

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) STERLING, COLORADO

PREAMBLE

AS MEMBERS OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and proclaim Him Lord and Savior of the world. In Christ's name and by His grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people. We rejoice in God, Maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love which binds us to God and one another. Through baptism into Christ we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God. In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ. At the table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ. Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of Scripture. In the bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God, that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end. Blessing, glory, and honor be to God forever, Amen.

(From the Preamble to the Design for the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.)

ARTICLE I

Name, Affiliation, and Purpose

The name of this congregation will be the FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH of Sterling, Colorado. We participate in the cooperative life of our denomination through mutual support of the local, regional, and general organizations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The purpose of this congregation is:

To witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To provide a place of worship.

To establish a program to meet the spiritual needs of people through worship, education, service, and fellowship.

To proclaim in all situations the grace of God in Jesus Christ, thereby seeking in all people a response, a faith, and a desire for commitment to Him.

Our life and work will not be confined to this community but will encourage members to work cooperatively with other congregations and entities to testify to the unity of Christ's Church.

ARTICLE II

Congregation

Section A. Membership

Membership of the church will consist of the following persons:

1. Those who are currently members.
2. Those who will unite by profession of faith in Jesus Christ before members of the congregation, giving expression of their faith through baptism by immersion and personal commitment to Him.
3. Those uniting by transfer from any Christian congregation, making a reaffirmation of their faith and commitment to Christ before members of the congregation. Though we accept all forms of baptism, we administer it by immersion. The minister may use his discretion in extenuating circumstances.

Section B. Active Membership

1. Active membership status will be accorded those members who show concern for the fellowship of the congregation by attendance or financial support within a period of one year, regardless of place of residence.
2. Voting privileges will be accorded to all active members of the congregation who are in attendance at the congregational meeting.

### Section C. Termination of Membership

Names of members will be deleted from the membership records for the following reasons:

1. By a member's request.
2. Upon uniting of the member with another congregation.
3. By death.

### ARTICLE III

#### Incorporation

Established in 1906 and incorporated in September 1949, the church now operates under the provisions of the Colorado Non-profit Corporation Act, (C.R.S. Title 7 Article 20-29).

### ARTICLE IV

All elected/appointed personnel must be members of First Christian Church, Sterling, Colorado.

### ARTICLE V

#### Church Board

The direction of the Church's program and the transaction of the Church's business are vested in the Board. Membership of the Board will consist of the following:

1. Chairperson of congregation as Chairperson of Board
2. Vice-chairperson of congregation as Vice-Chairperson of Board
3. Secretary of congregation as Secretary of the Board
4. Treasurer
5. Chairperson of Elders
6. Chairperson of Diaconate
7. Senior Trustee
8. Chairperson of Christian Education Committee
9. Chairperson of Christian Outreach and Community Service Committee
10. Chairperson of Evangelism Committee
11. Chairperson of Membership Committee
12. Chairperson of Property Committee
13. Chairperson of Stewardship Committee
14. Chairperson of Worship Committee
15. C.W.F. Delegate
16. C.M.F. Delegate
17. Senior Minister (Ex-officio)

A quorum will consist of 11 Board members. The Board will be responsible only to the congregation.

ARTICLE VI

Church Organization

Section A. Committees

The task of administering the program of the church will be delegated to the following Committees:

1. Christian Education
2. Christian Outreach and Community Service
3. Evangelism
4. Membership
5. Property
6. Stewardship
7. Worship

Section B. Auxiliary Groups

Other organizations, such as the Christian Women's Fellowship and Christian Men's Fellowship may be formed under the auspices of the Board if their purpose and activities are consistent with the best interests of First Christian Church, Sterling, Colorado. They will be governed by a constitution and by-laws, adopted by their own group. Their constitutions and by-laws must be approved by the Church Board.

Section C. Special Committees

Special committees will be appointed by the Board Chairperson for assisting in specific needs for the efficient operation of the Church's program when necessary and to serve for an indefinite time period.

Section D. Standing Committees

1. Building Use Committee
2. Memorials Committee
3. Nominating Committee
4. Personnel Committee
5. Scholarship Committee
6. Wills and Bequest Committee

ARTICLE VII

Amendments to Constitution

This Constitution may be repealed or amended or a new Constitution adopted by the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board voting at a regular Board meeting with a pre-announced agenda of the specific proposal. The proposal will then be submitted to the congregation and must be approved by two-thirds of the active members present and voting.

ARTICLE VIII

Effective Date of This Constitution

This Constitution replaces all constitutions previously adopted by the First Christian Church of Sterling, Colorado, and will become effective upon approval of the Congregation.

Date of approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson of the Board)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary of the Congregation)