

BY-LAWS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MARSHFIELD, INC.

RECITALS

Whereas anyone who acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and wishes to share in the fellowship of the church is eligible for membership. Anyone wishing to join the church shall participate in a period of preparation to be determined by the Pastor and the Diaconate; and,

Whereas an active member is a member who supports the church in all ways and participates in the life and work of the church.

Now therefore:

These By-Laws of the First Congregational Church of Marshfield, Incorporated, shall always be subject to the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and also to the Constitution of the church.

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in this church shall be open to any person who has been baptized and confirmed, by letter of transfer or has made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In accordance with the gospel covenant, which binds into unity faithful people of all ages, tongues and races, membership is open to all without regard to any other factor.
2. Members shall pledge themselves to attend the regular worship of the church and the celebration of the Lord's Supper; to live the Christian life; to share in the life and work of the church; to contribute to its support and benevolences; and to seek diligently the spiritual welfare of the membership and the community.
3. Any member may, on request, be granted a letter of transfer. If wishing to join a body not in fellowship with this church, he or she may be dismissed with an appropriate letter of release.
4. If, because of change of faith or for other reasons not involving unchristian conduct, a member requests in writing to be released from membership obligations, the church shall patiently endeavor to secure his or her continuance in its fellowship; but, failing in such effort, the church may grant the request and terminate the membership. Such a request shall be approved by the Pastor and the Council, and the Clerk shall issue the appropriate letter of release.
5. A member whose address has long been unknown or who for a period of two years, in spite of spiritual care, has not attended the church's worship or contributed to its support, may, by recommendation and vote of the Council, be transferred to an inactive membership roll. A letter of notice will be sent to the address on record. An inactive member may be restored to active membership with a letter of intent to the Pastor, with a vote of the Council under the guidance of the Deacons.
6. Each active member is granted the right to vote at Annual and Special Meetings of the Corporation. Each active member shall have one vote.

ARTICLE II – CHURCH MEETINGS

1. Meetings for Public Worship will be held on the Lord's Day and other occasions as determined by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.
2. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the members of the church on the third (3rd) Sunday of May, the date to be announced by the Church Council, for the transaction of any business properly coming before such meeting. No business may be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum shall consist of twenty-five (25) members. The vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting shall be carried unless further restricted by these By-laws, and/or the regulatory documents of any other committee or group.
3. a). The Annual Financial meeting will be held on a Sunday during the month of February, decided upon by the Council with the advice of the Trustees. This will allow time for the year-end-close and preparation of the budget. The meeting will be announced through written notice provided to the congregation and an announcement from the pulpit not less than two Sundays prior to the meeting date. A quorum, as defined above, is required for the vote of the annual budget. Copies of the Annual Financial Report shall be made available to the congregation the Sunday before the Financial Meeting.
- b) Timetable for the Financial Meeting:

1. Chairpersons of committees shall submit written budget requests to the Board of Trustees not later than June 30th of the year preceding the Financial Meeting.
2. If the Trustees do not receive the request as stated above, the Trustees are authorized to prepare the committee's budget as they deem appropriate.
3. The Trustees shall prepare a budget proposal and submit it to the Council and Stewardship Committee as soon as possible before the financial meeting.
4. The Trustees will present the proposed budget to the members at the Financial Meeting.
5. If the budget is not approved, an amended budget shall be presented before a duly called Special or Emergency meeting. In the event the amended budget is not approved within 30 days of the Annual Financial Meeting, the previous year's budget will be deemed voted and approved for an additional year.
6. Special church meetings may be called by the Council and shall be called by the Council upon receipt of a petition to the Council signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members. The Council shall call such meetings within six (6) weeks from receipt of the petition. Announcement and agenda of such meetings shall be provided to the membership in the church newsletter. A notice shall be published in the church bulletin and announced from the pulpit for two (2) successive Sundays next preceding the meeting. Notice of such meeting shall also be posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board for two (2) weeks immediately before the meeting. All such calls shall state clearly the purpose of such meeting, and no other matter save that specified in the call may be considered.
7. Emergency church meetings may be called by the Church Council upon request of the Diaconate and/or the Board of Trustees, to be held no later than seven (7) days after such request. Notice shall be by posting on the Parish Hall bulletin board as is practical and reasonable under the circumstances.
8. Notice, Submission of Reports, and Elections
 - a. Public notice of the time, place and purpose of all meetings of the church shall be announced from the pulpit on the two (2) successive Sundays before the day of such meeting, and shall be posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board for two (2) weeks immediately before the meeting.
 - b. The Council, the Officers of the church, the Pastor, and all church organizations shall submit their Annual Reports in writing, at the Annual Meeting of the church. The reports shall include plans for the ensuing year. Copies of the Annual Report shall be made available to the congregation the Sunday preceding the Annual Meeting.
 - c. Elections for all open positions on the church committees shall be held at the Annual Meeting.
 1. Nominations for such positions shall be made by the Nominating Committee. However, a member may make a nomination from the floor for any open position, provided the person being nominated consents to the nomination and to serve if elected.
 2. All board and committee members shall serve a maximum of two (2) terms after which they may not be eligible for re-election to this board or committee for a period of one year. However, if the Nominating Committee is unable to find a successor for such member, the Nominating Committee may, if the member is willing, submit the member's name to the Annual Meeting for re-election with a notation to the membership to this effect.
9. Special Projects. Proponents of any special projects such as capital fundraising, long term missions, or any other activity not designated under the existing committee functions and/or that exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in cost shall present a proposal for the endeavor at a duly called meeting, special meeting, or emergency meeting of the church with notice as required for such meeting. Approval for the endeavor shall be by majority vote. The vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting shall be carried unless otherwise limited by the Constitution or these By-laws.

ARTICLE III — OFFICERS

CLERK AND ASSISTANT CLERK – The Clerk and Assistant Clerk, with non-concurrent terms, will be members in full standing. The Clerk will keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the church. The Clerk will also keep a register of the members of the church with date of their reception and removal, issue letters of transfer, and keep a record of baptisms and deaths. The Clerk will make a full report at the Annual Meeting. The Clerk will confirm public notice of meetings when notice is necessary; report communications intended for the church, and conduct, as may be necessary, its correspondence. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will be elected for terms of three (3) years,

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY – The Financial Secretary and the Assistant Financial Secretary, with non-concurrent terms, will be members of the church in full standing, and will have charge of the Sunday collections, any special collections, and donations, in such manner as the Trustees may direct, and will keep separate and accurate records of all such collections and donations, including pledges of members, friends and organizations. They shall, each week, deposit in the General Fund all monies collected for Church Operations; and deposit in the Missions Fund all monies collected for Missions and Community Outreach. They shall furnish the Church Treasurer, the Treasurer of the Missions and Community Outreach Committee, and the Board of Trustees with a breakdown of the sources of such deposits. Their books shall be open to the Treasurer. They shall make a report at the Annual Meeting and their accounts may be certified by an audit. The Financial Secretary and the Assistant Financial Secretary will be elected for terms of three (3) years.

TREASURER and ASSISTANT TREASURER – The Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer, with non-concurrent terms, will be members in full standing. The Treasurer shall keep separate accounts of all monies received for the support of the church, including donations and other sources. The Treasurer shall oversee the payment of all authorized bills. The Treasurer shall make a report at the Annual Meeting for all disbursements and accounts and may be certified by an audit. The Assistant Treasurer will work with the Treasurer, as necessary, to assume and carry out the defined duties of the office. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer will be elected for terms of three (3) years.

MODERATOR AND ALTERNATE MODERATOR – The Moderator and Alternate Moderator, with non-concurrent terms, will be members in full standing in the church. They will preside at all business meetings of the church. The Alternate will preside in the absence of the Moderator. In the absence of both, a Moderator will be chosen by ballot. The Moderator and the Alternate Moderator will be elected for terms of three (3) years. For the purposes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the federal government, the Moderator shall function as the President of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH

All committee meetings shall be publicized at least one week in advance, if possible, for transaction of routine business and shall be open to any interested person.

All outgoing committee chairpersons shall call the first meeting of the committee following the Annual Meeting for organizational purposes. At their June meeting, the Church Council shall ascertain that all boards and committees have organized for the coming church year and have elected a chairperson.

All committee chairpersons shall be advised that when a member of their committee has missed three (3) consecutive meetings, they shall contact the member and determine whether he or she is still interested in serving on the committee.

When a member of a committee or board finds it necessary to resign, the resignation should be submitted (preferably in writing) to the chairperson of such committee or board and to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. When a church officer finds it necessary to resign, the resignation should be submitted (preferably in writing) to the chairperson of the Church Council and the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

An ex-officio member of a committee or board is one who is a member by virtue of holding some particular office. Ex-officio members of any board or committee shall not be voting members, nor shall they participate in executive sessions.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The Board of Christian Education (BCE) will, in conjunction with the FCC Pastor(s) and the Board of Deacons, determine the Christian Education goals and objectives of the First Congregational Church of Marshfield (FCC) and will devise a plan for attaining the goals and objectives. In cooperation with FCC staff and the Sunday School Superintendent, the BCE shall regularly evaluate the Christian Education program in order to determine whether it is in alignment with FCC’s Covenant. Throughout that process it will look for ways to enhance existing programs and implement new ones, as appropriate. The BCE will recruit and train Sunday School teachers and assistants as well as an adult nursery care provider, and will also review for appointment, and train, any additional leaders, administrators and directors for other CE programs, including the Youth Fellowships. The BCE may appoint a Librarian.

In the implementation of its duties, the BCE may appoint and be responsible for ad–hoc CE committees (for example, the Youth Fellowship Committee) for which it will provide direction, support and assistance based on input from administrators, assistants, leaders, parents and youth members. Each ad–hoc committee will report to the BCE during each of the BCE’s regularly scheduled meetings.

The BCE will:

1. Decide on and provide a curriculum to be taught in the Sunday School.
2. Conduct CORI checks on all FCC paid personnel and on any chaperones, of youth activities, who are 18 and older.
3. Work with the Pastor and Diaconate as requested to provide assistance with Confirmation and Membership courses.
4. Submit an annual budget to FCC Trustees which underwrites its programs as outlined above.
5. Submit an annual report to the Trustees.

The BCE will be composed of up to nine (9) members, but must have at least five (5) members, in full standing: one–third of whom shall be elected at each FCC Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years or until their successors are chosen. The Pastor(s) and Sunday School Superintendent(s) shall be ex–officio members of the BCE.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE – It will be the responsibility of the Christian Fellowship Committee to promote Christian fellowship and unity within our Church. In order to achieve these goals, the committee will:

- a. Promote Christian fellowship within the existing members and friends of our Church. The committee will report regularly to the Church Council as to its activities.
- b. Advance an awareness of our Church in the community.

The committee will be composed of up to seven (7) members, but must have at least four (4) members, with each serving three–year terms and Ex–Officio members as deemed appropriate.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT – The Board of Christian Education will appoint the Church School Superintendent and will determine the duties of same. The Superintendent may appoint such teachers and assistants as may be deemed necessary for the best interests of the church school, subject to the approval of the Board of Christian Education. The Church School Superintendent position may be a paid position subject to the budget and the vote of the church.

CRADLE ROLL/NURSERY COORDINATOR – It will be the responsibility of the Cradle Roll/Nursery Coordinator to act as a liaison between parents of infants and toddlers and the Board of Christian Education. The Cradle Roll/Nursery Coordinator will enlist and supervise any volunteers deemed necessary to provide care in the nursery during worship service. The Cradle Roll/Nursery Coordinator will communicate at least twice a year with parents of children from birth to age three who have been baptized by the church or who participate regularly. The Cradle Roll/Nursery Coordinator will be a member in full standing of the church serving a three (3) year term. The Cradle Roll/Nursery Coordinator will serve as a member of the Board of Christian Education.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR – The Board of Christian Education will appoint the Youth Fellowship Director. The Board of Christian Education will determine the duties of same. The Youth Fellowship Youth position may be a paid position subject to the budget and the vote of the church.

CHURCH COUNCIL – The Council will be responsible for guiding the mission of FCCM according to our Covenant, including the general planning of all church activities. It is the central channel for communication between all church officers, boards and committees. The membership of the Council will be composed of the Pastor, a representative of each church office, board, committee and group established by the Bylaws, and one Lay Delegate. There will be two (2) Members-at-Large serving two-year terms (one being elected at each Annual Meeting).

The Council will organize itself each year, following the Annual Meeting, electing a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. The Church Council, as the Executive Body, will not have a budget or the authority to direct the expenditure of any funds. In the event there is a conflict between two or more offices, boards, committees or groups of the church that cannot be resolved, then they shall present the conflict to the Council for resolution. The Council then may bring the conflict before a meeting of the church if it deems necessary.

The Council may appoint, at any time, an Audit Committee of no fewer than three (3) members in full standing. The results of the audit will be reported to the Church Council and to the congregation at a Special Meeting, after its appointment. The results of the review must also be posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board for two weeks immediately before the meeting. Upon presentation of the Audit Committee's review at the meeting, the committee will be disbanded.

There will be an annual review of the church membership by a subcommittee of the Council comprised of the Pastor, Financial Secretary, Clerk, and Sunday School Superintendent per the provisions of membership as stated in the Constitution. Its recommendations will be presented to the Council by the March meeting.

THE DIACONATE – The Diaconate, or board of Deacons, will be composed of up to 13 members, but must have at least seven (7) members, in full standing. Any increase in the number of Deacons serving actively on the board should result in an odd numbered total. Deacons serve three-year terms and cannot serve more than two consecutive three year terms without a one year hiatus. Deacons are ordained in their office in order to assist with the performance of sacraments; therefore, a lifetime status as a Deacon is bestowed on its members and recognized even after the completion of an active term. As a result, former members of the board can assist the minister with the performance of sacraments.

The Diaconate assists the Pastor in managing the spiritual affairs of the Church: administering communion; assisting in the sacrament of baptism; conducting pastoral visits to homebound parishioners; spearheading the evangelization of the community, reaching out to the sick, troubled and estranged; and ministering to the edification and comfort of all.

The Diaconate will provide and train ushers for worship services. The Diaconate will work with the Pastor and the Board of Christian Education to provide confirmation membership courses. The Diaconate shall establish and maintain media communications including, but not limited to Internet, television, radio or print media.

The Diaconate may organize or disband subcommittees as needed for matters of their purview including: Worship, Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Communion, Ushers, and media. Said subcommittees should be made up of active members of the board of Deacons.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE – The Endowment Committee shall meet of its own accord or at the request of the Board of Trustees. The committee shall, as outlined in the Rules and Regulations for the Endowment Fund as adopted at the Annual Financial Meeting on January 21, 1990, make recommendations to the Board of Trustees as to the investment of the Endowment Fund.

The committee will be composed of up to five (5) members, but must have at least three (3) members, in full standing, serving three-year terms. Insofar as is possible, the members should be financially oriented.

FLOWER COMMITTEE – This committee will be responsible for the floral tributes for worship services throughout the year. It will also arrange for flowers for such special services as designated by the Diaconate such as baptisms, new members, etc.

The committee will be composed of up to seven (7) members, but must have at least four (4) members, each serving three-year terms. The committee will arrange for such additional membership that they feel is required for the work of the committee.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – The Historical Committee will be responsible for the gathering and caring and storing of all historical and contemporary documents, artifacts, and information that relates to the life of this Church. Insofar as possible, such information should be cataloged and maintained so as to be available for reference by the Church membership.

There will be a minimum of three (3) members, each serving three–year terms. The Clerk will be an Ex–Officio member.

LAY DELEGATES – There will be a lay delegate and a minimum of one (1) alternate lay delegate. The delegate and/or alternate delegate(s) will represent, and vote on behalf of, FCCM at all authorized meetings and conferences attended, of any fellowship of churches following the Congregational Way to which FCCM may belong. They will report back to the church on such meetings.

The delegates will be elected for not more than a single three–year term, such delegates to be active members. The church will reimburse the delegate and/or alternate delegate and the Pastor for expenses incurred in attending such conferences (such reimbursement being restricted to such Pastor, delegates or alternates who attended in an official voting capacity).

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE – The purpose of this committee is to discern how to distribute all contributions, and to raise awareness, for God's people in need, here in America and around the globe. The committee will endeavor to meet the emergency needs of those in the congregation and in our local community as they become known. The committee will also encourage the congregation to put this into action by engaging in missions in both in our community and beyond.

The committee will be composed of up to nine (9) members, but must have a least five (5) members, each serving three-year terms.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The committee will have the responsibility of preparing nominations for all church officers, committee and board members as terms of office expire, with the exception of the Auditor and Church School Superintendent.

The committee will be composed of up to nine (9) members, but must have at least five (5) members, in full standing, serving three–year terms. The membership of the committee will consist of one (1) Diaconate member, one (1) Trustee and up to seven (7) members-at-large, but must have at least three (3) members-at-large.

MUTUAL MINISTRIES REVIEW COMMITTEE – This committee will include the Pastor; one representative from the Board of Trustees, the Diaconate, the Board of Christian Education and the Missions and Community Outreach Committee, each appointed by their respective board or committee annually for a period of up to three years; and two active members–at–large elected by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The committee will meet not less than twice annually to review the progress and effectiveness of the mutual ministries of the Church through its Pastor and ministry groups (Boards, Committees and groups) including the vision and goals established annually by each group and the collective vision and goals of the Congregation. The committee will seek to clarify the expectations of all and to isolate any areas of conflict or disappointment that may be adversely affecting mutual ministry.

The Committee will give biannual reports of their ongoing review to the Church Council. Working with the Board of Trustees, the committee may be asked to provide insight to help guide the Trustees and the Pastor in setting an annual salary for the Pastor.

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE – This Committee will include the Pastor, and five active members appointed annually by the Church Council upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee with input from the Pastor.

The Committee will meet regularly with the Pastor, not less than twice annually, to provide support and encouragement for the Pastor both professionally and personally. In the event that discord occurs between the Pastor and a member or members of the Congregation, the Pastor–Parish Relations Committee will work with the Pastor as his/her representative to mitigate the conflict, and with the Diaconate representing the affected member or members.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE – This Committee will be appointed by the Church Council from the active membership of the Church when a vacancy occurs in the office of Pastor as early as one week after said notice is received. The Committee will be charged with seeking a candidate for the office of Pastor and presenting to the Church the name of the recommended candidate. A Special Congregational Meeting will be called forthwith by the Church Council for the purpose of voting on the candidate. A favorable vote of the Church constitutes a call.

Whereas the Pastor is a church employee, the terms of the call shall be stated in a contract including the agreement of the Church to provide or participate in any benefit, pension or insurance plan and/or agreements. The Pastor, Clerk and each Board and Committee shall receive a copy of the call.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – The committee will be responsible for annually accepting applications from eligible applicants. Eligible applicants are active and attending members or children of active and attending members. The committee will establish the criteria to be used in evaluating applications and such criteria will be made known to the applicants. The committee will review the applications and make the awards using available scholarship funds.

The committee will be composed of up to five (5) members, but must have at least three (3) members, serving three-year terms.

To ensure minimal funding of the Scholarship Fund, the committee may request up to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) annually from the interest earned on the Endowment Fund. Increases in this amount may be allowed by a vote of the Congregation at any regular or special meeting.

GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND COMMITTEE – The committee has the responsibility of managing and administering the Good Neighbor Fund according to its rules and regulations.

There will be a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of nine (9) members on the committee, each serving three-year terms. The majority of the members will hold membership in the First Congregational Church of Marshfield, Inc. The chairperson shall be a member of FCCM.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – This committee will have the responsibility of encouraging the members and friends of our church congregation to share in church life through worship, service and pledges to its fiscal operation and our Christian Mission. It will plan and execute the Annual Stewardship Campaign.

The committee will be composed of up to five (5) members, but must have at least three (3) members, who will be elected at each Annual Meeting for a two-year term. Ex-Officio members of the committee will be the Financial Secretary and the Chairperson of the following: Trustees, Diaconate, and the Missions and Community Outreach Committee.

The Stewardship Campaign shall be initiated no later than the last Sunday in October. The Stewardship Committee shall report the results of the campaign to the Trustees no later than December first.

TRUSTEES – The board will be composed of up to five (5) members, but must have at least three (3) members, in full standing, no more than three of whom shall be elected at each Annual Meeting for a term of three (3) years, or until their successors are chosen. The Treasurer and the Moderator shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees will propose a comprehensive annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year based upon reports and requests in writing from the chairperson of the various church committees and their needs based upon the previous year and projections for the forthcoming year.

The Trustees shall handle investments, gifts and/or bequests. The Trustees shall be entrusted with the care and custody of church property and shall function as its finance committee, but shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer property in excess of \$7,500. in value, without the specific authorization to do so by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a duly called annual, special, or emergency meeting.

ARTICLE V – PASTOR

The Pastor shall promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the welfare of the Church with the assistance and support of the Diaconate and be responsible for the conduct of all meetings of public worship and the administration of the Sacraments. As an *ex-officio* member of boards and committees, the Pastor shall keep a watchful eye over all matters pertaining to the total welfare of the Church, advising and assisting as needed.

The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite period. With 90 days’ notice by either the Pastor or the Church, the election may be terminated unless otherwise waived by consent of the Pastor and the Church, acting through its Board of Trustees. The election may be terminated for cause, which shall be defined as “Willful Misconduct” pursuant to Massachusetts General Law c. 151A sec.25 by a duly called Special Congregational Meeting of the Church.

ARTICLE VI – GENERAL

All paid church staff shall be considered as employees of the church.

All societies, fellowships, or organizations affiliated with this Church shall be under the control of, considered a part of the work of this Church, and shall make written reports to the Annual Meeting. They shall coordinate their program with the Council, keeping it informed and seek its advice.

This Church may join or affiliate itself with local service or ecumenical organizations. Decisions made by such organizations shall not be binding upon this Church except by vote of the congregation at a duly called meeting.

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the, benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees or officers, but the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

Duly enacted by Vote of the Congregation this ___15th___ day of February ___2018.

Clerk

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Assistant Clerk

Assistant Treasurer

Assistant Financial Secretary

Moderator

Alternate Moderator

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MARSHFIELD, INC. CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, The First Congregational Church of Marshfield, Incorporated (hereinafter called FCCM), is a particular church of the Congregational Way.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this corporation shall be The First Congregational Church of Marshfield, Incorporated. It is located in Marshfield, Massachusetts.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The avowed purpose of this church shall be to worship God, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and celebrate the Sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal; to render loving service toward humankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace.

FCCM is organized and shall be operated as a nonprofit corporation solely under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes.

The further purposes of this church are to exercise all rights and powers conferred by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts upon nonprofit corporations, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to acquire by bequest, devise, gift, purchase, lease or otherwise any property of any sort or nature without limitation as to its amount or value, and to hold, invest, reinvest, manage, use, apply, employ, sell, expend, disburse, lease, mortgage, convey, option, donate or otherwise dispose of such property and the income, principal and proceeds of such property, for any of the purposes set forth herein. In addition, to do such other things as are incidental to the purposes of the Corporation, necessary, or desirable in order to accomplish them.

Consistent with the foregoing purposes and subject to all other limitations, restrictions and prohibitions set forth in this Constitution, this corporation shall have all the powers conferred by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to do all and everything necessary, suitable and proper for the accomplishment of the purposes or attainment of the objects herein above set forth either alone or in association with other individuals, corporations or partnerships, including federal, state, county and municipal bodies and authorities; and, in general, to do and perform such acts and transact such business in connection with the foregoing objects not inconsistent with law; provided, however, that the corporation shall not perform any act or transact any business that will jeopardize the tax exempt status of the corporation under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as such Section and regulations now exist or may hereafter be amended or under corresponding laws and regulations hereafter adopted.

ARTICLE III – POLITY

In exercising its governmental autonomy, this church recognizes Jesus Christ as its sole Head, and prays to be His instrument in all its actions.

The government of FCCM is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, subject to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relating to ecclesiastical corporations.

FCCM is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. This church acknowledges and sustains the common goals and mutual cooperation shared among the other churches of the local community and of the Congregational Way.

ARTICLE IV – FAITH AND COVENANT

FAITH – This church acknowledges as its sole head Jesus Christ, the son of God and Savior of all people. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

COVENANT – We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did those who came before, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

ARTICLE V – VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT – Seeking God's word and will by sharing Christ's love through worship, fellowship and mission in the Congregational Way.

ARTICLE VI – RULES OF ORDER

The current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order* (newly revised) shall apply to meetings of Members and committees to the extent that such rules are consistent with the Bylaws and with the rules and policies of the Church Council and above all, The Golden Rule.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any duly called church meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present. Public announcement of the proposed amendment(s) must be made no less than two (2) weeks prior to the meeting by publication in a church mailing and by announcement from the pulpit.

Amendments to the By-laws may be made at any duly called meeting by a majority vote.

ARTICLE VIII – CONDUCT AND REGULATION OF AFFAIRS

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its Members, Trustees or Officers, but the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, distribute all of the assets of the corporation in such manner and to such qualified organizations as the Board of Trustees shall determine. An organization is a "qualified organization" only if at the time of receiving such assets it is operated exclusively for the purposes described in Section 170 (c)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and is described in Section 509 (a)(1),(2), or (3) of said Code. Any of such assets not so distributed shall be distributed as ordered by the court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for the aforesaid purposes of the corporation or to such qualified organization or organizations as said court shall determine.

Ratified and adopted by the Vote of the members of the First Congregational Church of Marshfield, Incorporated this ___15th___ day of ___September_____ 2013 and signed by the officers of the Corporation

Clerk

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Assistant Clerk

Assistant Treasurer

Assistant Financial Secretary

Moderator

Alternate Moderator