

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
NEW COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this Church is New Covenant United Church of Christ, located at 459 Clinton Street in the city of Buffalo, New York, and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The mission of new covenant United Church of Christ is to worship God; to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ ; to celebrate the sacraments; to render Loving Service to the community; and to strive for Righteousness, Justice, Peace, and Equality for all Mankind.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those whom were being saved.” Acts 2: 42-47 (NIV)

Evangelism: Reaching those who are without Christ. All members should take responsibility for reaching out our guests who have worshipped with us.

Worship: Using our spiritual gifts to bless the church service. We worship through prayer, establishing a daily habit of reading the Bible, obeying God’s word, sharing our faith, building relationships with other Christians and serving others.

Fellowship: Providing a warm and friendly atmosphere of openness and acceptance toward members who are new to the congregation.

Discipleship: Development of passionate, mature and obedient believers to love, win and train others. Trust and obey God’s word and teach others to do the same.

Ministry: Using our spiritual gifts to bless the church. Each member should be involved in ministry using their spiritual gifts, heart’s desires, abilities, personality and experiences.

We recognize that the church cannot exist without **Stewardship** *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord*

Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it” Malachi 3:10

ARTICLE III POLITY

1. This congregation shall be an organic member of the United Church of Christ and shall be governed by the constitution, laws and rules of said Church.

2. The government of this 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 New York relating to corporations’ subject to the Religious Corporations Law.

ARTICLE IV FAITH AND COVENANT

1. Faith: This Church acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of humankind. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creation and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians it recognizes two Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

2. Covenant: We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the Will of God. We propose to walk together in the ways of the Lord made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for justice, equality, and peace. As did our fathers, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

We accept the following Statement of Faith as approved by our denominational fellowship:

“UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH”

(Adaption by Robert Moss)

“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 world into being,
creates humankind in the divine image,
and sets before him the ways of life and death

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

God judges humanity and nations by that righteous will 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 call us into his 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,
the 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 MEMBERSHIP

1. General: Membership in this Church shall be open to any person who accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, in accordance with the gospel covenant which binds into a unity “faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.” A person can join by baptism, letter of transfer or Christian experience. Membership is open to all.

2. Members in good standing
a) Members of this Church in good standing are persons who attend the services of worship, including Holy Communion; who are willing to perform active services for the Church when called upon; who promote the welfare of the Church at all times; who attend the stated business meetings; who give liberal financial support toward maintenance of the building (facility) and for benevolent purposes.

b) It is the recommendation of this Church that each member become a thither. (10%) Financial support shall preferably be made on a weekly or monthly basis.

c) Members in good standing shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership. They shall be eligible to hold office in the governing bodies of the Church and to be representatives in denominational judicatories and shall be the qualified voting members of this Church.

d) The minimum voting age shall be 18, in accordance with State Law.

3. Inactive members: An inactive member shall be any member who without just cause such as illness or incapacity—has failed to reasonably fulfill the obligations of a member in good standing. The change in classification of a member from that of a member in good standing to that of an inactive member may be done only by a two-thirds vote of the Diaconate Ministry. No such change shall be made at the meeting of the Diaconate Ministry at which the recommendation for such action is first made, nor without due notice and opportunity to be heard by the member. Inactive members shall have none of the rights or privileges of members in good standing. Either the Diaconate Ministry or the Church, by majority vote in either case, may restore an inactive member to the status of a member in good standing

4. Termination of membership

(a) Any member may, on his or her own request, be granted a letter of transfer. If wishing to join a church body not in fellowship with a UCC Church, he or she may request a letter of termination. Membership in this Church shall terminate upon the issuance of either letter.

(b) If, because of change of faith or for other reasons not involving unchristian conduct, a member requests in writing a letter of termination, the Diaconate Ministry shall patiently endeavor to secure such members continuance in its fellowship: but failing in such effort, the Diaconate Ministry may grant the request and terminate his or her membership.

(c) Any member whose address has long been unknown or who for a period of two years, in spite of kindly approaches, has not communicated with the Church Pastor or the Diaconate Ministry, can by vote of the Church body, be removed from the roll, and from the date of such removal shall cease to be a member of the Church.

(d) Should a member knowingly and persistently breach his or her covenantal vows, on recommendation of the Diaconate Ministry, the Church body may censure such member, suspend him or her or terminate his or her membership. Any such action may be taken only after due notice and opportunity to be heard, and after faithful

efforts have been made to bring such member to amendment in accordance with the law of Christ (Matt. 18: 15-17).

(e) Any person whose membership has been terminated may be restored to membership by reaffirmation of faith.

ARTICLE VI GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of this Church shall be the membership assembled in a regular or duly called Church meeting.

ARTICLE VII CHURCH MEETINGS

1. Church year: The official year of the Church shall be from January 1 to December 31.

2. Regular Meetings: The Church shall have one regular meeting a year. The Annual meeting shall be held on the fourth Sunday in the month of January; to hear the yearly reports of the officers and ministries; to elect officers, to adopt the annual budget, plan for the new year and transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. The Pastor shall ensure meetings are in the Bulletin four weeks in advance.

3. Special Call Meetings: A special meeting shall be called by the Pastor or President of the congregation, upon the written request of no less than ten qualified voting members. The Pastor or President shall charge the church clerk to read the announcement of the special meeting for two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. No business may be transacted at any special meeting other than that specified in the notice.

4. Quorum: At any meeting, including special meetings, of the Church, quorum shall consist of 20 qualified voting members, i.e. members in good standing. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the qualified voting members present shall have power to adjourn the meeting and reschedule such meeting upon notice publicly read at the regular worship service on the following Sunday. At any rescheduled meeting at which a quorum is present, any business shall be transacted as originally called. The President shall count the number of members present and he/she in his/her judgment shall declare a quorum present. If the decision is challenged, a count of the members present shall be made to determine if 20 members are present.

ARTICLE VIII CHURCH COUNCIL

1. General: The Church Council shall be the executive and policy-making body of this Church, i.e., it shall act for the Congregation for the annual meeting of the Church.

It shall be composed of the Pastor, Officers of the Church (President, vice President, Church Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary), Chairpersons of all Ministries (Trustees, Diaconate, Christian Education).

2. Members-At-Large There shall be two Members-At-Large of the church council, each elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. After serving for three consecutive years, a Member-At-Large, shall be ineligible for one year.

3. Meetings: The Church Council shall meet once a year. A regularly scheduled meeting will be convened of the Church Council at least a week before the Annual meeting. Such notice shall be given by or at the direction of the President. A majority of the whole number of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The President of the Congregation shall preside at meeting of the Council by virtue of office.

Each officer or will have one vote at the Council Meeting. Attendance is open to all Church members.

4. Ad-hoc Committees: The Church Council may appoint such regular and/or special committees as it may deem necessary or appropriate.

5. Audit Committees: The Church Council shall appoint an Audit Committee, which Committee shall consist of three persons, none of whom may be members of the Trustee Ministry. This committee shall secure an auditor, not otherwise related to the Church, to examine and audit the account and financial records of the church at least once in a two-year time frame. The Audit Committee shall submit the auditors written report to the Annual Meeting. The Audit committee shall make or cause to be made such other examinations and reports as may be directed by the Church.

6. Vacancies: If any vacancy occurs in any office requiring election by the Church, unless otherwise provided by law or by this Constitution or By-Laws, such vacancy may be filled by the Church Council until the next annual meeting of the Church, at which meeting the vacancy shall be filled by election.

ARTICLE IX TRUSTEE MINISTRY

1. Members: The Trustee Ministry shall consist of not more than nine (9) members, elected at the Annual Meeting for terms of two years in such manner that the term of three members shall expire annually. After serving two full two-year terms, a Trustee shall be for one-year ineligible for re-election to the Trustee Ministry. A Trustee may remain in office for an additional term at the discretion of the congregation. Members of the Trustee Ministry shall be members in good standing of the Church. Trustees are encouraged to demonstrate Leadership by Tithing their Time, Talent and Treasurers.

2. Meetings: The Trustee Ministry shall hold at least 8 meetings each year at such time as it shall determine. Meetings of the Trustee Ministry shall be called by giving at least 24 hours notice of such meeting personally or four days notice by mail to all Trustees. By the unanimous consent of the Trustee Ministry, a meeting may be held without previous notice. A majority of the whole number of the Trustee Ministry shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, at any meeting lawfully convened. The Trustee Ministry shall elect its own officers and determine its own mode of procedure, subject to the laws of New York State and Church Constitution.

Any member of the Trustee Ministry that misses three (3) consecutive meetings without prior notice will be subject to dismissal.

3. Responsibilities: Subject to and in accordance with the direction of the Church, the Trustee Ministry shall have custody of all the temporalities and property, real and personal belonging to the Church and of the revenues there from.

The Trustee Ministry shall have charge of the financial affairs of the Church and shall administer the same in accordance with the discipline, rules and usage of the Church and provisions of law relating thereto for the support and maintenance of the Church.

The Trustee Ministry shall have no power to call, settle, or remove a minister or to fix a minister's salary.

The Trustee Ministry shall have no power without the consent of the Congregation to incur debts beyond what is necessary for the administration of the temporal affairs of the Church and for the care of its property.

The Trustee Ministry shall not fix or change the time, nature or order of the worship service of the Church.

The Trustee Ministry shall make a report at the Annual and Bi-Annual Meetings of the Church. Financial reports shall be given by the chair/co-chair, financial secretary and the treasurer.

4. Ad-hoc Committees and Officers: The Trustee Ministry may appoint committees to operate in such areas as it may deem necessary or desirable.

The Trustee Ministry may also elect such officers as it shall deem necessary. Such officers shall be responsible to the Ministry, and under its direction and in accordance with the duties and responsibilities delegated to them by the Ministry, may be responsible for the receipt, deposit, disbursement and accounting for the monies of the Church.

5. Vacancies: Any vacancy in the Trustee Ministry may be filled by the Church Council until the next regularly scheduled Meeting of the Church, at which meeting the vacancy shall be filled.

ARTICLE X DIACONATE MINISTRY

1. Members: The Diaconate Ministry shall consist of not more than twelve (12) Ordained members. Members of the Diaconate Ministry shall be members in good standing of the Church. Deacons must demonstrate Leadership by demonstration of Christian ethics, Spiritual Prowess, Servant Leadership, and following the vision, mission and purposes of the church.

2. Meetings: The Deacons shall hold at least 8 meetings each year at such time as it shall determine. Notice of meetings of Deacons shall be called by giving at least 24 hours notice of such meeting personally or four days notice by mail to all members of the Board. Such notice may be given or caused to be given by the Pastor or Chairperson, upon the request of a majority of the sitting members. A majority of the whole number of the Deacons shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, at any meeting lawfully convened. The Diaconate Ministry shall elect its own officers and determine its own mode of procedure.

3. Responsibilities: It shall be the duties of the Deacons to cooperate with the Pastor in ministering to the spiritual interests of the congregation and the community. Together they shall perform the historic function of Deacons. The Diaconate Ministry shall assist in the preparation and administration of the sacraments and ordinances, in the caring for the poor, the sick, the sorrowing, the indifferent and the stranger.

It shall provide for the supply of the pulpit in case of a vacancy.

The Diaconate Ministry shall periodically check membership rolls to update members of this Church. The Diaconate Ministry will make an effort to contact any and all members who may wish to leave this Church before any member's name is taken off the Church membership list.

4. Ad-hoc Committees and Officers: The Diaconate Ministry may appoint ad-hoc committees to operate in such areas as it may deem necessary or desirable.

The Diaconate Ministry may also elect such officers as it shall deem necessary. Such officers shall be responsible to the Diaconate Ministry and under its direction to carry out such duties and responsibilities as may be delegated to them by the Diaconate Ministry.

5. Vacancies: The Pastor will initiate a training (18 months), to prepare potential Deacons for servanthood.

ARTICLE XI CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

1. Members: The Christian Education Ministry shall consist seven (7) members, elected at the Annual Meeting for terms of two years in such manner that the term of two to four members shall expire annually. After serving two full two-year terms, a member shall be for one-year ineligible for re-election to the Ministry, however; a member may remain in office for an additional term at the discretion of the congregation. The Pastor shall be a voting member of the Christian Education Ministry; the President shall be an ex-officio member of the Ministry. Members of the Christian Education Ministry shall be members in good standing of the Church. Members are encouraged to demonstrate Leadership

2. Meetings: The Christian Education Ministry shall hold at least 8 meetings each year at such time as it shall determine. Meetings of the Christian Education Ministry shall be called by giving at least 24 hours notice of such meeting personally or four days notice by mail to all members. By the unanimous consent of the Christian Education Ministry, a meeting may be held without previous notice. Special meetings of the Christian Education Ministry are subject to be called by the Pastor, Chairperson, or two Christian Education Ministry members. A majority of the whole number of the members of the Ministry shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, at any meeting lawfully convened. The Christian Education Ministry shall elect its own officers and determine its own mode of procedure.

3. Responsibilities: The Christian Education Ministry shall promote and supervise the religious education in the Church, with specific emphasis on the youth of the Church. The Ministry shall direct the affairs of the Church School System, determine the curriculum, appoint and select teachers.

The Christian Education Ministry shall make known to the Trustees supplies and equipment needed by the Church School and other educational classes shall determine annually the needs of the coming year and present this estimate in a budget to the Trustee Ministry. The Christian Education Ministry shall keep a record of monies received and distributed.

The Christian Education Ministry shall make a report of its activities to the Church and give verbal annual reports to the congregation.

4. Ad-hoc Committees and Officers: The Christian Education Ministry may appoint committees to operate in such areas as it may deem necessary or desirable.

The Christian Education Ministry may also elect such officers as it shall deem necessary. Such officers shall be responsible to the Ministry, and under its direction to carry out such duties and responsibilities as may be delegated to them by the Ministry.

5. Vacancies: Any vacancy in the Christian Education Ministry may be filled by the Pastor until the next regularly scheduled Meeting of the Church, at which meeting the vacancy shall be filled.

ARTICLE XII COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

1. Members: There shall be two Council Members-at Large, each elected at the annual meeting for a term of one-year. After serving for three consecutive years, a Member-at-Large shall be ineligible for one year to serve in this position.

2. Meetings: Members -at large shall meet at least once before the Annual Meeting. Both members-at large shall be present at Council meetings. Each member present shall have a voice on the Council.

3. Responsibilities: Members-at-Large shall serve as liaison between the congregation, ministry and the council. Members-at-Large shall make themselves available to hear congregational concerns. If so required by the Council, Members-at-Large shall survey or canvass the congregation for its views on a particular matter and report jointly their findings at a regular or special meeting.

4. Vacancies: Any vacancy among the members-at Large may be filled by the Council until the next regularly scheduled Annual Meeting.

XIII THE PASTOR

The Pastor shall be in charge of the spiritual welfare and Christian education of the Church with the assistance of the Diaconate Ministry. The Pastor shall teach the message of God as he or she receives it, shall preach and teach the messages of the Bible, particularly the teachings of Jesus. She/he shall preach the story of salvation to make disciples of Christ.

She/he shall preach the gospel, administer the sacraments, have under her or his care all the services of public worship, and be involved with the activities of the Church.

The Pastor is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Church. She/he shall be an ex-officio advisory member of all ministries and shall be a voting member of the Diaconate Ministry and Christian Education Ministry.

XIV ASSOCIATE OR ASSISTANT PASTOR(S)

The church may at its discretion, choose an Associate or Assistant Pastor. The duties and responsibilities of the Associate or Assistant pastor shall be determined by the senior pastor and the Church Council.

XV PROCEDURES FOR FILLING A PASTORAL VACANCY

1. As soon as a pastoral vacancy occurs, it shall be reported to the Conference Executive.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Pulpit Committee, appointed by the Church Council, to seek a candidate for a vacancy in the office of the Pastor
3. In filling a vacancy or in securing supply ministers for the period of vacancy, the Pulpit Committee may seek the council of the Conference Placement Committee.
4. The Pulpit Committee may request the Conference Executive to secure relevant information about any minister whom it wishes to consider for the vacancy.
5. Any minister may confer with the Conference Executive concerning a pastoral vacancy. At the minister's request, his or her name shall be submitted by the Conference Executive for consideration by the Pulpit Committee.
6. The Pulpit Committee shall present to the Church the name of the candidate it recommends to fill the vacancy. A favorable vote of the Church constitutes a Call.
7. In a Call, the terms of the relationship shall be stated, including the agreement of the Church to participate in the Pension Fund of the United Church of Christ, the Minister's Health Insurance Program, and other terms agreed between the candidate and the Committee. The minister, the Church, the association, and the Conference Executive shall each receive a copy of the Call.
8. The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite period. In order to terminate this relationship, six (6) months' notice shall be given by either party. The procedure shall be in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.

9. When a minister accepts a call to this Church, the Church and he or she shall join in the requesting the Association to arrange for a service of installation or recognition. A report of this service shall be signed by the proper officer of the Association and by the Conference Executive and copies shall be sent to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE XVI OTHER OFFICERS

1. President: There shall be a President of the Congregation who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a one-year term. After serving for three consecutive terms, he or she shall be for one-year ineligible to serve in such position. By virtue of this office the President shall be head of the Church Council and shall chair its meetings. He or she shall be ex-officio of all ministries and ad-hoc committees with voice and vote but is not required to attend the regular meetings of the various ministry of the congregation. He or she shall moderate all meetings of the congregation.

2. Vice President: The Vice President shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a one-year term. After serving for three consecutive terms, he or she shall be for one-year ineligible to serve in such position .He or she shall act in the absence of or at the behest of the President.

3. Clerk: The Clerk shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a one-year term and shall be eligible for re-election. The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the Church and of the Church Council. He or she shall keep a register with addresses of the members of the Church with dates and modes of their reception and removal; also, a record of baptism, dedications, confirmations, marriages and deaths. He or she shall issue letters of transfer, upon action of the Deacons; preserve on file all communications and written official reports; notify all person elected to offices and committees; conduct all correspondence so far as this is not otherwise provided for; and perform such other duties as are prescribed by law or as usually pertain to the office of a clerk or secretary of an assembly.

4. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a one-year term and shall be eligible for re-election. The Treasurer shall pay all authorized bills of the Church and shall expend Church funds at the direction of or in accordance with the authority delegated by the Board of Trustees. He or she shall keep current and accurate records of all income and expenditures of the Church. The Treasurer shall submit regular financial reports, including the status of the assets and obligations of the Church, to the Trustee Ministry, the Church Council, and the Church. He or she shall be an ex-officio

member of the Trustee Ministry, with voice but without vote. The treasurer shall give such bond as the Trustee Ministry may prescribe.

5. Financial Secretary: The Financial Secretary shall work in conjunction with the Church Treasurer and Church Secretary. He or she shall keep records of individual member's contributions and pledges and all Church income, listing income on a weekly basis, issue quarterly statements to Church members and contributors, give a report at Trustee meetings and Church meetings and receive bank statements and reconcile the accounts. He or she shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, with voice but without vote.

6. Delegates: At the Annual Meeting the Church shall elect for one-year term two principal Delegates to represent the Church at the New York Conference and Western Association Meetings. The delegates shall report to the Church when appropriate. The Church shall appoint additional Delegates to which the Church may be entitled and may appoint alternate Delegates.

7. Church Historian: The Church Historian shall be appointed at the Annual meeting by the President of the congregation. He or she may serve for one year and can be reappointed. Church Historian will be responsible for collecting and putting in order all materials pertaining to the history of this Church, current or past. Historian will be able to display materials, i.e., photos, news clippings, etc. at his or her own discretion in collaboration with the Pastor.

ARTICLE XVII NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members elected at the Annual Meeting, to serve a term of one year. The duties of the Nominating Committee; in collaboration with the Pastor shall be to prepare a slate of officers for the elective posts and present them to the Annual Meeting to be voted upon by the Church, having first gained the consent of the nominees being proposed for office. Public notice of such nominations shall be given from the pulpit or by bulletin or letter at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting. Other nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting at which the election is held.

The Nomination Committee shall consult with the Pastor and Ministry Chairperson for guidance in preparation of a slate of officers.

ARTICLE XVI CHURCH PROPERTY

1. The Church may in its corporate name sue or be sued. It can acquire by purchase, gift, 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. It 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 purposes 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.

2. Upon the dissolution of the Church, its assets and all property and interest including any devise, bequest, gift, or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be dissolved according to New York State Law.

ARTICLE XVII AMENDMENTS

1. This Constitution and BY-Laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of qualified voting members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided that a notice specifying the time and place of the meeting and the substance of the proposed amendment shall be announced from the pulpit and in the calendar and posted on the two Sundays immediately preceding said meeting.

Articles II through IV, inclusive, here of; may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of qualified voting members present at an Annual Meeting, the proposed amendment having been laid before the Church in writing not less than one month previously having been announced to the congregation on three consecutive Sundays preceding such Annual Meeting, and copies having been made available to the members of the Church.

2. This Constitution and By-Laws is intended to conform to the applicable law of the State of New York and, in any divergence, such law shall prevail.

3. Every three years the Church Council shall appoint a special committee to consider revisions, amendments and updating of this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE XVIII BY-LAWS AND PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS

1. By-Laws: Except for election as a Delegate or member of the Nominating Committee, no member may serve in two elected positions at one time.

2. Procedures at the Meeting:

(a) The President shall call the meeting to order. Under his or her supervision the qualified voting members then present, shall elect two inspectors of election to receive the ballots cast. The inspectors of election shall declare the results of the ballots cast on any matter and shall be the judges of the qualifications of voters.

(b) All matters or questions shall be decided by a majority of the qualified voting members present and voting except as otherwise specifically provided by law or by this Constitution and By-Laws. Voting may be by voice vote or by show of hands, except that the President of the meeting may require a vote by ballot on any matter.

(c) Except as otherwise by law or by this Constitution and By-Laws provided, Robert's Rule of Order, as most recently revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure

REVISED 2018
CONSTITUTION AND
BY-LAWS REVISION COMMITTEE

Roger Moss
Constance Moss
Gwendolyn Humphrey
Robert Tigg
Carmen Evans
Veronica East
Pastor Jacqueline Ross Brown