

**Church Bylaws Proposed Changes  
Annual Meeting Vote, January 31, 2021**

*Italics indicate additions or modification of the original text  
Strikethroughs indicate removal from original text*

**Article III – Congregational Meetings**

1. The church shall meet annually. ~~and when special meetings are called.~~ Ten percent (10%) of the members of the church shall constitute a quorum, except as noted in the Bylaws. Notice ~~of meetings~~ shall be given 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The annual reports will be available two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

**Article IV – Pastor**

11. **Pastoral Search.** ...The ~~Pulpit~~ *Pastoral Search* Committee shall present to the church the name of the candidate it recommends filling the vacancy.
13. **Installation.** [ ...copies of the report of the service of installation] shall be sent to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ and to ~~the Council for Church Life and Leadership~~ Ministerial Excellence, Support, Authorization Team.

**Article VIII - Vacancies**

**Vacancies.** *Any Officer or Member-At-Large vacancies shall be filled by the Church Council to complete the unexpired term. The names of nominees for such interim vacancies will be supplied to the Church Council by the Nominating Committee.* Any vacancies which occur on any of the elected boards, committees or delegations during the year shall be filled by the Council to complete the unexpired term of the office concerned. The names of nominees for such interim vacancies will be supplied to the Church Council by the Boards, committees or delegations on which a vacancy exists.

**Article XI – Church Council**

*These sections have been re-ordered*

The Church Council, as elected representatives of the congregation, shall be the overall policy and planning body of the church. It shall have ~~complete power~~ *authority* to supervise and coordinate the plans and activities of the boards, committees, and organizations of the church, and to plan prayerfully for its future.

1. *The Church Council shall be composed of the Moderator, who shall act as chair; ~~elect~~ two At-Large Members, one of whom will act as Vice Moderator; the Clerk, who shall act as Secretary; the Treasurer; the Pastor; and the chairs of all boards.*

2. The Church Council ~~shall meet monthly or as often as deemed necessary,~~ *shall establish regular meeting times at its first meeting after the Annual Meeting, and at other times as called by Board chairpersons or requested by Boards. Notice of regular meetings shall be printed in the worship bulletin on the Sunday preceding the meeting and shall be provided to all members of the Church Council. Additional meetings can be scheduled as deemed necessary.* Church Council meetings are open to any member in good standing. The Church Council, under extraordinary circumstances, may make provision for a closed session.
3. ~~Other appointments:~~ The Church Council shall form *other* such boards or committees as will serve to further the purpose of The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
4. The Church Council shall appoint representatives from The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ to other organizations as appropriate.
5. All Policies of the Church must be approved by the Church Council.
6. *The Church Council shall approve all acceptance and distributions of special fund gifts.*
7. The Church Council shall be responsible for the hiring, oversight, *and separation* of all church employees. Where such employees will work with pastoral staff, the Church Council will strongly weigh the views of pastoral staff when performing this oversight function.
8. The *Church* Council shall receive a self-evaluation ~~by~~ *from* the Pastor and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees regarding changes to the compensation package. ~~The Pastoral Relations Committee may also make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees if desired.~~
9. **Nominating Committee.** There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed by the Church Council for a term of one year. The Committee shall be comprised of one member from each of the recognized Boards and both at large members of the Church Council. The senior at large member shall serve as chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The Committee shall report its nominations in writing prior to the Annual Meeting. In nominating members of the church for elections to any of the positions to be filled, it shall be the policy of the Nominating Committee that each proposed nominee be contacted to explain to them the nature of the post for which they may be nominated and to obtain their permission to be so

nominated. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to bring to the Annual Meeting nominations for all open elected positions.

10. ~~Parish~~ **Five-Year Planning Committee.** Every five years the Church Council shall conduct with the pastor a review of the state of the church, constitution and the by-laws. The emphasis in such a review shall be on the major needs of the church during the subsequent five-year period. These reviews shall be done in the years ending with a 3 or 8. These reviews shall be presented at the annual meeting for appropriate review and action.
11. The Church Council shall perform such duties as assigned elsewhere in the Bylaws.

**The Church Council also approved the standardization of the spelling of Bylaws. This change will be made in all sections of the Constitution and the Bylaws.**

*All of the above changes were approved by the Church Council: **May 26, 2020***

*Approved by the Congregation:*