

**BY-LAWS OF THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL U.C.C.
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA**

(As last amended at Annual Meeting, March 12, 2006)

ARTICLE I: NAME

This Church shall be called "First Congregational United Church of Christ of Fort Pierce" and shall be located in Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, and State of Florida.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church is the maintenance of the public worship of God, the development of Christian character, the furtherance of the religious, moral and social interests of the community, and the advancement in the world of the Kingdom of God. It shall hold in the highest regard its relationship to the United Church of Christ, without modifying in any way its inherent autonomy.

ARTICLE III: FAITH AND COVENANT

1: All members shall have the undisturbed right to follow the Word of God according to the dictates of their own consciences, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. The following Covenant and Statement of Faith, therefore, is not a test but an expression of the spirit in which the church interprets the Word of God.

2: We covenant as followers of Jesus Christ to worship God with integrity and love, to serve humanity with compassion and hope, and advance education in church and society. We cherish freedom while pursuing integrity, respect and harmony, and assume responsibility in the quest for unity, justice and peace. We walk together as a servant community honoring the pilgrimage of each person nurtured in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. In the truth and beauty of word and deed, our commitment is to be involved as stewards fulfilling the vision of our church as a blessing.

3: We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother and to whose deeds we testify:

--God calls the worlds into being, creating humankind in the divine image and sets before us the ways of life and death.

--God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

--In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its creator.

--God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races. God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the Gospel to all the world

and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

--To all who trust in the Gospel, God promises forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that Kingdom which has no end.

--Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

- 1:** *Amend 2* Membership in the Church shall be open to all persons, regardless of race, color or national origin. All members may be received upon confession of Christian faith, reaffirmation of faith, or with a letter of dismissal and or transfer letter from another church and shall accept baptism when not previously baptized. The Minister or the Deacons to confirm they meet these criteria shall review applications for Church membership.
- 2:** Two types of membership are authorized: Full Members with primary membership in this Church; and Associate Members who wish to retain primary membership in some other church. Associate Members shall have all the rights and privileges of Full Members.
- 3:** Members are expected to be diligent to achieve Christian life; to attend habitually the services of the Church; to contribute regularly to its support and its benevolence program; and to share in its organized work.
- 4:** Only members who have attained legal age may vote on action involving the placing of a mortgage or any other encumbrance upon any real property owned by the Church, or its conveyance, transfer or title to the same. Subject to the foregoing limitation and any other limitations set forth in these By-Laws, Full Members and Associate Members, regardless of age, may vote in any meeting of the Council, a board, or a committee, of which they are a member, or at a meeting of the Church.
- 5:** The continuance of active membership shall be subject to the following:
 - (a) *Amend 2* The Clerk shall, upon request, provide to any member in full standing a letter of recommendation, dismissal and or transfer to any other church, whereupon membership shall terminate.
 - (b) If a member desires to join a religious body which will not receive the letter of this Church, the Clerk shall, at member's request, give a letter of dismissal and a certificate of good standing, at which time membership shall terminate.
 - (c) If a member requests of the Clerk in writing to be released from membership, that membership shall be terminated. The Clerk shall give the member a letter of dismissal.
 - (d) A member who has not fulfilled any portion of those responsibilities outlined in Section 3 of this Article, as determined by the Deacons, or communicated with the Church for a period of one year, shall be placed on Inactive List, and shall lose privileges of membership. Unless reinstated within 5 years, the Deacons may drop the name from the Inactive List.

ARTICLE V: THE MINISTER

1: The Church shall have a pastor who shall have in his/her charge the spiritual welfare of the Church and its members. He/She shall preach the Christian gospel, administer the sacraments, have in his/her care the stated services of public worship, give proper supervision to the activities of the Church in cooperation with the various officers, boards and committees, and be the leader and teacher of the members in matters of their Christian faith. The Minister shall be a member ex-officio of all boards and committees, with privilege of voice and vote, except in matters involving his/her position.

2: Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the pastorate or there is an expectation that it will shortly occur, the Church Council shall create a Pastoral Search Committee of such number as it may decide and include representation from the Deacons, the Trustees, and the Property Committee. The committee shall select its own chairperson and secretary. It shall become informed concerning available ministers to serve the Church as Pastor, and will seek the assistance of the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to enable it more effectively to accomplish its purpose.

3: *Amend 2* A new pastor may be called as recommended by the Pastoral Search Committee, and *Amend 1* by favorable two-thirds vote by the members of the Church, present and by proxy, at a Church meeting duly called for the purpose. Thereupon a call shall be extended to the minister to whom it is addressed, containing the complete terms of the pastoral relationship as established by the Church.

4: The acceptance of the call shall constitute the minister and pastor of the Church, under the terms thereof. The Church may arrange for such service of installation as it may determine, to be conducted under the supervision of the Deacons, and conforming to the autonomous relationship of the Church to the United Church of Christ.

5: *Amend 2* The Church may, at any time, by a favorable majority vote of the members present and by proxy, at any meeting of the Church called for that purpose, request the resignation of the pastor, to be effective sixty days from such vote, or as otherwise agreed upon between the pastor and the Church and contained in the minister's call or in some supplementary instrument. If the resignation is not received as requested, the Church may, at a meeting duly called for the purpose, by a majority vote as aforesaid, dismiss the pastor forthwith and declare the pulpit vacant.

6: The pastor may resign voluntarily by letter to the Clerk of the Church, effective sixty days from receipt thereof by the Clerk, or as otherwise agreed upon between the pastor and the Church or contained in the minister's call or in some supplementary instrument.

7: The call of any person to be pastor of the Church shall be for an indefinite term, subject to the prior provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES

1: Church officers shall be a Moderator, *Amend 5* Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Financial Secretary, all of whom shall serve for one year.

2: *Amend 2* There shall be a minimum of four Trustees, elected for two-year terms each and in such manner that the terms of half of the members shall terminate at the close of each Annual Meeting, shall serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

At least one of the Trustees in office shall be a full time resident.

3: *Amend 2* There shall be a minimum of four Property Committee members, elected for two-year terms each and in such manner that the terms of half of the members shall terminate at the close of each Annual Meeting. No person shall serve more than two consecutive two-year terms. At least one of the members shall be a full time resident.

4: There shall be a minimum of six Deacons, elected for three-year terms each and in such manner that the terms of a third of the members shall terminate at the close of each Annual Meeting. At least two of the Deacons shall be full time residents.

5: There shall be a Board of Christian Education consisting of a minimum of three, elected for three-year terms each and in such manner that the terms of a third of the members shall terminate at the close of each Annual Meeting.

6: There shall be a Board of Missions consisting of a minimum of three, elected for three-year terms each and in such manner that a third of the members shall terminate at the close of each Annual Meeting.

7: There shall be a Music Committee consisting of a minimum of three, elected for three-year terms each and in such manner that the terms of a third of the members shall terminate at the close of each Annual Meeting.

8: There shall be a Memorial Committee consisting of three members, elected for three-year terms each with a third of the members terminating at the close of the Annual Meeting.

9: There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members elected for three-year terms each with a third of the members terminating at the close of the Annual Meeting.

10: There shall be one or more Auditors elected at the Annual Meeting for one or more years.

11: There shall be elected at each Annual Meeting for a year term as many Delegates from the Church as the Church is entitled to send to meetings of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Gold Coast Mission Council of the Florida Conference. Delegates may be elected for two additional terms. If necessary, the Council may appoint additional delegates as allowed for at a particular meeting.

12: *Amend 6* The officers, members of the boards and committees, and the delegates, shall be approved by voice vote at each Annual Meeting, to serve their term and until their successors are elected and have accepted. If more than one candidate is submitted for the same office, the vote shall be by written ballot. All members, whether elected or ex-officio, shall have equal participation, including voice and vote. No person, except the Clerk, Treasurer, and Auditor(s), shall hold the same office or be a member of the same board or committee or a delegate for more than six consecutive years after the first election thereto, except that a service of twelve months or less to fill an unexposed term shall not be included in the prohibition. *Amend 6* The Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Chairman of the Trustees, Chairman of the Deacons and Chairman of the Property Committee shall be full members or associate members of the Church. All other officers, board members and committee members shall be full members or

associate members of the Church or have shown themselves to be diligent to achieve Christian life; to attend habitually the services of the Church; to contribute regularly to its support and its benevolence program; and to share in its organized work.

13: There shall be a Church Council consisting of the Pastor, the Moderator, ^{Amend 5} the Vice Moderator, the Clerk, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, ^{Amend 5} the Congregation Representative at Large, and one representative each from the Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education, Mission, Music, Property, Nominating, Memorial, Men's and Women's Fellowship, ^{Amend 4} and Evangelism.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, & COMMITTEES

1: Each board and committee shall elect its own chair and secretary, and may elect a vice-chair. The secretary will record actions taken by the board or committee and see that a copy of each meeting's minutes is given to the minister and to each of the Church Council members and to the Church Clerk for office filing. Except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws, a quorum of a board or committee shall be a majority of the members thereof. All elected Boards, Committees and Officers, except the Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary, shall submit a report for the Annual Meeting.

2: Any delegate, board, committee, or organization may speak or act in his/her or its own name and behalf provided he/she/it shall not purport to bind the Church or to reflect the Church's position unless authorized by the Church to do so. Delegates shall vote as the Church shall direct them on any matter calling for their action as delegates.

3: Moderator: As head of the congregation, the Moderator shall sign all legal documents requiring the signature of "President", "First Officer", "Registered Agent", etc. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Church and the Church Council. Term of office shall expire upon final adjournment of the Annual meeting that has elected a new moderator. After serving two full terms of one year each, the Moderator may not be re-elected until after a lapse of at least one year. The Moderator shall be empowered to appoint, with the approval of the Council, special committees or persons to special jobs that are not otherwise provided for in these By-Laws.

4: Clerk: The Clerk shall provide for the keeping of faithful records of all actions taken at congregational and Council meetings; keep a register with current addresses of members with date and manner of reception into membership and, if applicable, removal, baptismal and marriage records; issue letters of transfer and acknowledge same from other churches; maintain on file all communications, reports and official records; give legal notices of all congregational meetings; and prepare a summary of membership changes for the Annual Report.

The Clerk shall cause all persons to be notified of their election or appointment, and perform such other duties as are prescribed by law or as usually pertain to the office of clerk or secretary of an assembly.

5: Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive all monies and contributions on behalf of the Church; use such depositories as the Board of Trustees and Treasurer have agreed on; disburse such funds on budget or Board of Trustees' authorization; maintain appropriate accounting records; and prepare such financial reports as requested by the Board of Trustees or the Council. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the

Board of Trustees. In addition:

- (a) The Treasurer or in his/her absence, the Assistant Treasurer, shall receive and bank all monies due to the Church and shall keep bookkeeping records according to good accounting practices.
- (b) The Treasurer shall keep separate accounts of the various funds as established by the Board of Trustees. All financial records shall be kept on the Church premises in a secure place.
- (c) *Amend 2* The Treasurer shall make disbursements from the General Fund and Designated Funds as authorized by the Board of Trustees and from the Memorial Fund upon the approval of the Memorial Committees as provided in these By-Laws.
- (d) The Treasurer shall only make payment of bills when clearly authorized and when receipts for expenditures are attached.
- (e) The Treasurer shall prepare for the Trustees and the Church Council a monthly statement of finances showing receipts, expenditures and balances of all funds belonging to the Church, current values of any securities held by the Church, and balances of any current liabilities owed by the Church.
- (f) The Treasurer shall assist the Board of Trustees in preparing an annual budget of General Funds for the following year, and shall report to them periodically on a comparison of receipts and expenditures with the budget.

6: The Assistant Treasurer shall keep a record of all donations, prepare and send reminders when appropriate, and send a final statement to donors at the close of the year, including any special forms as required by Internal Revenue Service. The Assistant Treasurer shall be authorized to fulfill all duties of the Treasurer in his/her absence, or to assume any other duties as the Treasurer or the Board of Trustees finds necessary.

7: The Financial Secretary shall prepare a listing of all funds received in the offering plates and provide the Treasurer with the list and the funds and keep until May 1st of the following year a copy of the reports given to the Treasurer.

8: The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for the financial and business affairs of the Church, including the power to incur temporary indebtedness to a reasonable amount as determined by the Church Council, for the purpose of taking care of current expenses. They shall arrange for appropriate insurance and fidelity bond coverage for the Treasurer and such other people as they deem necessary and set rental policies. They shall devise ways and means of defraying the current and benevolent expenses. They shall monitor revenues and expenditures by boards and committees.

The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for naming a Stewardship Committee of not less than 3 members of the Church to conduct the stewardship drive. The Trustees shall prepare a preliminary budget for the stewardship drive and proposed budget for the Church Council review and comments and before its subsequent presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Trustees shall establish the range of salary and benefits within which the Search Committee may negotiate with a prospective new minister.

The Trustees shall coordinate the activities of persons involved in the finances of the Church including the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, auditors, and any assistants. Working with the Assistant Treasurer, this Board would have the authority to follow up on pledging when necessary.

It shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer real estate without specific authority given by vote of the congregation, as specified under Article X: actions requiring more than a majority vote.

The hiring of employees and the execution of any contracts by the Church, or any officer thereof, shall be subject to the approval of the Trustees in the absence of any specific vote to the contrary by the Church. The Board of Trustees shall have such additional powers as may be granted by and be subject to any vote of the Church.

9: The Property Committee shall be responsible for Church-owned real estate and equipment. It shall maintain an up-to-date inventory of all Church property; be responsible for general maintenance and emergency repair, including restoration projects; initiate emergency conservation measures; make recommendations to the Trustees for purchase of new equipment or property; and supervise rentals of Church property and equipment, plus the custodial care of grounds and buildings. Any custodial employee will be limited by the salary levels established by the Trustees and be subject to any necessary contracts prepared by the Trustees.

10: The Deacons shall cooperate with the Pastor in serving the spiritual life of the Church and community. They shall assist in the preparation and administration of the sacraments, and in visiting and aiding persons in need of its counsel and help. They shall advise the Pastor in establishing the form and structure of the services of worship. They shall take charge of the religious services of the Church in the absence of the Pastor, and perform such other duties as may be delegated to them under these By-Laws or by specific vote of the Church.

The Deacons shall annually review the membership list, determining whether any members should be placed on the Inactive List or dropped from the Inactive List, as outlined in Article IV, Section 5 (d and c).

The Deacons shall appoint a Pastoral Relations Committee which shall be responsible for periodically reviewing the Pastor's performance with the Pastor. This Committee shall propose any salary change to the Trustees well in advance of the upcoming year's budget preparation.

11: The Board of Christian Education shall be responsible for the Christian Education programs of the Church. The Board shall be responsible for the development and implementation of adult education and a ministry to youth and young adults both in the Church and in the larger community. It shall submit to the Trustees its budget needs.

12: The Board of Missions shall seek to promote world-wide religious outreach on the part of Church members. It shall seek ways to inform the congregation of the relevance of the gospel and the Church to all of life and to the problems of the day. It shall submit to the Trustees a recommended budget of mission expenditures and needs. It shall review the periodic special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ and be responsible for the implementation of appropriate fund-raising, obtaining Council approval, and

establishing programs to meet those mission needs.

13: The Music Committee shall endeavor to enhance the spiritual worship portion of Church services by providing for appropriate music. It shall work with the Deacons when appropriate to have special musical worship services. It shall act as a support system for all persons in the music program of the Church. It shall submit its funding requests to the Trustees for consideration and inclusion in each year's budget.

14: The Nominating Committee, after studying qualifications, obtaining recommendations from present officers and committee members, and speaking with proposed candidates, shall present to the Annual Meeting a proposed Slate of Officers to fill all vacancies for the offices and committees for those positions whose terms are completed. Other nominations may be made from the floor, provided that said nominee shall have agreed to serve, if elected. In the event that an elected member cannot fulfill the term of office, the Committee shall recommend a candidate(s) to the Council for appointment until the next Annual Meeting. The chairperson, elected by the Committee or a representative from the Committee, shall be a member of the Council.

15: At least two Delegates shall be elected at the Annual meeting for a year term. The Delegates may serve for three consecutive terms. The Delegates shall keep the members of the Church informed concerning all matters expected to be acted upon at the meetings that they propose to attend as representatives of the Church, and shall report action taken at such meetings to the Church Council.

16: The Memorial Committee shall:

- (a) Prepare a list of Memorial items suitable to the overall needs of the Church, develop the cost of each as accurately as possible, and make the list available to those seeking to make Memorial gifts.
- (b) Be responsible for determining the use of small Memorial gifts that may need to be combined to permit an appropriate memorial.
- (c) Be responsible for maintaining appropriate records of Memorials so that the names of those memorialized shall be perpetuated, and adding new names to the Memorial Plaque.
- (d) See that all memorial gifts are acknowledged in a suitable manner, that families of deceased are notified of gifts, and that accurate records are kept of individual memorial funds and expenditures.
- (e) Transfer at year's end all Memorial Funds under one hundred dollars (\$100.00) into the Memorial Consolidation Fund.

17: Auditor(s) shall make an annual audit of the Church's financial records with a full report to the Council of findings and proposals for improvement.

18: The Women's Fellowship shall have representation on the Church Council. It may have its own By-Laws as long as they are not in conflict with the Church's By-Laws.

19: The Men's Fellowship shall have representation on the Church Council. It may have its own By-Laws as long as they are not in conflict with the Church's By-Laws.

20: *Amend 4* The Evangelism committee shall act as a Ministry Team and have

representation on the Church Council. In direct cooperation with the Minister, the Evangelism Committee is responsible for bringing the Gospel to those outside of the church. Among its duties are:

- (a) Coordinate evangelism efforts with the various church boards and ministries.
- (b) Be responsible for periodic auxiliary advertising such as yellow pages and association newsletters.
- (c) Have open-ended terms and future appointments will be made in conjunction with pastoral input.

21: *Amend 5* The Vice Moderator shall assist the Moderator in the performance of his or her duties, and shall perform the duties of the Moderator in the absence of the Moderator. Since this is a back-up or part-time position, it shall be permissible for the person filling this position to also hold another position on any board or committee.

22: *Amend 5* The Congregation Representative at Large shall be responsible to represent the congregation at large at the Council Meetings, and shall promote two way communications between the Congregation and the Council. This representative shall keep informed of issues of general concern on the part of the congregation, and shall bring them to the Council for information and action if necessary.

ARTICLE VIII: THE CHURCH COUNCIL

1: The Church Council shall approve, coordinate and promote the entire program of the Church. It shall have general supervision of all Church boards and committees and advise in all areas of Church work, giving careful consideration to harmonious inter-relationship. All members of the Council shall have privilege of voice and vote unless otherwise prohibited by these By-Laws or the action of the congregation.

2: The Council may act for the Church in any matter where the Church has taken no action to the contrary, and where there is no requirement in these By-Laws that action shall be by the Church. Such action by the Council shall be reported in the next newsletter.

3: Regular meetings of the Council shall be held in October, December, or early January, February, March and May, and at times determined by vote of the Council, or in lieu thereof, by the Moderator *Amend 5* or Vice Moderator. Special meetings of the Council shall be called upon the request of the Pastor, the Moderator, *Amend 5* the Vice Moderator or any four members of the Council. All meetings shall be published in the Church bulletin on the Sunday preceding the meeting, or by notifying the members at least twenty-four hours before the meeting.

4: The Council shall determine that all officers, board and committee members are actively involved in fulfilling their responsibilities. Failure to maintain active participation for a period of six months, without satisfactory reason, shall be deemed cause for removal from office.

5: In the event that an elected member cannot fulfill the term of office, the Council shall, upon reviewing the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting.

- 6: The Council shall review the finances regularly, including the Auditor's Report.
- 7: The Council shall review and offer to the Trustees any comments regarding the proposed annual budget before its subsequent presentation to the Church for approval.
- 8: In the absence of ^{Amend 5} both the Moderator and Vice Moderator, some member of the Council shall call the meeting to order and preside until a Moderator pro-tem is chosen.
9. No person shall represent more than one office or Committee on the Council. If an officer is also a chairperson of a Committee with representation on the Council, another representative for the Committee shall be chosen to represent the Committee at the Council meeting.

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

- 1: Service of worship shall be held at stated times on Sundays and at such other times as may be determined by the Pastor or by the Church Council. The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month unless otherwise determined by the Deacons.
- 2: The Annual Meeting of the Church shall be held on the second Sunday of March ^{Amend 3} following worship, unless otherwise determined by the Church Council, at which time the annual reports shall be officially presented, officers elected, and such other business transacted as may be specified or authorized by these By-Laws. All members of the Church are entitled to vote on each of the matters presented, unless prohibited by these By-Laws.
- 3: Special meetings shall be called promptly by the Clerk upon the request of the Pastor, the Moderator, ^{Amend 5} the Vice Moderator, the Council, or ten members of the Church, and may be called directly by them if the Clerk shall fail to act within seven days after being so requested. The object of the meeting shall be stated in the call.
- 4: The Annual and Special Meetings shall be called by a notice stating the object of the meeting, with a copy being mailed to all Full and Associate Members of the Church at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, and at least one week prior to a special meeting.
- 5: At all Annual and Special meetings of the Church, a fourth of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may meet and adjourn. In the absence of ^{Amend 5} both the Moderator and Vice Moderator some member of the Church Council, or, if none be present, any member of the Church shall call the meeting to order, and preside until a Moderator pro-tem is chosen.
- 6: Any member of the church may attend any meeting of the Council or any Board or Committee, excluding the Pastoral Relations Committee, but will have neither voice nor vote.

ARTICLE X: ACTIONS REQUIRING MORE THAN A MAJORITY VOTE

- 1: In addition to other requirements set forth in these By-Laws, no real property owned by the Church, or interest therein, shall be conveyed, transferred, or released except upon a two-thirds vote in favor thereof by the membership, present and by proxy,

adopted at a meeting of the Church duly called and held under the provisions of these By-Laws. This section shall also apply to the giving of a mortgage to secure sums borrowed by the Church, or other obligation.

2: The Church shall not join in any union with any other church or group of churches upon a local, district, state, national or international basis; or waive, release, or modify in any particular its autonomy and the right enumerated in Section 21 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, as now provided therein, whether enjoyed under said Constitution or otherwise; except upon a two-thirds vote in favor thereof of the membership, present and by proxy, adopted at a meeting of the Church, duly called and held under the provisions of these By-Laws, and, provided further, any such affirmative vote shall be ratified by a similar two-thirds vote of the membership, present and by proxy, by a succeeding meeting of the Church duly called, and held at least one month after the final adjournment of the prior meeting, notice of such succeeding meeting, in addition to other requirements of these By-Laws, being sent to all members as outlined in these By-Laws.

3. To provide for additional protection in the future for the Church, a Permanent Fund has been established.

This Fund will be made up of all monies from wills or trusts, unless designated for a specific purpose. Other monies may be added to this Fund as deemed appropriate by a vote of the Board of Trustees or by gifts specifically named to the Fund.

The principal in this Permanent Fund may only be used by a two-thirds vote in favor thereof by the membership, present and by proxy, adopted at a meeting of the Church duly called and held under provisions of these By-Laws.

Interest may be used, if needed, for operating expenses by a vote of the Board of Trustees.

This Fund will be invested by a vote of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

1: These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote in favor thereof by the membership, present and by proxy, at any Annual or Special Meeting of the Church provided notice of the proposed amendment is stated in the call of the meeting.

2: The provisions of Section 2, Article X, and of this Section 2, may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the membership, present and by proxy, at two successive meetings of the Church, duly called and held as provided in said Section 2 of Article X, for action under said Section 2.

Amendments:

Amend 1: Amended at the Annual Meeting on 2/7/1999. Wording changed from “or otherwise” to “and”.

Amend 2: Sections amended at the Annual meeting on 2/4/2001.

Amend 3: Annual meeting date amended at a Special Congregational Meeting on 3/8/2003 from “first Sunday in February” to the “second Sunday in March”.

Amend 4: Amended at the Annual Meeting on 3/13/2005 to include the Evangelism Committee as a part of the Church Council and as an official committee within the church.

Amend 5: Amended at the Annual Meeting on 3/12/2006 to add the offices of Vice-Moderator and Congregation Representative at Large and granting them representation on the Church Council.

Amend 6: Amended at the Annual Meeting on 3/13/2011 to revise requirements for officers and committee members.