

## THE CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this congregation shall be The Evangelical United Church of Christ, located in Webster Groves, Missouri.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The avowed purpose of this congregation shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to celebrate the Sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this congregation and the Church Universal; to render loving service toward humanity; and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace.

### ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

1. This congregation shall be a part of the United Church of Christ and it shall sustain that relationship to the United Church of Christ described in those portions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ adopted July 4, 1961, as revised, related to local churches.
2. The government of this congregation is vested in its members in congregational meeting, who exercised the right of control in all its affairs as set forth in the By-Laws; subject however to the laws of the State of Missouri, relating to a nonprofit corporation organized under Chapter 352 of the *1959 Missouri Revised Statutes*.

### ARTICLE IV . FAITH

This congregation acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of humanity. 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 this 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.

## ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this congregation shall be open to any person who has been baptized, confirmed, or made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They shall remain as members unless removed in accordance with the By-Laws. There shall be two categories of membership: a) Baptized, and b) Communicant. A Communicant shall be defined as a member who has been confirmed or has made public confession of faith. The voting membership shall be only the Communicant members. All further references to “member” shall mean Communicant members.

## ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

The congregation shall hold an annual meeting and other meetings as may be necessary, at such time and place and upon such notice as may be provided by the By-Laws.

## ARTICLE VII. COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

1. The Council shall be the executive body of this congregation and shall be its Board of Directors.
2. The Council members shall be elected by the congregation and in the manner and for the term of office as set forth in the By-Laws. The number of Council members shall be determined by the By-Laws, but shall not be less than three (3).
3. The Council shall organize itself each year, electing a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and these shall be the officers of the congregation.

## ARTICLE VIII. PROPERTY

The congregation may in its corporate name sue or be sued, acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise; and own, hold, invest, re-invest, or dispose of property both real and personal for such work as the congregation may undertake and 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 purpose of the church; it may receive and hold in trust both real and personal property and invest and re-invest the same and make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the church.

Upon dissolution of the congregation, its assets and all property and interests of which it shall then be possessed, 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 transferred to the Missouri Conference of the United Church of Christ.

#### ARTICLE IX. DURATION

The duration and number of years the congregation is to continue shall be perpetual.

#### ARTICLE X. BY-LAWS

The congregation shall be governed by By-Laws to be formulated and adopted by the members of the congregation upon a two-thirds ( $2/3$ ) vote, at any duly called meeting of the congregation and shall be subject to amendment in the same manner.

#### ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any duly called Congregational Meeting or at the Annual Meeting by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds ( $2/3$ ) of the members present, provided that written notice of the text of the proposed amendment(s) has been made to the membership at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting