

**CONSTITUTION**  
**of the**  
**WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**

**PREAMBLE**

As members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and proclaim Him Lord and Savior of the World. In His name and by His grace we accept our mission of witness and service to mankind. We rejoice in God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love by which He has bound us to Himself. Through baptism into Christ, we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God. In the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined to one another in brotherhood and in obedience to Christ. At the table of the Lord, we celebrate with thanksgiving His saving acts and His presence. Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture. In the bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God, that we may serve Him whose kingdom has no end. Blessing, glory and honor be to Him forever. AMEN. (Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**ARTICLE I. NAME AND AUTHORITY.**

1. The name of this congregation shall be The Webster Groves Christian Church.
2. This congregation is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and regionally as the Christian Church in Mid-America, Inc.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSES.**

The Webster Groves Christian Church is a worshipping, learning and serving congregation of persons who confess Christ as Lord. The purposes of the congregation are to:

1. Call and nourish persons in their discipleship to Jesus Christ and His cause, both within the fellowship of the church and to their life in the world.
2. Provide worship experiences which are aesthetically appealing, intellectually stimulating, morally demanding and spiritually uplifting and which encourage emotional health and social responsibility.
3. Educate persons of all ages in the Judeo-Christian tradition, especially as found in the Scriptures.
4. Uphold a basic principle of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that there is liberty of thought and openness to a variety of opinions both in regard to theology and issues of public and social concern.
5. Nurture spiritual growth in order to help persons reach their full potential as caring, loving and serving people.
6. Encourage persons in acts of service toward those in need in our community and around the world and to channel such activity, whenever possible, through denominational and ecumenical relationships.
7. Sponsor and support auxiliary organizations of women, men and youth in their programs of education, fellowship and service.
8. Utilize our facilities, not only for our own worship and educational needs, but also as a center of community activities which are service oriented.
9. Maintain facilities, organizational structures, staff and financial resources to sustain the work and witness of this organization.

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.**

1. The membership of this congregation shall consist of those who are now identified as Membership and those who shall unite with it by confession of faith and baptism, or by transfer of membership. Voting privilege shall be the right of all who are members.

2. For the purpose of reporting, program planning, organization and carrying out the functions for which this congregation exists, two categories of membership shall be recognized, viz., participating and non-participating.
  - a. A participating member is one who exercises a continuing interest in one or more of the following ways: attendance, giving, or other manifestations of concern for the fellowship of the congregation regardless of place of residence.
  - b. A non-participating member is one who exercises no interest in the fellowship of the congregation regardless of place of residence.
  - c. The names of members who have been in the non-participating category for more than three years, shall be placed in a holding file and shall not be included in any reports of lists of membership.

#### **ARTICLE IV. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS OFFICERS.**

1. Duties of the Board of Directors: (Hereinafter referred to as the "Board".)
  - a. The Board shall implement the purposes of the congregation.
  - b. The Board shall transact the general business for and in the name of the congregation.
  - c. The Board shall carry on the program of the congregation through its organization.
  - d. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Board is authorized to establish and implement its own organization and operating procedures.
2. Membership of the Board.
  - a. The Board shall consist of fourteen (14) members elected by the congregation, a representative of the elders, and a representative of the Diaconate, leaders of Team Ministries, and all full-time ministers and associate ministers. All shall be voting members.
  - b. Seven (7) at-large members shall be elected annually by the congregation for two (2) year terms, continuing until their respective successors are duly elected and installed.
  - c. Members-at-large including those filling un-expired terms greater than one (1) year, shall not be eligible for re-election to the Board until the annual election which follows expiration of their term of office.
  - d. Vacancies arising in the elected membership of the Board shall be filled by the Board, provided, however, a vacancy shall not be necessarily be filled if there is less than one (1) full year remaining in the un-expired vacant term. In the event that a representative to the Board or a Team Minister is also an elected member of the Board, the elected position shall be deemed vacant.
  - e. A member of the Board who is serving as President of the Board at the expiration of his term of membership, may, if re-elected to the presidency, continue on the Board as long as he is President, and in such case he shall be a voting member of the Board. No person shall serve as an officer or leader of a Team Ministry for more than two (2) consecutive years and in various capacities on the Board for more than four (4) consecutive years.
  - f. The president of the Board shall, within two (2) months after the beginning of each congregational year, appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of five (5) members, at least three (3) of whom are not members of the Board. This committee shall submit to the Board for approval, at its meeting two (2) months prior to the end of the church year nominations for Elders and members of the Diaconate and the at-large members caused expiration of terms. Those nominees approved by the Board shall be submitted to the congregation for election during the month preceding the final month of the church year.

Nominations may be made from the floor for Elders and members of the Diaconate and for Board members, provided a signed statement from each nominee is presented authorizing the name to be placed in nomination. An installation service for the newly-elected Elders and members of the Diaconate and Board members shall be held during the final month of the church year. The Nominating Committee shall also, from time to time as required, submit nominations to the Board to fill vacancies arising in un-expired terms.

3. Duties of Members of the Board.
  - a. Participate in the stewardship program by signed pledge card.
  - b. Support the programs of the congregation and attend the worship services regularly.
  - c. Any member of the Board who misses two (2) meetings (regular and/or called) within one (1) church year without an absence excused by the president, or who consistently fails to uphold the pre-requisites of the office, shall be considered to have resigned from the Board.
  
4. Meetings of the Board.
  - a. The Board shall hold a regular meeting once each month at a time, day, and place selected by the Board unless deemed otherwise by the Board or due to extenuating circumstances. A minimum number of meetings annually shall be quarterly.
  - b. Special meetings of the Board shall be held upon call by the President, or in the absence of the President, by the Vice-President, or upon the written request of five (5) members of the Board, at the time, day and place designated in the call.
  - c. A majority of the elected members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.
  
5. Officers of the Board.
  - a. The congregation shall elect as its officers, for a term of one (1) year, a President, a Vice-president and a Secretary also serving as Board officers. It may also elect a President-elect, a Vice-president-elect, or a secretary elect when nominated by the Board under the terms of Section 1.1.2, "Additional Board Officers," *Operating Procedures For the Webster Groves Christian Church*.
  - b. The President, not later than the end of the ninth month of the church year shall appoint a committee of three (3) members for the purpose of nominating officers of the congregation for the coming year. The committee shall report its nominees from membership of the new Board to the existing Board, and the Board shall, after approval, forward the slate to the congregation for election in the eleventh month.
  - c. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:
    - (i) The President shall preside over all regular and special meetings of the Board and the congregation and shall perform all the other usual duties of such office. The President shall be ex-officio member of ministries and committees of the Board, and further, shall be an ex-officio but non-voting member of the Board for one (1) year following expiration of his term of office.
    - (ii) The Vice-President shall perform such duties as may be assigned and, in the absence of the President, shall fulfill the duties of the President.
    - (iii) The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Board and congregation, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.
  
6. Team Ministry Leaders.
  - a. Nomination shall be made by the newly elected Board President in consultation with the ministers and presented to the outgoing Board for approval and presentation to the congregation for election in the last month of the church year.
  - b. Terms are for one (1) year, eligible for re-election for a second term. In the event of a vacancy during the year, nomination will be made by the President and approved by the Board.

## ARTICLE V. ELDERS AND DIACONATE.

1. Elders: A board of Elders shall be elected to serve as the spiritual leaders of the congregation.
  - a. Nomination shall be made by the Nominating Committee, to be representative of the whole congregation, and presented to the Board; if approved, submitted to the congregation for vote.
  - b. Terms are for two (2) years with half (1/2) elected each year; not eligible for re-election until the annual election which follows expiration of their term of office, including those filling un-expired terms greater than a partial year.

- c. The number of elders shall be evaluated each year and recommended to the Nominating Committee as defined in Operating Procedure 1.3.1 of the *Operating Procedures For the Webster Groves Christian Church* last modified (January 17, 2006).
  - d. In the event that a member of the Elders consistently fails to serve for a period of three (3) months, unless excused by the Chair of the Elders, or consistently fails to uphold prerequisites of the office, that position will be deemed vacant and available to be filled as an un-expired term.
2. Diaconate: A board of the Diaconate shall be elected to serve the congregation.
- a. Nomination shall be made by the Nominating Committee, to be representative of the whole congregation, and presented to the Board for approval. If the slate is approved, the nominating committee will submit nominated candidates to the congregation for vote.
  - b. Terms are for two (2) years with half (1/2) elected each year. Deacons shall not eligible for re-election until the annual election that follows expiration of their term of office, including those filling un-expired terms great than a partial year.
  - c. The number of Diaconate shall be evaluated each year and recommended to the Nominating Committee as defined in Operating Procedure 1.2.3 of the *Operating Procedures For the Webster Groves Christian Church* last modified (January 17, 2006).
  - d. In the event that a member of the Diaconate consistently fails to serve for a period of three (3) months, unless excused by the Chair of the Diaconate, or consistently fails to uphold the prerequisites of the office, that position will be deemed vacant and available to be filled as an un-expired term.
3. Duties of Elders.
- a. Serve at the Lord's table as scheduled.
  - b. Participate in the stewardship program by a signed pledge card.
  - c. Encourage by example and word the outreach, evangelistic, educational and stewardship responsibilities of the congregation.
  - d. Support the programs of the congregation and attend the worship services regularly.
  - e. Minister to families in times of sickness and bereavement.
  - f. In cooperation with the ministers, take communion to shut-ins.
  - g. Be available to the congregation and ministers for consultation concerning pastoral relationships and the spiritual welfare of the congregation.
  - h. Elect a Chairperson of Elders at the first month in the church year to serve for a term of one (1) year and to supervise and coordinate the services of the Elders.\
  - i. Elect a representative of the Elders at the first meeting to serve on the Board for a term of one (1) year.
4. Duties of the Diaconate.
- a. Be responsible for the preparation and service of communion as scheduled.
  - b. Participate in the stewardship program by a signed pledge card.
  - c. Encourage by example and word the outreach, evangelistic, educational and stewardship responsibilities of the congregation.
  - d. Support the programs of the congregation and attend the worship services regularly.
  - e. Assist with the ushering, receiving of offerings and baptismal services.
  - f. Cooperate in ministering to the needy.
  - g. Elect a Chairperson of the Diaconate at the first month in the church year to serve for a term of one (1) year and to supervise and coordinate the services of the Diaconate. The Chairperson shall be the Diaconate representative to the Board.
  - h. Elect an assistant chairperson of the Diaconate at the first meeting (in the first month) of the church year to serve for a term of one (1) year and to assist the Chairperson in administrative and purchasing duties. The Assistant Chairperson shall be the Diaconate representative to the Council of Ministries..

5. Elder Emeritus.
  - a. Election to the office of Elder Emeritus shall constitute the highest honor our congregation can bestow upon one of its members. Only those who have given long and meritorious service to Webster Groves Christian Church shall be eligible for such office.
  - b. The Elders shall bring recommendations to the Board for those to be honored as Elder Emeritus. Upon approval of the Board, those so chosen shall then be submitted to the congregation for election.
  - c. An Elder Emeritus shall have all rights and privileges of an elected Elder for and during his/her lifetime, but shall have no duties other than those he/she wishes to undertake.
  
6. Deacon Emeritus
  - a. Deacons who have given long and meritorious service to Webster Groves Christian Church shall be eligible for the office of Deacon Emeritus.
  - b. The Deacons shall bring recommendations to the Board for those to be honored as Deacon Emeritus. Upon approval of the Board, those so chosen shall then be submitted to the congregation for election.
  - c. A Deacon Emeritus shall have all rights and privileges of an elected Deacon for and during his/her lifetime, but shall have no duties other than those he/she wishes to undertake.
  
7. Minister-Elder.
  - a. An ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), upon becoming a member of the congregation shall be granted the title "Minister-Elder".
  - b. This position is honorary. A Minister-Elder may serve at the communion table or on any division or committee, but shall not be scheduled or required to do so.
  - c. A Minister-Elder may be nominated for membership on the Board or as an Elder, and in such case all provisions of the constitution regarding nomination, election, term of service and duties shall apply.

**ARTICLE VI. THE MINISTER AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER.**

1. Duties.

The Ministers of the congregation shall perform the duties which pertain to that office and shall be spiritual administrators of the congregation. They shall be voting members of the Board during their tenure of office and shall be ex-officio members of all groups, committees and divisions of the Board and congregation.

2. Selection of Minister and Associate Ministers.

The Minister and Associate Ministers shall be called by the congregation as follows:

- a. A committee of five (5) members, nominated by the President of the Board and approved by the Board, shall be responsible for recommending a prospective Minister or Associate Minister to the Board.
- b. The Board shall consider the recommendation of the committee and, if approved, Recommend the prospective minister or associate minister to the congregation. It shall be the policy of the congregation to consider only one prospective minister at a time.
- c. The recommendation of the Board must be accepted by at least two thirds (2/3) majority of the congregation present and voting in a regular or special business meeting of the congregation before a call can be extended.

- d. The term of a ministry shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days notice. The minutes of the Board shall set forth the salary to be paid and other terms and conditions of the call.

#### **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION**

1. An annual meeting of the congregation shall be held in the tenth month of each church year, at a time, day and place selected by the President or the Board, for the purpose of the annual election of members of the Board, Elders and Diaconate.
2. Special meetings of the congregation shall be called by the President of the Board, or the Board, or upon written petition of ten per cent (10%) of the participating membership of the congregation.
3. Written notice of all regular or special meetings of the congregation shall be given by publication in a congregational news letter or the Sunday bulletin, or both, at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting.
4. A quorum of the congregation for the conduct of business shall consist of ten per cent (10%) of the participating members.
5. All business meetings of the congregation shall be governed by Roberts "Rules of Order". For those times when the vote is limited to yes, no, or return to committee, or write-in candidate, at the discretion of the Board, the vote can be taken at the individual Sunday services on the specified date.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. CONGREGATIONAL YEAR.**

The fiscal and congregational year shall commence each July 1 and end the following June 30.

#### **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS.**

This constitution may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting on the amendment, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the membership in the manner set forth in Article VII, Section 3, at least two (2) weeks in advance of the date of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

#### **ARTICLE X. INITIAL ELECTIONS.**

1. To minimize change for the initial election of the Board, Elders, and Diaconate defined herein, those present Elders and Deacons whose terms expire in 1998 and 1999 shall be asked:
  - a. if they will remain as Elders and Diaconate for the same respective terms. The Nominating Committee will then define remaining vacancies in accordance with the new organization and recommend persons for those vacancies.
  - b. if they would like to be considered for Board membership. The Nominating Committee will then define a slate for recommendation to the existing Board for congregational vote.
2. This article shall become null and void at the end of the first year after approval for the trial period.

**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**  
*Effective July 1, 2009*

**PREAMBLE**

As members of Webster Groves Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and proclaim Him Lord and Savior of the World. In Christ's name and by His grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people. We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in God's covenant of love that binds us to God and to one another. Through baptism into Christ, we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God. In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ. At the table of the Lord, we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ. Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture. In the bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God in service that we may serve the one whose kingdom has no end. Blessing, glory and honor be to God forever. AMEN. *Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).*

**ARTICLE 1. NAME AND AUTHORITY**

The name of this congregation shall be Webster Groves Christian Church. This congregation is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Christian Church in Mid-America, Inc.

**ARTICLE 2. PURPOSES**

Webster Groves Christian Church is a worshipping, learning and serving congregation that confesses Christ as Lord. The purposes of the congregation are to:

- A. Call and nourish persons in their discipleship to Jesus Christ and His cause, both within the fellowship of the church and in their life in the world.
- B. Provide worship experiences that are spiritually stimulating and challenging, morally demanding, and aesthetically appealing, and which encourage emotional health and social responsibility.
- C. Educate persons of all ages in the Judeo-Christian tradition as found in the Scriptures.
- D. Uphold a basic principle of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that there is liberty of thought and openness regarding theology and issues of public and social concern.
- E. Nurture spiritual growth in order to help persons reach their full potential as caring, loving and serving people.
- F. Encourage persons in acts of service toward those in need in our community and around the world.
- G. Sponsor and support auxiliary organizations of women, men and youth in their programs of education, fellowship and service.
- H. Utilize our facilities for our own worship and educational needs and as a center of community service activities.
- I. Maintain facilities, organizational structures, staff and financial resources to sustain the work and witness of Jesus Christ and as contained in these purposes.

**ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP**

The members of this congregation consist of those united either by confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership.

- A. Voting privilege shall be the right of all who are members.
- B. For the purpose of reporting, program planning, organization and carrying out the functions for which this congregation exists, two categories of membership shall be recognized: participating and non-participating.

1. A participating member attends, supports, or manifests concern for the congregation.
2. A non-participating member exercises no continuing interest in the congregation.
3. Members who have not participated for more than three years shall be removed from reports and lists of participating members.

#### **ARTICLE 4. ELECTED LAY LEADERS**

To be eligible for election as an at-large Board member, Board officer, Elder or Deacon a candidate must financially support the church, support the purposes of the congregation and regularly attend worship services.

- A. The term of office for all elected lay leaders shall be two years, commencing with the beginning of the Congregational year following election.
- B. Elected lay leaders may serve an unlimited number of terms in a particular position of leadership. No more than two (2) terms may be served consecutively.
- C. Lay leaders filling unexpired terms of more than one year are deemed to have served one full term.

#### **ARTICLE 5. THE CHURCH BOARD, BOARD OFFICERS**

##### **A. Duties of the Church Board** (Hereinafter referred to as the “Board”)

1. The Board shall act in the best interest of the congregation.
2. The Board shall transact the general business for and in the name of the congregation.
3. The Board shall establish and implement its organization, and conduct, manage and control the activities and affairs of the church consistent with the Scriptures.
4. The Board shall establish policies, practices, and operating procedures for the church consistent with the purposes of the church and guide the congregation in achieving its purposes stated in Article 2.
5. The Board shall establish Ministry Teams to guide the congregation in the areas deemed appropriate to fulfill the purposes of the Congregation.
6. Ministry Team Leaders shall be selected by the Senior Minister and the incoming Board Chair from the existing and newly-elected Board Members. Ministry Team Leaders' appointments are for one (1) year, eligible for re-appointment for a second year.
7. The Board shall present a slate of Board members, Board officers, Elders and Deacons to the Congregation at its annual meeting.
8. The Board shall fill all vacant elected lay leader positions with 12 or more months remaining in the term, and may fill vacant lay leader positions with less than 12 months remaining in the term.

##### **B. Church Board Membership**

1. The Church Board shall consist of sixteen (16) at-large members, three (3) Board Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary), one (1) representative from the Elders, one (1) representative from the Diaconate, the Senior Minister and all associate ministers. These are the voting members of the Board.
2. Eight (8) of the 16 at-large members shall be elected annually in alternating years.

##### **C. Board Meetings**

1. The Board shall hold regular meetings at a time, day, and place selected by the Board unless otherwise determined by the Board or due to extenuating circumstances. Under no circumstances shall the Board meet fewer than four (4) times each congregational year.
2. Special meetings of the Board shall be held upon call by the Chair or written request of five Board members.

3. A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. All Board meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order and shall be open to any participating member of the congregation.

#### **D. Duties of the Board Officers**

1. The Chair shall preside over regular and special meetings of the Board and congregation and shall perform all other usual duties of such office.
2. The Vice-Chair shall perform such duties as may be assigned and, in the absence of the Chair, fulfill the duties of the Chair.
3. The Secretary shall record and keep minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Board and congregation, and perform such other duties as may be assigned.

### **ARTICLE 6. ELDERS**

A board of Elders shall be elected to serve as the spiritual leaders of the congregation.

#### **A. Board of Elders**

1. The number of Elders shall be evaluated annually by the Chair of the Elders, the Board Chair and the Ministers based on the number of participating members and the needs of the congregation.
2. One-half of the members of the Board of Elders shall be elected annually in alternating years.

#### **B. Duties of Elders**

The Elders shall:

1. Meet regularly to guide the spiritual growth and care of the congregation and carry out its duties.
2. Serve at the Lord's Table.
3. Encourage by example and word the outreach, evangelistic, educational and stewardship responsibilities of the congregation.
4. Minister to families in times of sickness and bereavement.
5. In cooperation with the ministers, take communion to shut-ins.
6. Be available to the congregation and ministers for consultation concerning pastoral relationships and the spiritual welfare of the congregation.
7. Elect a Chair of Elders to serve for a term of one (1) year and to supervise and coordinate the services of the Elders.
8. Elect a representative at the first meeting of each congregational year to serve on the Board for a term of one (1) year.

#### **C. Elder Emeritus**

Election to the office of Elder Emeritus shall constitute the highest honor our congregation can bestow upon one of its members. Only those who have given long and meritorious service to Webster Groves Christian Church shall be eligible for such office honor.

1. The Board of Elders shall bring recommendations to the Board for those to be honored as Elder Emeritus. Upon approval of the Board, those so chosen shall be submitted to the congregation for election.
2. An Elder Emeritus is exempt from the duties of Elders.

#### **D. Minister Elder**

An ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), upon becoming a member of

the congregation, may serve as a Minister Elder. A Minister Elder is exempt from the duties of Elders.

## **ARTICLE 7. THE DIACONATE**

A board of Deacons shall be elected to serve the congregation.

### **A. Diaconate**

1. The number of Deacons needed shall be evaluated annually by the Chair of the Deacons, the Board Chair and Ministers based on the number of participating members and the needs of the congregation.
2. One-half of the members of the Board of Diaconate shall be elected annually in alternating years.

### **B. Duties of Deacons**

The Diaconate shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Meet as required to carry out its duties.
2. Preparation and service of communion as scheduled.
3. Encourage by example and word the outreach, evangelistic, educational and stewardship responsibilities of the congregation.
4. Assist with the ushering, receiving of offerings and baptismal services.
5. Cooperate in ministering to the needy.
6. Elect a Chair to serve for a term of one (1) year and to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Deacons.
7. Elect a representative at the first meeting of each congregational year to serve on the Board for a term of one (1) year.

### **C. Deacon Emeritus**

Members of the Diaconate who have given long and meritorious service to Webster Groves Christian Church shall be eligible for the ~~office~~ honorary title of Deacon Emeritus.

1. The Diaconate shall bring recommendations to the Board for those to be honored as Deacon Emeritus. Upon approval of the Board, those so chosen shall then be submitted to the congregation for election.
2. A Deacon Emeritus shall be exempt from the duties of Deacons.

## **ARTICLE 8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- A. The Board Chair shall appoint a seven member Nominating Committee that serves for one year, at least four of whom are not members of the board, which serves for one year.
- B. The committee shall submit to the Board an election slate to fill expiring and vacant positions for at-large Board members, Board officers, Elders and the Diaconate.
- C. All nominees shall be presented to the Congregation for election at the annual Congregational meeting.
- D. Nominations may be made from the floor of the Congregational Meeting for Board officers, Board members, Elders and Deacons, so long as the nominee has agreed to be nominated.
- E. Vacancies arising in the elected membership of the Board shall be filled by the Board. The Nominating Committee shall, at the Board's direction, nominate candidates to fill Board, Elder, and Deacon positions vacated during the Congregational year.

## **ARTICLE 9. MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION**

- A. An annual meeting of the congregation shall be held in May, at a time, day and place selected by

the Chair of the Board for the purpose of the annual election of the membership of the Board, Elders and Diaconate and approval of the operating budget. **This meeting shall take place at a time when the congregation meets as one.**

- B. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Chair of the Board, by vote of the Board, or upon written petition of ten per cent (10%) of the participating membership of the congregation, provided that notice of such meeting states the nature of the business to be transacted.
- C. Written notice of all regular or special meetings of the congregation shall be given by publication in the Sunday bulletin for two successive Sundays immediately preceding the date of the proposed meeting and **by congregational newsletter or congregational-wide e-mail notification** at least two (2) weeks in advance of the proposed meeting.
- D. A quorum of the congregation for the conduct of business shall consist of **twenty-five per cent (25%)** of the participating membership of the congregation.
- E. Business meetings of the congregation shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

#### **ARTICLE 10. CONGREGATIONAL YEAR**

The fiscal and congregational year shall commence each July 1 and end the following June 30.

#### **ARTICLE 11. THE MINISTER AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

##### **A. Duties**

The Ministers of the congregation shall perform the duties pertaining to that office and shall be spiritual leaders of the congregation. All ministers shall be ex-officio members of all groups, committees and divisions of the Board and the congregation.

##### **B. Selection of Minister and Associate Ministers**

1. **To receive a call to the ministerial staff of Webster Groves Christian Church a candidate must be a Disciples of Christ minister "with standing" or a minister from another denomination who qualifies for ministerial authorization from the Mid-American Region of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.**
2. A committee of five (5) members, nominated by the President of the Board and approved by the Board, shall be responsible for recommending a prospective Minister or Associate Minister to the Board.
3. The Board shall consider the recommendation of the committee and, if approved, recommend the prospective minister or associate minister to the congregation. It shall be the policy of the congregation to consider only one prospective minister at a time.
4. The recommendation of the Board must be accepted by at least two thirds (2/3) of the congregation present and voting in a regular or special business meeting of the congregation before a call can be extended.
5. The term of a ministry shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days' notice. The minutes of the Board shall set forth the salary to be paid and other terms and conditions of the call.

#### **ARTICLE 12. AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting on the amendment, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the membership in the manner set forth in Article 9, at least two (2) weeks in advance of the date of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

Constitution to be considered by the WGCC Congregation on May 17, 2009

Summary of proposed changes to  
**CONSTITUTION OF WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**To Be Considered by the Church Board**  
**April 28, 2009**

**Overview**

The objective of the constitutional revision committee was to review the constitution to see if it could be streamlined, simplified, clarified

**Preamble**

- Minor editorial changes, if any

**Article 1 - Name and Authority**

- Minor editorial changes, if any

**Article 2 - Purposes**

- Minor editorial changes
  - 2. (New paragraph B) Moved spirituality ahead of aesthetics
  - 4. (New paragraph D) Revised wording related to “variety of opinions”
  - 6. (New paragraph F) Took out language regarding requirement to channel acts of service efforts of individuals through denominational and ecumenical relationships

**Article 3 - Membership**

- Clarified and simplified wording for membership

**Article 4 - Elected Lay Leaders (NEW)**

- This section consolidates all criteria for election to the Board, Elders, and Diaconate
  - Removed the requirement to fill out a pledge card to be eligible. Revised to read “a candidate must financially support the church, support the purposes of the church and regularly attend worship services.”
  - Removed all words about unexcused absences from Board, Elders, and Diaconate. Each organization can handle it as they choose
  - Clarified terms of office for all positions
    - Terms are two years for all elected lay leaders, including Board officers
    - A person can serve two consecutive terms in any position
    - A board officer is a different position than a general member of the board, therefore, a person could serve two terms as a general board member then two terms as a board officer, then back to two terms as a general board member, Elder, Diaconate, etc. We leave it up to the Nominating Committee and candidate to determine what is too much or too little
  - Lay leaders can easily opt out after a single term if they want, or, there is a way to continue serving if the Nominating Committee taps them for different position

## **Article 5 - Board of Directors and its Officers**

Moves consideration for terms, vacancies, and eligibility to Article 4

Requires the Board to establish appropriate Ministry Teams

Ministry team leaders would come from Board members, not elected separately, selected by the senior minister and incoming Board Chair

The team leaders would be appointed by the Chair from the Board's membership and confirmed by the Board

The Board will define in its Operating Procedures the Ministry teams' duties, adding or discontinuing Ministry teams to meet the needs of the congregation. By putting those in the Operating Procedures, it would no longer be necessary to seek congregational approval for constitution revisions whenever there is a needed change in ministry teams or board organization.

The Board would establish with its operating procedures the responsibilities of what has been the Council of Ministers

Clearly defines voting membership of the Board in 5.B.

Removed language regarding Presidential (now Chair) succession

Removed language regarding dates by which the Board or Chair must act to name a nominating committee. We anticipate the Board can set its own schedule for accomplishing its responsibilities

Clearly stated the Board's responsibility to present a slate of candidates for elected lay positions, and the Chair's responsibility to appoint a nominating committee

The board chair can set an agenda that may call on anyone to offer a report, e.g. CWF, Youth, and in fact, may ask certain organizations to have a representative attend board meetings for continuity

## **Article 6 – Elders**

Established separate Articles for Elders and Deacons

Specified the number of Elders without referencing the Operating procedures

Moved considerations for terms, vacancies, and eligibility to Article 4

Minor editorial changes

## **Article 7 – The Diaconate**

Specified the number of Deacons without referencing the Operating procedures

Moved considerations for terms, vacancies, and eligibility to Article 4

Requires Diaconate to elect a representative to serve on the Church Board (had required Diaconate Chair to serve on the Church Board)

Minor editorial changes

**Article 8 – Nominating Committee (NEW)**

Consolidates election rules from several Articles into a single Article, without changes in intent

Provides for a single nominating committee instead of two as required now. Nominating committee will be seven members of the church, at least four of whom are not board members.

**Article 9 – Meetings of the Congregation**

Establishes an annual congregational meeting each May.

Requires that the congregation meets as one, rather than separate meetings after various worship services

Wording changes to allow for e-mail notification of congregational meetings

Revises quorum to be 25% of participating membership instead of current 10%

**Article 10 – Congregational Year**

No changes

**Article 11 – The Minister and Associate Minister**

Paragraph B.1 was revised to conform to that of the Mid-America region requiring that a candidate be a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister “with standing” or a minister from another denomination who qualifies for ministerial authorization from the Mid-America Region.

Minor editorial changes

**Article 12 - Amendments**

Minor editorial changes

**Article X Initial Elections**, in the present constitution was deleted.

**The Committee:** Arlene Sullivan, Bob Rose, Robbye Toft, Paul Jones