

The Congregation, through the Fairview Board, shall establish all Functional Ministries, Committees, Funds or other organizational units it deems necessary for the conduct of the work of the Congregation as set forth in the By-Laws. All Functional Ministries shall report to the Fairview Board through the Cabinet. All other organizational units shall report directly to the Fairview Board.

ARTICLE 6. CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Congregational meetings shall be held at least annually in the month of December. Special meetings of the Congregation may be called by the Board Moderator, as the President of the Congregation; request of the Minister(s); or a written petition signed by 50 members of the Congregation. Notice of called meetings shall be announced at a regular Sunday morning worship service at least one (1) week in advance of the called meeting, and, by means of the Church newsletter or by mail at least ten (10) days before the called meeting. The purpose, date, time, and place of the called meeting shall be indicated in such notice.

ARTICLE 7. AMENDMENTS and REVISIONS

This Constitution of Fairview Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may be amended or revised at any Congregational meeting by a two-thirds ($2/3^{\text{rd}}$) majority vote of the members present and voting on the amendments or revisions. The Fairview Board shall bring any proposed changes to the Constitution before the Congregation following the same procedure to amend or revise the By-Laws as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 8.

