

**CONSTITUTION**  
**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**4950 EAST WABASH AVENUE**  
**TERRE HAUTE, IN 47803**

**REVISED**  
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**CONSTITUTION**  
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**Terre Haute, Indiana 47803**

**PREAMBLE**

We the members of Central Christian Church, a congregationally governed body, in order to promote the ministry of the church in the spirit of Christ and thus advance Christ's realm in the world, do hereby adopt this Constitution.

**ARTICLE I**  
**NAME and PURPOSE**

**Section A. Name**

The name of this organization shall be Central Christian Church of Terre Haute, Inc., affiliated with, and an integral part of, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and committed to the historic principles of this body.

**Section B. Purpose**

God calls Central Christian Church to be a welcoming and open faith community where Christian love, action and discipleship unite.

**ARTICLE II**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of this church shall consist of those who are now identified as members of the Congregation and those who shall unite with it by confession of faith and baptism by immersion, or by transfer of membership. Being an open and affirming Congregation, we accept all previously baptized believers. Voting privileges shall be accorded to all members.

**ARTICLE III**  
**ORGANIZATION**

**Section A. Congregation**

The Congregation shall be the final governing body of the church. Its direct responsibilities shall include election of Congregation officers and representatives, calling of the minister(s), approval of the annual budget, ownership and control of its property, and approval of amendments to the Constitution.

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**Section B. Board**

1. The Board shall act on behalf of the Congregation and be responsible to the Congregation for all its actions.
2. It shall establish by its actions the goals of the ministries of the Congregation and shall recommend the budget to the Congregation. It shall establish the policies and procedures for the work of the Congregation. It shall be responsible for conducting all legal matters of the Congregation including assuring the provision of adequate insurance coverage; holding legal title to all Congregation property and handling all business transactions related thereto; supervising the use of gifts and bequests; and performing other such legal duties as are required by the laws of the State of Indiana.
3. The Board shall make the minutes of each of its meetings available to the Congregation on the church's web site.
4. The Board shall consist of the following elected officers and representatives of the Congregation. Any Board member may appoint a proxy to represent him/herself at any official meeting of the Board. The officially elected Board member shall notify the Moderator of his/her replacement proxy, and the Moderator shall recognize said proxy at the beginning of any meeting.
  - a) **Voting Board Members:**
    - i) Moderator.
    - ii) Vice Moderator.
    - iii) Two (2) representatives of the Elders.
    - iv) Two (2) representatives of the Adult Diaconate.
    - v) Two (2) representatives of the Youth Diaconate.
    - vi) Secretary.
    - vii) Treasurer.
    - viii) Chairpersons of Church Ministries as specified in the Bylaws.
  - b) **Ex-officio (non-voting) Board Members:**
    - i) Minister(s) of the Congregation.
    - ii) Immediate Past Moderator of the Congregation.
    - iii) Elder(s) Emeritus, and Diaconate member(s) Emeritus, selected by the Congregation.
    - iv) Auxiliary organization representatives (e.g. CWF, CMF), selected by organizations in good standing in accordance with the Bylaws.
5. All meetings of the Board shall be open to all members of the Congregation.
6. Two-thirds of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
7. All meetings of the Board shall be governed by the current Robert's Rules of Order.

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**Section C. Ministries**

The purpose of the ministry teams shall be to plan and administer the ministries of the Congregation. Ministries shall recommend budgets and financial actions to the Faith and Giving Ministry. Upon review of Faith and Giving, it shall be presented to the Board. Ministry Teams shall not have authority to establish policies. Ministries shall select members and perform duties as outlined in the Bylaws.

**Section D. Standing and Special Committees**

The purpose of standing and special committees shall be to perform specific duties not provided for elsewhere. Standing and special committees are spelled out in the By-laws. Committees shall recommend action to the Board but shall not have authority to establish policies.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**OFFICERS and REPRESENTATIVES**

**Section A. Names and Terms of Office**

The following officers and representatives of the Congregation shall be elected by the Congregation at its June semi-annual business meeting for a term as designated for each or until such time as a successor is elected and assumes office. Terms shall begin July 1st following their election.

1. Moderator serves for a term of one year, not to exceed two consecutive terms.
2. Vice Moderator serves for a term of one year, not to exceed two consecutive terms.
3. Elders: Twelve Elders, one-third of whom shall be elected each year, will serve for terms of three years with at least one year between terms. Two Elders, to be elected by the Elders, will represent Elders on the Board for a term of one year and not to exceed two consecutive terms.
4. Deacons: Eighteen Deacons shall compose the Adult Diaconate, one-third to be elected each year, will serve for terms of three years. Two Deacons, to be elected by the adult Diaconate, will represent the Adult Diaconate on the Board for a term of one year, not to exceed two consecutive terms.
5. Youth Diaconate: All youth, who are members of the church, and willing to serve, shall compose the Youth Diaconate. Two Youth Diaconate to be elected by the Youth Diaconate, will represent the Youth Diaconate on the Board for a term of one year, not to exceed two consecutive terms.
6. Ministry Chairs serve for a term of one year, not to exceed three consecutive terms.
7. Treasurer serves for a term of one year, not to exceed two consecutive terms.
8. Secretary serves for a term of one year, not to exceed two consecutive terms.

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**Section B. Duties of Officers and Representatives**

1. All persons elected or appointed as officers and representatives shall be active members of the Congregation and shall be expected to be concerned for the overall ministry and welfare of the Congregation. They shall be expected to be actively involved in the planning and administration of the Congregation ministry so that it may achieve its purposes as defined in this Constitution and accompanying Bylaws.
2. Any Board member who is not able to attend a Board Meeting shall appoint a proxy and notify the Moderator.
3. A Board member may have their Board membership terminated by majority vote of the Board for just cause, which will be at the sole determination of the Board. In this event, the Board shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the year. If the terminated Board member is from the Elders, Adult Diaconate, Youth Diaconate, or from one of the Ministries, the Board will consult with the appropriate entity.

**Section C. Nomination and Election of Officers and Representatives**

1. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of five members of the Congregation who shall be appointed by the Moderator and approved by the Board no later than four months into the new ministry year. The names of the committee members shall be announced to the Congregation. The minister(s) shall be (an) ex-officio member(s).
2. The Nominating Committee shall select nominees as specified in Article IV – Section A who are qualified for the offices. The committee shall inform each nominee of the duties of the office and obtain his/her consent to serve.
3. The Nominating Committee shall report the nominations to the membership of the Congregation at least two weeks prior to the semi-annual June Congregational meeting.
4. The voting shall take place at the June semi-annual Congregational meeting and shall be by majority vote. Nominees for Elder Emeritus and Diaconate Emeritus who receive a majority vote shall be declared elected.
5. Vacancies in any elected position of the Congregation shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Board to serve until the next election. Appointed officers and representatives are not subject to the limitations of Article IV – Section A.
6. Persons elected to the Youth Diaconate shall be no younger than entering sixth grade and no older than entering twelfth grade when elected.
7. Individuals nominated for Emeritus status either as an Elder or a member of the Diaconate should have performed exemplary service in that position, normally including at least three full terms of active service in that position with Central Christian Church of Terre Haute. The chair of the Elders or Adult Diaconate may nominate any current or past Elder or Deacon, except themselves, through either the current Elders or Adult Diaconate and then through the Board. The Moderator may nominate the chair of the Elders or the chair of the Diaconate for this status through the Board. If the Board approves the nomination by a two-thirds majority vote, then the Board will report that nomination to the Congregation as specified in paragraph 3.

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**ARTICLE V**  
**THE MINISTER(S)**

**Section A. Roles of the Minister(s)**

1. The Senior Minister(s) of the Congregation shall be responsible for the functions normally associated with that office. The Congregation understands the various roles of the minister as preacher, prophet, pastor, teacher, and administrator.
2. Specialized ministries necessary for the Congregation to fulfill its mission will be determined by the Board, and those minister(s) along with the Senior Minister(s) shall comprise the ministerial staff.
3. The Senior Minister of the Congregation shall be the chief administrator of the staff.

**Section B. Selection and Hiring**

The minister(s) shall be chosen by the Congregation as hereinafter provided:

1. A representative special committee of seven (7) members, nominated by the Moderator and appointed by the Board, shall serve as the Search Committee and be responsible for recommending (a) prospective minister(s) to the Board.
2. The Board shall consider the recommendation of the Search Committee and, if approved by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, recommend the prospective minister(s) to the Congregation.
3. The Congregation shall consider and vote upon the recommendation of the Board at a regular or special Congregational meeting. The recommendation must be accepted by at least an 80% majority of the members present and voting by paper ballot before a call may be extended.
4. The term of ministry shall be for an indefinite period. A written statement setting forth the salary to be paid and other conditions of the call shall be made in duplicate, one copy for the minister(s) and one for the Congregation. The copies of the written statement are to be reviewed and updated annually and an executed copy shall be placed in the locked file cabinet in the Minister's office.

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**Section C. Termination**

1. A minister or ministers can be terminated by the Congregation as hereinafter provided:
2. Dissatisfactions regarding minister(s) shall be made in writing to the Pastoral Relations Committee. They shall discuss the dissatisfaction with the minister against whom the dissatisfaction has been placed. At the discretion of the Pastoral Relations Committee, the issue may be taken to the Board.
3. The call may be terminated by either party upon 60 days written notice or less than 60 days if by mutual consent of both parties.
4. The Board shall consider any terminations. If approved by the Board by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting, the Board shall recommend same to the Congregation.
5. The Congregation shall consider and vote upon the recommendation of the Board at a regular or special Congregational meeting. The recommendation must be accepted by at least an 80% majority of members present and voting by paper ballot.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

**Section A. Meetings**

1. One semi-annual business meeting shall be held during June. Election of officers and representatives, and the presentation of annual reports shall be required agenda items: Balance Sheet, Income and Expense Report, Budget, and Membership.
2. A second semi-annual business meeting shall be held during December for the specific reason of adopting the fiscal year budget.
3. Special meetings shall be held as required, such meetings to be called by the Moderator or upon request of the majority of the Board.

**Section B. Notice of Meetings**

Notice of all regular or special business meetings of the Congregation shall be given at a regular Sunday service of the Congregation at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. An agenda for special business meetings shall be posted on the church's web site at least one week in advance of the meeting and only those items listed shall be considered. A limited number of paper copies shall be made available at the church.

**Section C. Rules of Order**

All business meetings of the Congregation shall be governed by the current Robert's Rules of Order.

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**ARTICLE VII**  
**AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the Congregation by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting on the amendment(s), provided that notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been given to the membership of the Congregation at least two weeks prior to the vote. A copy of the Constitution shall be made available each time there is a revision.

Committee:

Dan Fehrenbach, Chair

Rebecca Zelensky, Senior Minister

Tammy Beck

Betsy Hine

Carol Sloan