

The Constitution of
St. Peter United Church of Christ
Lake Zurich, Illinois

September 15, 2019

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ARTICLE I - NAME & AFFILIATION

The name of this church is St. Peter United Church of Christ of Lake Zurich, Illinois. It was organized in the year 1900, and exists under the laws of the State of Illinois as a religious corporation in the Village of Lake Zurich, County of Lake.

St. Peter United Church of Christ of Lake Zurich is a member of the Fox Valley Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ and bound by its covenants.

The congregation may in its corporate name, sue and be sued, hold, purchase and receive title by gift, grant or other conveyance of and to any property, real or personal, with powers to mortgage, sell or convey the same providing state laws permit.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of St. Peter United Church of Christ shall be to:

- a. Worship God in fellowship with others, and proclaim and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- b. Equip individuals to minister to one another and to the world, in the name of Jesus Christ;
- c. Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world;
- d. Create and sustain a community of Christian fellowship and unity, mutual care, and support;
- e. Educate and foster spiritual growth and discipleship, both individual and collective; and
- f. Act in covenant with other local faith communities.

ARTICLE III - DOCTRINE

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are recognized as the Word of God and the ultimate rule of Christian faith and practice. Doctrinal standards are the Apostles' Creed, the Heidelberg Catechism, Luther's Catechism, the Augsburg Confession, and the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. They are accepted as an authoritative interpretation of the truth revealed in the Holy Scriptures. In its relation to other Christian fellowships, this church shall constantly endeavor to promote the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this congregation shall be open to any person who requests it, who confesses faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who agrees to its purpose, and agrees to abide by the responsibilities of a member.

With membership comes covenantal relationship within the congregation, the promise of pastoral care as needed and upon request, and the United Church of Christ's promise that "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here".¹

The responsibilities of a member are detailed in the Bylaws.

A member may voluntarily withdraw from membership by written request.

¹ "Who We Are." *United Church of Christ*, United Church of Christ, 11 July 2019, www.ucc.org/about-us_who-we-are.

Members who fail to abide by the responsibilities of membership may have their membership withdrawn as detailed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V - DECISION MAKING

The governance of this church resides with the congregation except as specifically stated in this Constitution and its companion Bylaws, or as delegated by the congregation. A vote of a simple majority of members present at any properly called meeting of the congregation where a quorum of fifty members is present shall be action of the congregation, except as otherwise specifically stated in this Constitution or its companion Bylaws. The congregation shall hold an annual meeting to elect lay leadership, adopt a budget, and transact such other business as may properly come before the congregation. The Church Assembly will determine the timing of the annual meeting. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Church Shepherds or upon written petition of at least fifty of the members. Notice of the meeting time, place, and subjects shall be communicated in writing to all members not less than two weeks prior to the meeting. The business to be transacted at the special meeting shall be limited to that stated in the notice.

The Church Assembly may buy, sell, mortgage, or transfer real property of this church or borrow money, only when directed by the members of the congregation at a special meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

The officers of this church are the lay Church Shepherds. All lay Church Shepherds shall be members of this congregation.

The responsibilities of the Church Shepherds are detailed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII - CHURCH ASSEMBLY

The Church Assembly, acting on behalf of the congregation, shall govern and supervise the work of this church. It shall also act with all care and diligence in presenting and maintaining a balanced budget. The Church Assembly shall be composed of the Church Shepherds, pastors, and the members of the three Vision Teams (Act, Belong, and Engage).

The responsibilities of the Church Assembly are detailed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII - MINISTRIES

The ministries of the congregation shall be carried out by the Foundations Teams and ministry teams, which are formed as specified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX - CLERGY

The clergy are the spiritual leaders of the congregation.

Senior Pastors, Associate Pastors, and Interim Pastors shall be ordained. Assistant Pastors may be ordained, licensed or commissioned.

Responsibilities of the clergy and procedures for their call are detailed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended in any duly called meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority of those members present.

ARTICLE XI - REVIEW OF BYLAWS

A formal review of the Bylaws will take place, at minimum, every four years. An ad hoc committee for this purpose will be named by the Church Shepherds, approved by the Church Assembly, and chaired by a Church Shepherd.

ARTICLE XII - DIVISION OR DISSOLUTION

In case of a division of membership of the congregation, both parties shall submit the question of the right to the property to the authorities of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor. The decisions of these authorities shall be binding on all members of the congregation.

In the event of the dissolution of the congregation, all property, both real and personal, after payment of debts, shall become the property of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor.