

THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE PLAINFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

as adopted January 31, 2016 at the annual business meeting in Plainfield, Illinois.

**ARTICLE 1**

NAME, LOCATION, OBJECTIVES, PURPOSES, PRINCIPLES AND COVENANT

- Section 1. Name.  
The corporate name of this church is: The Plainfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.
- Section 2. Location.  
The principal location and place of assembly of this church and the principal place for carrying on its corporate activities shall be the Village of Plainfield, in the State of Illinois.
- Section 3. Objective and Purposes.  
The object of this church is to promote the worship of God and the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.  
  
The purpose of this church is:  
1. the worship of God and the proclamation of the Christian faith;  
2. the support of missions;
- Section 4. Declaration of Principles.  
This church acknowledges Jesus Christ as its head and finds in the Holy Scriptures, interpreted by the Divine Spirit through reason, faith, and conscience, its guidance in matters of faith and discipline.  
The government of this church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, subject in legal matters to the Articles of Incorporation granted it by the Secretary of State of the State of Illinois.  
While the church is amenable to no ecclesiastical judicatory, it accepts the obligation of mutual council, comity, and cooperation involved in the free fellowship of the congregations of the United Church of Christ, and pledges itself to share their common aims and work.
- Section 5. Doctrine and Covenant.  
This church recognizes that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and holds that living in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ is the true test of discipleship and fellowship. Each member shall have undisturbed right to follow the Word of God according to their own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. The following covenant, however, sets forth the intention of each member to unite with fellow members in worshipping and serving God.

COVENANT

Believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, acknowledging God as our Heavenly Father, and depending upon the Holy Spirit for continued guidance and strength, we hereby covenant together to seek to know the will of God as revealed through Christ and taught in the Holy Scriptures.

Holding it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all, exalting the worship of God; to labor for the progress of knowledge and the promotion of justice, peace, and fellowship, we covenant together to work with one another and with all Christians in seeking to accomplish the will of God on earth.

And furthermore, realizing that the success of the Church depends upon the consecration of the individual members, we covenant together to attend the services of this church, to contribute according to our means for its support, to maintain its peace and harmony, and in every way possible to promote its spiritual and temporal welfare.

## ARTICLE 2

### ORGANIZATION AND POWERS

This church was began in incorporated on January 1, 1944, as a religious corporation under an act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois entitled “An Act Concerning Corporations,” certified by the State of Illinois October 3, 1985, and has and shall have all the powers granted by the laws of said State to corporations so organized. The original corporate name, “Plainfield Congregational Church,” was formally changed on January 10, 1969, to “The Plainfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.”

## ARTICLE 3

### GOVERNMENT, AFFILIATION, AND FELLOWSHIP

#### Section 1. Government.

(a) The government of this church is vested in its voting members.

(b) The whole congregation has final authority regarding our life together. Key decisions regarding the congregation must be approved by a two-thirds majority of those church members present at an official congregational meeting. Key decisions include, but are not limited to, decisions regarding purchase, sale, mortgage or transfer of real property, hiring/terminating of Pastoral staff, affiliation with the United Church of Christ, Mission Statement, Core Values, annual budget and Operating By-Laws.

(c) The congregation shall approve By-Laws that govern and structure how the church will operate and function in the ordinary conduct of business and practice. These By-Laws can only be amended, revised, or canceled (in total or in part) by a two-thirds majority at an official Congregational Meeting.

(d) In the event that the church decides to cease to exist, all real property and assets will be turned over to the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

#### Denominational Affiliation.

This church is a member of the United Church of Christ.

#### Fellowship.

The members of this church acknowledge its spiritual union with the Church in all lands and times and their common duty as the servants of the Kingdom of God. This church will therefore seek to extend Christian fellowship and to cooperate with other churches and religious organizations that serve the ends for which this church exists.

**ARTICLE 4**  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution.  
This constitution may be amended, or a new constitution may be adopted, at any Officially Called Congregational Meeting of this church by a vote of two-thirds of the voting members of this church present and voting on the proposition
- Section 2. Affiliations With Other Organizations.  
This church shall not merge, consolidate or otherwise unite with any other church or churches or affiliate with or become a member of any organization or body of churches, or other ecclesiastical body, or any other organization, association or group, whether church-related or otherwise, without the approval of two-thirds of the voting members of this church present and voting at an Officially Called Congregational Meeting, called to consider such matter. This church may withdraw from any such merger, consolidation, union, affiliation or membership, when legally permissible, if two-thirds of the voting members of this church present and voting at an Officially Called Congregational Meeting, called to consider such matter shall so determine. The proper ministries and officers of this church shall take whatever action may be necessary to implement and carry out any approval or determination given under the foregoing provisions of this section.

**ARTICLE 5**  
EFFECTIVE DATE

This constitution shall become effective on February 1, 2016, and, shall thereupon supersede and repeal any and all prior constitutions