

First Christian-Presbyterian Church of Pryor: A Federated
Congregation of Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian U.S.A.

Constitution

Yellow highlighted = items that will be omitted or rewritten

Blue highlighted = replacement or addition

Submitted July, 2006

Article 1: Name

The name of the church shall be the First Christian-Presbyterian Church of Pryor: A Federated Congregation of Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Article 2: Denominational Affiliation

The local congregations of the First Christian Church of Pryor (Disciples of Christ) and The Presbyterian Church of Pryor (U.S.A) in federating, unite in a single local church organization, but reserve their relationship to their respective denominational bodies. These affiliations are not to interfere with the fullest loyalty to the one unified fellowship.

Article 3: Mission Statement

The First Christian-Presbyterian Church of Pryor is an open and inclusive community of faith and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek to grow in our Christian faith through continued worship, prayer, and the study of God's teachings. The Holy Spirit calls us to serve our church, neighborhood, community, and the world at large through our sharing of God's word and the sharing of our time, talents, and personal wealth.

Article 4: Membership

- A. All persons who have been duly received by confirmation, letter of transfer, or profession of faith shall be communicant members of this congregation and shall be entitled to all its rights and privileges. The mode of baptism is at the discretion of the individual in consultation with the minister.
- B. All new members uniting with the First Christian-Presbyterian Church of Pryor shall be given an opportunity to join either denomination. The church from which they came will be notified of such transfers.
- C. Communicant members shall have the right to voice and vote in the congregation and also represent the congregation on the official board and/or other committees.
- D. The congregation shall have at least one annual meeting and other meetings as deemed necessary by the governing board. A quorum

will constitute members in attendance after being notified on two consecutive Sundays from the pulpit.

Article 5: The Board of Elders and Deacons {remove}

The Board of Elders and Deacons {remove} shall have jurisdiction and oversight of the congregation and all its organizations. A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum. It shall organize as provided in the bylaws.

Article 5a: Elders and Deacons may be nominated by the board as elder or deacon emeritus. This is a life time appointment.

Article 5b: The Board of Trustees

The board of Trustees shall consist of three members, each an elder {eliminate}. One member shall be elected each year for a term of three years. Trustees are the legal custodians of all real and personal property under the direction of the Church Board of Elders and Deacons, and shall perform such duties as may be required by the laws of the state. {replace with: The Board of Trustees shall consist of three (3) members that serve three (3) year terms. Terms are to be staggered so one is elected each year. They are voting members of the Board and therefore are counted in the number for quorum. The Trustees are also empowered to make recommendations to the Board on the investments of funds, the handling of memorial gifts, the disbursement of property and other business related matters.]

Article 6: Administration

- A. The legislative authority of the congregation is vested in the congregation itself, assembled in meeting duly and legally called as provided for in the bylaws.
- B. Congregational meetings are to be used to decide questions of the buying and selling of property, holding annual elections, approving of budget, the calling and termination of a minister, as well as changing the constitution and bylaws. For the transaction of all other business the administration of the church is entrusted to the Board of Elders and Deacons, {remove} chosen and composed as provided for in the bylaws.

Article 7: The Minister

- A. The congregation shall call as its minister one who has been recommended or approved by the proper authorities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Ideally, attempts will be made for searches to alternate each time between the two denominations.
- B. When the pulpit is vacant, the Board of Elders and Deacons {remove} shall recommend a pastor search committee, representative of the congregation, composed of five (5) members and one (1) alternate to be approved by a congregational vote. It shall be the duty of the pastor search committee to

present one candidate at a time to the congregation for their vote by ballot for or against the call. If approved, the Board shall then tender a call, according to the form prescribed by the denomination of which the candidate is a member with ministerial standing. The call must be confirmed by the proper authorities of the minister's denomination's immediate executive.

Article 8: Property

All property of this federated congregation, real and personal, shall be transferred to the corporation formed for this federation. Wherever the constitutions of the denominations differ, the mandatory provisions of one shall apply in all cases when the other is permissive. In case of dissolution of this federated church, all property of the federated church, real and personal, shall be divided equally between the governing bodies of jurisdiction.

At the time of federation, an appraisal of all real properties owned by The Presbyterian Church of Pryor and the First Christian Church will be made. All personal properties of both congregations will be used or disbursed for the benefit of the entire federated congregation. A temporary committee formed by the federated Board of Elders and Deacons with members from both congregations will oversee use and disbursement of all property.

The Board of Elders and Deacons {remove} shall administer scholarship funds, memorial gifts, bequests, and other gifts and grants.

Article 9: Auxiliary and/or Subsidiary Groups

All auxiliary and/or subsidiary groups are subordinate to the Board of Elders and Deacons {remove} and shall report annually to the congregation.

Article 10: Amendments

Proposed additions and/or alterations of this constitution shall be referred in written form to the Board of Elders and Deacons {remove}. The Board shall consider same and, if approved, report to the next duly called meeting of the congregation. A period of at least two weeks shall be allowed between the presentation of the amendments and the voting on them. Adoption of amendments requires a two-thirds majority of the members of the congregation present. The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the congregation present.

Article 11: Arbitration

Church related disputes may be resolved by binding arbitration after efforts to mediate the dispute by the Board of Elders and Deacons {remove} or its appointed representatives have failed. A participating member of the congregation may initiate the arbitration process by request at a Board meeting. The Board must agree to support the binding arbitration by a three-fourths majority vote, a quorum being present.

The rules of arbitration will be constructed by the first Board of Elders and Deacons after federation of the two congregations. {Note: Rules of arbitration have not been written.}

Revised, adding Article 5b, 2007
Revised Article 5B-2011