

**CONSTITUTION  
of  
UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Reinbeck, Iowa**

**Preamble**

Union Congregational United Church of Christ in Reinbeck, Iowa, formed in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of the members, to make more effective their common witness in God, and to serve God's realm in the world through education, dynamic worship, and effective programs of outreach, hereby adopts this constitution and bylaws.

**Article 1  
Name**

1. The name of this church shall be: Union Congregational United Church of Christ.

**Article 2  
Purpose**

2. The purpose of this church is to worship God, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and celebrate the Sacraments; to realize Christian community and unity within this church and the church universal; to render loving service toward humankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace.

**Article 3  
Confession of Faith**

*We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,  
and to your deeds we testify.*

*You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.*

*You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.*

*You judge people and nations by your righteous will,  
declared through prophets and apostles.*

*In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,  
you have come to us  
and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the world to yourself.*

*You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,  
tongues and races.*

*You call us into your church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
to proclaim the gospel to all the world,  
to resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.*

*You promise to all who trust you  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
your presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.*

*Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen*

#### **Article 4**

### **Denominational Affiliation**

1. This church shall be a part of the United Church of Christ, and shall sustain that relationship to the United Church of Christ described in those portions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ relating to local churches.

## **Article 5 Membership**

1. Membership in this Church is open to any person who has been baptized and confirmed, or who has made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as our risen savior. In accordance with the gospel covenant which binds into a unity “faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races,” membership is open to all.
2. Members pledge themselves to attend the regular worship of the church and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper; to follow Christ; to share in the life and work of the church; to contribute financially to the ministry and mission of the church; and to seek diligently the spiritual welfare of humankind.

## **Article 6 Organization**

1. The ultimate legislative and administrative authority of the congregation is vested in the congregation itself, assembled in a meeting called as provided in the bylaws. All members have the right to voice and vote in the congregation. The vote of the majority of members present at the meeting shall be the action of the congregation. Any assembly of the congregation, called as provided in the bylaws, must have 10% of the membership present to constitute a quorum.
2. It is the prerogative of the congregation, assembled in a meeting called in accordance with the bylaws, to decide such questions as:
  - adoption of the annual financial plan,
  - the buying and selling of property valued over 10% of the annual operating budget,
  - building projects,
  - extensive repairs of church property,
  - call and rejection of a pastor,
  - questions of major policy,
  - election of Moderator and Board members,
  - dissolution of the congregation,
  - any changes in the Constitution and Bylaws.

For the transaction of other business, the administration of the church is entrusted to the Board of Trustees and Diaconate.

3. The Board of Trustees and Diaconate shall be the governing bodies of the congregation and is responsible to administer all the congregation's affairs except those listed in Article 6 Section 2 above.
4. The officers of this congregation shall be such officers as the Bylaws of this Constitution prescribe. The officers and boards prescribed in the Bylaws shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them in the Constitution or Bylaws.

### **Article 7 Called Clergy**

1. Calls will only be issued to candidates who are authorized ministers and approved by, and in good standing with, the Central Association of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ.

### **Article 8 Boards, Committees, and Organizations**

1. The boards of the church shall be the Diaconate and the Board of Trustees. The membership and duties thereof shall be as defined in the Bylaws.
2. Other committees, and organizations may be formed as deemed necessary and/or desirable to foster Christian fellowship, enhance the religious, charitable, and educational purposes of the congregation, and to act to the benefit of the congregation as a whole.

### **Article 9 Property Rights**

1. All property of the congregation shall be held in the corporate name of the congregation, and shall be under administrative care of the Board of Trustees.
2. Upon dissolution of the church, all assets, property and interests, currently in its possession, 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, in accord with the provisions defined in the Code of Iowa, be transferred to the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor.

## **Article 10 Pastor**

1. The Senior Pastor is the primary executive of the local church, and as such is the leader of its life and programs.
2. The Pastor and/or Pastors shall be an ex-officio members of all boards, committees, and organizations of the church.
3. The congregation shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ when the occasion arises to elect or dismiss a pastor.
4. The Pastor shall hold standing in the Central Association of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ, in accordance with the prevailing policies of the Central Association, the Iowa Conference, and the United Church of Christ.

## **Article 11 Congregational Meetings**

1. The congregation shall meet at least once a year. The day and hour of the annual meeting shall be set by the Board of Trustees. At this meeting, the Pastor, the officers of the church, and all boards, committees, and organizations shall have submitted their annual reports in writing.
2. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by action of one of the major boards of the church, or by petition as defined in Article 3 of the Bylaws.

**Article 12**  
**Rules of Order**

1. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by this Constitution and/or Bylaws.

**Article 13**  
**Amendments**

1. This Constitution may be amended, with the exception of Articles 3 and 4 which are irrevocable, by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the congregation, these proposed amendments having been presented at a meeting of the congregation having been held at least four weeks previously, and the written text having been distributed to the membership of the church.