

# **Zion Constitution and By-Laws Amended and Approved, 2018**

## **Article I: Name**

The name of this church shall be Zion United Church of Christ of Troy, Missouri.

## **Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the sacraments, to realize Christian fellowship and unity, to render loving service, and strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

## **Article III: Polity**

1. This church shall sustain a congregational relationship to the United Church of Christ as described in the constitution and by-laws of the United Church of Christ.
2. The government of this church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, subject to the laws of the State of Missouri relating to corporations not for profit.

## **Article IV: Faith and Covenant**

**Faith:** This church acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior. 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 creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic church as 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. It recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion).

**Covenant:** We covenant together to seek and to respond to the Word and Will of God. We intend 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

truth, justice, and peace. We depend upon 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.

### **Article V: Membership**

1. Membership in this church shall be open to any person who has been baptized or desires to be baptized and who has either been confirmed or has, as an adult, made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Members shall endeavor to attend worship, participate in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, to live the Christian life, to share in the life and work of the church, to contribute to its support and benevolences, and seek diligently the spiritual welfare of the membership and community.
3. Any member may request and be granted a letter of transfer. If a member requests in writing release from membership obligations, the church shall patiently endeavor to secure that member's continuance in the fellowship. Failing such an effort, the council may grant the request for transfer or termination and issue the appropriate letter.
4. A member who for a period of two years, in spite of spiritual care, has not communed or contributed to the support of the church or its benevolences shall be removed from the membership roll. A former member may be reactivated by a vote of the church council after he or she has re-established an active relationship with Zion United Church of Christ.

### **Article VI: Governing Body**

The governing body of this church shall be the membership assembled in a church meeting. Except where otherwise specified in this constitution and these by-laws, the vote of the majority of members present at a church meeting shall be the action of the church. A quorum necessary to conduct a church meeting, shall consist of 10% of the church members.

### **Article VII: Council**

1. The council shall be the executive body of the church. The council shall have authority over all other committee and organizations in the church. It shall be

composed of the pastor or pastors and six members. Two-thirds of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum. The pastor shall have voice but no vote.

2. The council shall organize itself each year, electing a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

3. The council may appoint a financial secretary. If the financial secretary is not a member of the council, he/she shall have voice but no vote. The financial secretary may be a paid position at the council's discretion.

4. Two council members shall be elected each year. They shall serve a three-year term. No member of the council shall serve two consecutive terms, but after one year off the council, a former member may be re-elected. The term shall begin at election and end December 31 of the third full year.

5. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the church council no later than October 1 of each year. The committee shall seek candidates who agree to serve for the open positions of church council. The slate of candidates shall be published with the meeting publication and presented by the nominating committee at the meeting. Additional nominations of consenting members may be made from the floor. Persons receiving a majority of votes shall be elected.

6. Council members shall be installed as part of a worship service.

7. The council shall be the policy making body of the church and shall transact the business of the church, make provisions for determining and raising the budget, and for the church's response to Our Church's Wider Mission and benevolences. The council shall provide for the auditing of financial accounts and for the adequate support of the staff. They shall accept donations with two members counting each offering. They shall keep a complete and accurate record of its proceedings, be the custodian of all church records, and report to the church at congregation meetings. All acts and deliberations of the council are subject to the will and revision of the congregation.

8. Vacancies on the council shall be filled at a congregational meeting.

9. The council shall instruct the proper officers on all fiscal matters, including the payment of bills.

10. The council may authorize any extraordinary expense if funds are available; but if borrowing exceeds \$500.00, it must receive the approval of the congregation

11. The council shall appoint such committees, as it may deem necessary.

12. The council shall meet regularly for the transaction of business. Special meetings are subject to the president's call.

13. Council members shall assist and support the pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church. They shall have jurisdiction in matters of discipline. Council members shall take heed to the high calling of their office, ministering to the edification and comfort of all.

14. The Council members shall have the care and custody of the property of the church as a sacred trust, whether real or personal.

#### **Article VIII: Pastor**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the search committee, appointed by the council, to seek a candidate for the office of pastor, when a vacancy in that office occurs.

2. As soon as a pastoral vacancy occurs, it shall be reported to the conference.

3. In filling a vacancy, the search committee shall seek the council of the conference.

4. The search committee shall present to the church the candidate it recommends to fill the vacancy. An 85% vote of the membership present at a meeting of the congregation shall constitute a call.

5. In the call papers, the terms of the relationship shall be stated, as agreed upon between the candidate and the search committee. The minister, the church, the association, and the conference shall each receive a copy of the call papers.

6. When a minister accepts a call to this church, the church and the minister shall request that the association arrange for a service of installation or recognition.

7. The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period. In order to terminate this relationship, three months notice shall be given by either party, unless waived by mutual consent.

8. When either party decides to terminate the relationship, the termination shall be by action of the congregation, and notice of this action shall be sent by the president of the council to the conference and association for appropriate action.

9. After the pastor has assumed office in the congregation, no other minister shall perform official acts in the congregation or in its house of worship without the pastor's consent.

10. Discipline of the pastor shall be in conformity with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

11. The church may choose an assistant pastor(s). This shall be done using the same procedure as when calling the pastor and in consultation with the pastor.

### **Article IX: Property**

All property of the congregation is and forever remains its undivided possession.

### **Article X: Church meetings**

1. At a congregational meeting on a Sunday in Advent business shall be conducted, Council members shall be elected, and the budget for the following year shall be approved.

2. Annual reports are due in January and shall be published in the February Voice.

3. Special congregational meetings may be called by the council or by petition to the council by not less than 10% of the membership. The council shall call such meetings within three (3) weeks from the receipt of the petition, and adequate notice of such meetings shall be sent to each member.

4. Prior to a congregational meeting all members must be notified by letter or Voice publication. Meetings must be announced at two consecutive Sunday services.

### **Article XI: Rules of Order**

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by this constitution.

## **Article XII: Amendments**

1. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any duly called church meeting by two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present.
2. A copy of the text of proposed amendments must be made available to all members two weeks prior to the congregational meeting at which the amendments are to be considered. Publication in the Voice is an acceptable copy.

### **BY-LAWS**

#### **BY-LAW 1: ZION EVANGELICAL CEMETERY**

The Zion Church Cemetery, which is owned by Zion Church Troy, Mo shall be governed by a committee of approximately five members appointed by the church Council. The committee shall receive all cemetery funds and invest said funds in good securities. The committee shall maintain and make appropriate improvements and pay all bills appropriate for this cemetery.

Approved December 2018