

LWCC Constitution

LAKE WASHINGTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON
2010

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Lake Washington Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Kirkland, Washington, in faithful response to the will and purposes of God as revealed through Jesus Christ and God's continuing revelation in the world, do hereby adopt this revised constitution on this sixteenth day of May, 2010.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this congregation shall be *Lake Washington Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, affiliated with and an integral part of, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

ARTICLE II. MISSION STATEMENT

Lake Washington Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a flexible and diverse group of people who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and our Lord and Savior. While expressing ourselves through our participation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we believe that we are part of the entire church of Jesus Christ, which we pray will unite.

We believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to worship regularly together and to remember Him in communion. We will spread the gospel and baptize those who respond.

With liberating faith we will strive to provide friendship, acceptance, and spiritual guidance through fellowship and practical biblical education for people of all ages. We affirm that we are called to be an example of faith through our service to others, both in this community and in the world.

We also declare that we welcome into full membership and full participation in the church, persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and economic status.

By the grace of our Lord may we ever do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God on our faith journeys.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of this congregation, as a part of the whole family of God on earth, shall consist of the following: those who are now members of the congregation; those who shall unite with it by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, giving expression of their faith through baptism and commitment to Him; those who unite by transfer of membership, thereby reaffirming

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their faith and commitment to Christ; and other interested members of the community who request to be members and who agree to uphold the purposes of this congregation.

ARTICLE IV. RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATION

The congregation shall manage its affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ; determine its faithfulness to the gospel with respect to the basis of membership; own, control, and encumber its property; organize and carry out the mission, and witness of the congregation; establish its budgets and financial policies; call its minister(s) and other staff; and participate, through voting representatives, in regional and general assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in forming the corporate judgments of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The congregation shall demonstrate voluntarily its mutual concern for the nurture, mission, and witness of the whole church, and, among other responsibilities, it shall: proclaim the gospel; administer baptism and the Lord's Supper; provide for the spiritual nurture of its members; grow in understanding that the church is a universal fellowship; transcend all barriers within the human family such as race and culture; be faithful in Christian stewardship, striving to share proportionately in providing resources for the total life, work, and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); choose voting representatives to the general and regional assemblies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and seek to realize the oneness of the church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other churches of the community and with present and emerging ecumenical structures.

The congregation shall sustain its minister(s) in faithfulness and honor, and in matters pertaining to relationships with the minister(s) seek counsel from the regional minister(s).

The congregation shall exercise and enjoy all other rights, privileges, and responsibilities requisite or appropriate to carrying out its mission.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ELDERS, DEACONS

SECTION 5.01 OFFICERS

The congregation shall elect from its members a President, Vice President of Finance, Treasurer, and Secretary. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the congregation and shall serve as officers of the congregation and members of the Board of Trustees as set forth in the Bylaws.

SECTION 5.02 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The congregation shall have a Board of Trustees, which shall be responsible to the congregation and have authority to act on behalf of the congregation when it is not in a congregational meeting.

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The Board of Trustees shall be composed of the officers of the Church together with members as set forth in the Bylaws and for terms of office therein stated.

The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for receiving reports from its minister(s), officers, and the various organizations within the congregation. It shall establish by its action the program and budget of the congregation, subject to action by the congregation at its annual meeting. It shall be responsible also for conducting all legal business matters of the congregation and carry out such other responsibilities as may be defined in the Bylaws.

Stated meetings of the board of trustees shall be held at least 10 times each year, beginning on or after the second Sunday of the first month of the fiscal year. The President, Vice President of Finance, or a majority of the board of Trustees may call special meetings. Notice of special meetings shall be made by telephone, mail, e-mail, or by announcement at a Sunday morning worship service. The purpose, date, time, and place of the meeting shall be indicated in each notice. E-mail voting on board issues may be made by direction to the Church office.

SECTION 5.03 ELDERS AND DEACONS

The congregation shall have elders and deacons composed of men and women. Their election, qualifications and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Congregational meetings shall be held at least annually in the month of November. Notice of all stated or special congregational meetings shall be announced at a regular Sunday morning worship service of the congregation at least one week in advance of the meeting and by means of the church newsletter or a written notice sent though the mail or by email at least ten days before the meeting. Additionally, a notice shall be placed on the official Church website, but such notice shall not be deemed to replace any of the above required notices. Purpose, date, time, and place of meeting shall be indicated in each notice.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any congregational meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting on the amendment(s), provided

- written notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been sent through the mail at least ten days prior to the time the vote is to be taken, or
- electronic notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been sent via e-mail and posted on the official Church website at least ten days prior to the time the vote is to be taken, or
- verbal notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been read at or following two successive Sunday morning worship services immediately prior to the time the vote is taken, or
- the proposed amendment(s) have been announced at two successive Sunday morning worship services and printed copies made available to the congregation at these services