

## The Constitution of Plymouth Congregational Church

### United Church of Christ

### Lawrence, Kansas

#### Article I. Name

The name of this Church shall be Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Lawrence, Kansas, commonly known since its organization in 1854 as "Plymouth Church" or "Plymouth."

#### Article II. Purpose

The purpose of Plymouth Church is "to support the worship of God and the work of the Gospel." (Charter of Plymouth Congregational Church, December 14, 1882).

#### Article III. Polity

The governing authority of Plymouth Church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, subject in legal matters to such regulations and obligations as may be required by reason of its incorporation under the laws of the State of Kansas. The membership assembled in a Called Congregational Meeting shall 1.) elect officers, 2.) approve the annual budget, 3.) call the Senior Pastor, and 4.) authorize acquisition, disposition, and mortgaging of real property. These four membership responsibilities are vested in the membership and shall not be delegated.

The governing body of Plymouth Church is Council. The voting members of Council are the trustees of the Church. Council shall ensure implementation of the decisions of the membership. The membership may delegate responsibilities other than the vested responsibilities of the membership to the Council. All acts of Council are subject to the will of the membership.

Plymouth Church is part of the United Church of Christ, and its relationship to that denomination shall be sustained in accordance with those portions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ relating to local churches, originally adopted July 4, 1961, or as later amended.

#### Article IV. Covenant of Faith

The members of Plymouth Church are united by the acceptance of a mutual covenant, which is as follows:

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus, we unite for the worship of God and the service of all. We seek to know the will of God and to walk in God's ways, made known or to be made known to us; to love one another; to proclaim the Gospel to all the world; to work and pray for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of our shared humanity. And we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the gift of life eternal. Amen.

#### Article V. Members

The members of Plymouth Church are those persons who have made public acceptance of the polity and covenant, have been received by Plymouth Church as prescribed in the Bylaws, and participate actively in the life of Plymouth Church.

**Article VI. Bylaws**

The work of Plymouth Church shall be conducted in accordance with Bylaws approved or amended by a majority of the members present and voting at a Called Congregational Meeting having a quorum of 10% of the membership as reported at the most recent Annual Meeting.

**Article VII Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution shall be by two-thirds of the members present and voting at a Called Congregational Meeting having a quorum of 10% of the membership as reported at the most recent Annual Meeting.

**Article VIII. Adoption**

This Constitution is adopted and is effective as of this \_\_\_\_\_.