

# **CONSTITUTION FOR ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MADRID, IOWA**

## **PREAMBLE**

This church is a community of people called by God to nurture each other, serve those in need, and transform our lives by listening attentively to God who is still speaking. In faith, this church acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of all.

People gather together as a congregation in this church to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the sacraments, to realize Christian fellowship and unity within the church and the church universal, to render loving service toward all and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace. The members of this church are bound together by a common faith and by a continuing covenant among the members and friends.

## **Article I: Name**

The local name of this church is St. Paul's United Church of Christ. It is located at 115 South Cedar Street, Madrid, Iowa.

## **Article II: Purpose and Mission**

### **We are here and we will Tell The Story**

To accomplish this, we provide opportunities for members and friends alike to engage in worship and celebration. We provide a nurturing environment through fellowship, education, faith exploration, and growth in our journey. We encourage the stewardship of our time, talents, financial resources, and the environment. We pursue social justice and action, continuing to reach out beyond ourselves.

## **Article III: Covenant of Faith**

The members of this faith community covenant with God and one another to walk together in the way of Christian faith. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in Holy Scriptures. We affirm the tenets of the Christian faith, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ by embodying God's love and justice in all that we do. Within this unity, however, each member shall have the undisturbed right to listen for God's voice according to the dictates of his or her conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

## **Article IV: Polity**

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 Iowa. Members seek the guidance and inspiration of Jesus Christ in matters of faith and discipline through the Holy Scriptures using reason, faith, and

conscience. Without forfeiting any of the responsibility or control vested in its members, this church is a member of the Central Association of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ. Suggestions and actions of the Iowa Conference and the General Synod of the United Church of Christ are respected and taken into consideration.

## **Article V: Governing Body**

The governing body of this church will be the members assembled at the Annual Congregational Meeting and at any specially called Congregational Meeting. A quorum is twenty percent (20%) of the church members. A quorum of the Official Board is 60% of its members. A simple majority vote is the rule except where otherwise specified. At the annual meeting the congregation receives reports from all boards, committees, commissions, task forces and recognized church activity groups, and from the pastor. These reports summarize the activities of these groups during the current year and are to be part of the permanent record of St. Paul's.

The Executive Board is elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The Official Board is selected from the elected committee members at the Annual Meeting. A chairperson is chosen to represent their committee on the Official Board. They act as the governing body between Congregational Meetings.

The congregation, through the church by-laws, establishes the lengths of the terms of office of the members of the Board. They also, through the by-laws, specify the tenures of members of the Board in their offices, including the number of consecutive terms an individual may serve in any one office.

## **Article VI: Meetings**

Special business meetings may be called at any time by the Moderator/Director or in response to a request made by an Officer of the Church, a committee or board, or a quorum (20%) of the membership of the church.

The annual meeting is held in October to address the affairs of the church.

A meeting to call or dismiss a Pastor requires a 20% quorum of the church membership. When calling a Pastor a favorable 90% vote of confidence is needed by the membership attending the special called congregational meeting. When non-approval/dismissal of a Pastor is deemed necessary at least a 67% vote of the membership attending the special called congregational meeting is required.

## **Article VII: Limitation Of Debt**

No officer, committee or board of the church will incur any indebtedness of the church beyond the approved annual budget without the congregational membership vote of approval. Approval of the Congregation/Membership for incurring debt will direct the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and the Moderator/Director of the church to be signatory of the loan incurring the debt.

## **Article VIII: Membership**

Membership in this church is open to anyone who has been baptized, made confession of faith in Jesus Christ or has been confirmed, and subscribes to the church Covenant. Our membership is open to all persons who accept the obligations of membership in the United Church of Christ.

## **Article IX: Committees, Boards and Special Appointments**

The Executive Board of this church is the Pastor, Director/Moderator, Vice Moderator, Board Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. This Board will respond to immediate concerns and issues that arise between the regular meetings of the Official Board and Congregation.

Prospective members of the following committees and delegates are submitted by the Nominating Committee and elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Nominations are accepted from the floor.

Diaconate	Pastor/Parish Relations	Lay Life and Work
Worship	Christian Education	Association/Conference Delegate
Trustees	Historian	Membership/Church Growth
Finance/Mission	Youth	Madrid Home Communities Delegates

1. Diaconate assists the Pastor in preparing and administering the Lord's Supper, caring for the sick, the sorrowing, the stranger, and in ministering to the spiritual welfare of the church. In the absence of the Pastor or a stated supply, they will conduct the worship services of the church.
2. Worship assists the Pastor in preparing the sanctuary for worship events whether routine or special.
3. Trustees hold in trust all properties of the church and see that the same is properly cared for.
4. Finance and Mission oversees the financial stewardship and missions of the church.
5. Pastor/Parish Relations supports the Pastor and monitors and strengthens the relationship between the Pastor and the Congregation for effective ministry by both.
6. Christian Education facilitates religious education for the church.
7. The Historian is responsible for recording church and church family life
8. The Youth Committee plans and guides all youth activities.
9. Lay Life and Work is responsible for the maintenance of the kitchen and facilitates its use.
10. The Association/Conference Delegate represents St. Paul's at Central Association and conference meetings.

11. Membership and Church Growth assists the Pastor in planning programs to welcome newcomers and invite them into our church family.
12. Madrid Home Communities Representatives represent St. Paul's at MHC annual meeting
13. The Nominating Committee provides a list of nominees for church offices and committees.

### **Article X: Responsibilities of the Officers of the Church**

1. The Director/Moderator coordinates the activities performed by the Board and committees.
2. The Vice Moderator acts as the Moderator in his/her absence.
3. The Board Secretary keeps an accurate record of the Executive and Official Board proceedings.
4. The Financial Secretary receives, records and deposits all offerings.
5. The Treasurer is responsible for paying all bills and maintaining records of distribution.
6. The Recording Secretary maintains accurate records dealing with the membership roster. He/she serves on the Membership and Church Growth Committee.

### **Article XI: The Ministry**

The Pastor is called to Tell The Story. He/she is responsible for the stated services of worship, administering the sacraments and giving general direction to the gatherings of the church. The Pastor is an ex-officio member of all boards and committees. Policies and procedures for engaging the services of a pastor are set out in the by-laws of St. Paul's Church and are consistent with the policies and procedures of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ.

### **Article XII: Amending the Constitution**

This Constitution may be amended by the membership of St. Paul's at a regular or specially called Congregational Meeting. All amendments will be published and presented to the congregation at a regular or specially called Congregational Meeting and voted upon at the next regular or specially called Congregational Meeting as long as two (2) months have expired between presentation of the amendment and the vote securing its passage. A two-thirds (67%) vote of a quorum present, is needed in favor of the amendment to secure its passage.

### **Article XIII: Adoption**

The provisions of this constitution become effective when accepted and adopted by the membership and will supersede any and all constitution, articles, rules, or amendments previously adopted by this church.