

**THE CONSTITUTION**  
**OF**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
  
**CARY, NC**

## RECORD OF ISSUE

<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>REASON FOR REISSUE</u>	<u>MODIFIED BY</u>
February 26, 1989	Initial Draft	Allen Lewis
March 9, 1989	Modified per meeting on March 5, 1989	Gary Carpenter
May 20, 1990	Congregational Meeting	Gary Carpenter
November 17, 1991	Modified per Congregational Meeting	Gary Carpenter
May 18, 1992	Modified per Congregational Meeting on May 17, 1992	Gary Carpenter
May 21, 1995	Modified per Congregational Meeting on November 20, 1994	Kathy Boyer
January 18, 1996	Modified per Church Council motion regarding Covenant addition	Kathy Boyer
June 5, 1997	Modified per Annual Congregational Meeting on June 1, 1997	Kathy Boyer
September 11, 2005	Modified per Congregational Meeting	Carolyn Lundin
December 4, 2011	Modified per Annual Budget Meeting	Carolyn Lundin
June 13, 2021	Modified per Congregational Meeting	Amy Murray Bob Bedi Todd Weber Kathy Boyer

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## **Article I. Name**

This church is incorporated as Good Shepherd United Church of Christ.

## **Article II. Guiding Statements**

### **Mission and Purpose Statement**

As an affiliate of the United Church of Christ, we are a Christ-centered congregation that seeks to do justice, seek peace, and build an inclusive community in which the spiritual presence of our Lord is sanctuary for all. We strive to demonstrate Jesus' love, compassion, and advocacy for people who are poor and oppressed as expressed in the words of the prophet Isaiah as read by our Lord and recorded in Luke 4:18-19:

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

As an extension of our commitment to serving the "least of these" in our midst, our congregation also seeks to be "disciples making disciples." This is a core aspect of our united ministry. Through the efforts of our members, pastors, and ministries, we accept the Great Commission Jesus gave to us, to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

The purpose of this church is to provide for the public worship of God and to fulfill the functions of a church as set forth in the following covenant (found in Article III) embraced by all members at the time they join and used from time to time as a part of the service of worship.

### **Our Cornerstone Statement**

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ is a diverse family of faith deeply committed to seeking and learning together on the journey we share. We strive to embody God's unconditional love and acceptance of others made real in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

### **Our Welcome Statement**

Following the example of Jesus Christ, we declare Good Shepherd United Church of Christ to be an Open and Affirming church. We welcome into the full life and ministry of the congregation all those wishing to join us on our faith journey, regardless of ability, age, education, gender identity, income, race, sexual orientation, or other distinctions. At the communion table and at the baptismal font, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, we welcome, affirm, include, and celebrate the diversity of our identities and gifts.

### **Article III. Covenant**

*Responding to the grace and love of God shown to us through Jesus Christ, we covenant with God and one another as the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ:*

- *to joyfully share in worship*
- *to study and practice the Word of God*
- *to bind our lives together in trust and love as a family in Jesus Christ*
- *to dedicate our time, talents, and resources in celebrating God's love for all people and creation.*

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we freely commit ourselves to follow the way of the crucified and the risen Christ.*

*Amen.*

### **Article IV. Polity**

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ acknowledges Jesus Christ as its head and places its day-to-day affairs in the hands of its members. They shall act under His guidance. Although this church retains the right of self-government, it shall cooperate and share in the larger work of the free fellowship of the United Church of Christ.

The Constitution of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ shall serve as the church's guiding doctrinal document, addressing its primary mission and ministries as a family of Christian faith. This document shall also provide general information about the managerial structure of the church. The Constitution shall be reviewed by Church Council at least once every ten (10) years and shall be amended as needed by a two-thirds vote of members present at a meeting of the congregation; provided a quorum (of at least 50% of the active membership) is present and at least two weeks published advance notice of the meeting has been given. The Constitution takes precedence over the Bylaws.

The Bylaws of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ shall serve as the church's guiding operational document, addressing its organizational structure and processes for ongoing management of the church. The Bylaws shall be reviewed by Church Council at least once every five (5) years and shall be amended as needed by a majority vote of members present at a meeting of the congregation; provided a quorum (of at least 25% of the active membership) is present and at least two weeks published advance notice of the meeting has been given. The Bylaws must be in conformity with the Constitution.

## **Article V. Faith and Doctrine**

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ acknowledges, as siblings in Christ, all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and it affirms the right and obligation of all such to follow the dictates of their own conscience as they are guided by the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and by the Holy Spirit.

This church looks to the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ as an expression of the spirit in which it interprets the will of God.

*We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:*

*You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.*

*You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.*

*You judge people and nations by your righteous will  
declared through prophets and apostles.*

*In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,  
you have come to us, and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the world to yourself.*

*You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.*

*You call us into your church,  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
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.*

*You promise to all who trust you  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
your presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.*

*Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.*

## **Article VI. Membership**

Membership in Good Shepherd United Church of Christ is open to all baptized Christians who shall embrace the spirit of the covenant of this church. New members may join the church by receiving the right hand of fellowship at a regular service of worship, virtually or on site; or with a Pastor and two other church members in case of extraordinary circumstances such as illness or infirmity. New members should attend a membership class prior to or soon after joining. Members may participate as active members in person or virtually.

## **Article VII. Church Calendar**

The church calendar for Good Shepherd United Church of Christ will be as follows:

The fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31. The program year shall start on July 1 and run through June 30.

Meetings shall take place in accordance with provisions in the Bylaws.

## **Article VIII. Officers**

The officers of this church, all of whom shall be members of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, shall be the (A) Senior Pastor (Co-Pastors), (B) Associate Pastor, (C) Moderator, (D) Treasurer, (E) Clerk. Assistant Officers may be established by majority vote of the Church Council.

### **A. Senior Pastor (Co-Pastors)**

The Senior Pastor (Co-Pastors) shall be an authorized minister in the United Church of Christ or be able to achieve authorization. They shall hold standing in the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. The duty of the Pastor(s) shall be to administer to the spiritual welfare of the congregation. They shall be a voting member of the Church Council and member ex-officio of all church ministries and committees.

### **B. Associate Pastor**

The Associate Pastor shall be an authorized minister in the United Church of Christ or be able to achieve authorization. They shall hold standing in the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

### **C. Moderator**

The Moderator shall chair all business meetings of the congregation and shall chair the Church Council.

### **D. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the church, receiving all offerings, paying all bills, and keeping open and true accounts of all the fiscal transactions of the church under policies set by the Church Council and with approval of the church.

E. Clerk

The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the church and shall be a member of the Church Council and its secretary. The Clerk will also serve as a historian and keep a record of important events in the life of the church.

**Article IX. Church Council, Ministries, and Committees**

A. Church Council

The Church Council shall consist of the Senior Pastor (Co-Pastors), Associate Pastor, Moderator, Moderator-Elect/Past Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, up to two Members-at-Large (one may be a youth member), and the chair of each ministry or designee. All Church Council members shall be members or associate members of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ.

The Church Council shall constitute the trustees of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ. It shall specifically consider and formulate long range goals for the church. At the beginning of the program year, the Church Council shall establish meeting dates for the remainder of the year to consist of no fewer than eight meetings annually.

B. Standing Ministry Areas and Committees

The work done in the church through its service to the community and within the congregation and the work done to maintain the property and facilities, will be performed by the members and friends of Good Shepherd United Church Christ as defined by the various ministries and committees specific to these tasks. These ministries and committees shall be amended and added to the Bylaws as the needs of the church and community transform along the way. The Moderator, Church Council, and ministries may appoint other committees as appropriate.

**Article X. Dissolution**

A. Distribution of Property

The church and its property shall be forever devoted to religious purpose. No officer, member, or employee thereof shall receive any pecuniary profit from the church except reasonable compensation for services in effecting one or more of its purposes.

In the event of the dissolution of the church, its property shall become vested in and its function shall be administered by the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor; or, in the event this is impossible, by such church or other organization that is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, which the membership of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ shall designate at a meeting called before the said dissolution.



B. Internal Revenue Requirements of Section 501 (c) (3)

The purposes for which the church is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary and educational within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal, state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes.