BYLAWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

of Great Falls, State of Montana

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

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BYLAWS- FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. NAME The name of this church is First Congregational United Church of Christ of Great Falls, State of Montana.

Section 2. PURPOSE The purpose of this church is to worship God, proclaim 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.

ARTICLE II. POLITY AND GOVERNMENT

Section 1. POLITY This church shall be a part of the United Church of Christ, and it shall sustain that relationship to the United Church of Christ described in those portion of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ adopted July 4, 1961, relating to local churches.

Section 2. GOVERNMENT The government of this church is vested in its members, who exercise the ultimate right of control in all its affairs.

ARTICLE III. FAITH AND COVENANT

Section 1. FAITH This church is established to bring its members into fellowship through Christ; to make effective the life of God in the lives of people; to draw into its membership those followers of Christ who seek for themselves, and who accord to others, the right of each to interpret the will of God according to the dictates of their own conscience; to make available, through worship, instruction, and the sacraments, the grace which comes from God; and to advance in every way possible the work of the Church of Christ and to extend the Realm of God among all persons.
One expression of faith is: “STATEMENT OF FAITH”, approved for use by the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in 1981.

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 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.

Section 2. 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 worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did those before us, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Realm of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY

A. Membership Membership in this congregation shall be open to any person who has been baptized and confirmed, or has made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In accordance with the gospel covenant which binds into a unity “faithful people of all ages, tongues and races,” membership is open to all without regard to age, ethnicity, educational background, marital status, socioeconomic status, mental or physical ability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

B. Associate Membership Upon the approval of the Church Council, associate memberships are available to persons who have reason to retain membership in another church. Associate members are allowed to serve on Boards and committees of the church. Associate members have voting privileges with the exception of calling or releasing a pastor, buying or selling property, or leaving the denomination. Associate members may not serve as a Church Council member or a church officer. Associate members will be reported to Conference and National as members and will be counted in church membership in regards to payment of dues.
C. Membership can be obtained through any of the following:

i. Confession of Faith: transfer from another denomination

ii. Re-affirmation of faith: joining First Congregational United Church of Christ of Great Falls after having been an inactive member of another United Church of Christ congregation

iii. Letter of Transfer: transferring as an active member from another United Church of Christ congregation

iv. Re-instatement of Membership: reinstating previous membership at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Great Falls

Section 2. DUTIES

Members shall pledge themselves to attend the services 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 give systematically to its support and benevolences; and to seek diligently the spiritual welfare of all the members and of the community.

Section 3. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A. A Letter of Transfer Any member may, on request, be granted a letter of transfer to a congregation within the United Church of Christ.

B. Certificate of Church Membership If wishing to join a congregation outside of the United Church of Christ, the member may be released with a certificate of church membership.

C. Letter of Release If a member requests in writing to be released from membership, the church shall patiently endeavor to continue to minister to the member in understanding fellowship, but failing in such effort, the church may grant the request and terminate membership. Such a request shall be approved by the Church Council, and the Clerk shall issue the appropriate letter of release.

D. Removal A member who, for a period of one year, in spite of attempts to minister spiritual care, has not attended the church’s worship or contributed to its support may by recommendation of the Church Growth and Vitality Board and vote of the Church Council, be removed from the membership roll and placed on an inactive list. If
possible, the Church Council will inform the member of this action and communicate that they will be welcome to attend and participate but will no longer have voting privileges and may re-activate membership at any time. If, after the expiration of a second year, the relationship remains unchanged, the name may be removed from church rolls by a further vote of the Church Council. Inactive members will not be included as members on reports to Conference and National documents and will not be counted in church membership in regards to payment of dues.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of this church shall be the active membership assembled in a properly noticed Annual or Special church meeting.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS, VOTING, QUORUM

Section 1. CHURCH YEAR The Church year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Section 2. CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

A. Annual Meetings The Annual Meeting shall be held in January. Annual reports shall be received at this meeting; officers and board members shall be elected and other business conducted as necessary.

B. Special Meetings Special meetings may be called by the Moderator, Minister, Church Council, written request of any permanent board, or any 24 members of the church. Notice of such meeting will be given according to Article VI, Section 3.

Section 3. NOTICE OF MEETING Notice of the place, day, and hour of an Annual or Special Meeting must be given by announcement from the pulpit at the regular worship service on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting date and in writing delivered personally or mailed to the members at their most recent addresses appearing in the church records not less than five days prior to the meeting date. Notice
of a special meeting must include a statement of the purpose for which the meeting is called.

Section 4. VOTING
A. Each member, as determined from the membership roll, is entitled to one vote which may be cast by the member only when personally present or virtually attending via real-time technology (Skype, Zoom, Facetime, etc.) at a meeting. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on a matter to be voted upon by the members at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for the adoption thereof.

B. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Section 5. QUORUM Ten percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings of the membership.

Section 6. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the church in all instances in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Section 7. NON-BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES No church expenditures except those within the current budget shall be made unless first submitted to the Business Affairs Board and then approved by the Church Council.

ARTICLE VII. CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 1. The Church Council shall be the executive body of this church. It shall serve as the interim governing body of the church between meetings of the congregation. All acts and deliberations of the Council are subject to the will of and revision by the
membership. It shall meet regularly. All meetings shall be open to any member of the
congregation who shall have a voice but not a vote.

Section 2. **CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

1. Moderator
2. Vice-Moderator
3. Clerk
4. Treasurer
5. Youth Representative
6. Chairperson or designee of Business Affairs Board
7. Chairperson or designee of Christian Education Board
8. Chairperson or designee of Christian Service Board
9. Chairperson or designee of Church Growth and Vitality Board
10. Chairperson or designee of Fellowship Board
11. Chairperson or designee of Worship Board
12. Chairperson or designee of Stewardship Board
13. Member-at-large
14. Member-at-large

*The following members of the Church Council will have a voice but not a vote:*

15. Minister, or acting minister
16. Associate minister, if any
17. Christian Education Coordinator, if any
19. Parish Health Nurse, if any
20. Memorial Corporation Chairperson or designee
21. Joint Facilities Committee Representative

Section 3. **QUORUM** One half of the Church Council voting members shall constitute a
quorum. Three members of the quorum must be Board Chairpersons or designees.

Section 4. **ELECTION** Church Council officers (moderator, vice-moderator, clerk, and
treasurer) shall be elected for a two-year term to begin the first day of the church year.
They shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. They shall be ineligible for re-election to the same office for a period of two years after expiration of a second term. The Members-at-large and the Youth Representative shall serve a one-year term but may be eligible for a second term.

Section 5. ATTENDANCE When a member of the Church Council has missed two consecutive Church Council meetings during any church year without excuse or has not provided for representation from the Board on which they serve, the member shall be notified in writing that a third un-excused absence may result in suspension from office upon a 2/3 vote of the Church Council. The Moderator shall also call upon the member to discuss reactivation.

Section 6. DUTIES
A. Planning The Church Council shall annually be responsible for recommending specific goals to be pursued by the congregation during the year. It shall also be responsible for long-range planning in the life and work of the church. Each goal should seek to further the formal purpose of the church as defined in Article 1.

B. Fiscal The Council shall, subject to congregational direction, be the executive body and shall transact the business of the church, determine and make provision for raising funds for the current budget, and provide for the auditing of financial accounts. The Council shall instruct the proper officers and boards on all fiscal matters. The Council shall consider and approve or disapprove all recommendations from the Business Affairs Board of expenditures not otherwise permitted within the current annual budget.

C. Budget The Council shall review and present the budget proposal and recommend acceptance to the congregation.

D. Records and Property The Council shall keep a complete and accurate record of its proceedings, be the custodian of all church records, and report to the church at its
congregational meetings. It shall review at least annually the recommendations of the Church Growth and Vitality Board regarding changes in the members who, because of prolonged absence or indifference, are to be placed on the Inactive Member Roll or removed from the church’s rolls. It shall have the care and custody of the real and personal property of the church in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws.

E. Grievances The Council shall act as a sounding board for grievances expressed by church members.

F. Personnel Actions The Council shall have final responsibility for all personnel actions.

G. Call of Meetings The Council may call special congregational meetings.

H. Appointments The Council shall appoint members as delegates and representatives and shall create such temporary committees as it may deem necessary.

I. Evaluation and Recommendation The Church Council at its final meeting each year shall make an evaluation of the past year and formulate recommendations for the coming year.

J. Filling of Vacancies The Church Council shall, by appointment, fill any vacancies on the Permanent Boards of the church and the Church Council for the unexpired term giving due consideration to such recommendation as may be received from the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

Section 1. TITLES AND QUALIFICATIONS The officers of the church shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected for
a term of two years and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. All officers must be members of the church.

Section 2. **MODERATOR** The Moderator shall be recognized as the President of the congregation and shall be responsible for the administration of its business. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Council and at all official business meetings of the church; shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the church; shall motivate and coordinate efforts of boards with the objective of reaching established goals; shall keep the Minister informed of significant conditions encountered in the pursuit of the Moderator’s responsibilities; shall maintain effective communication with the Vice-Moderator on matters pertaining to the above responsibilities. The Moderator shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Moderator shall serve as a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Section 3. **VICE-MODERATOR** The Vice-Moderator shall share with the Moderator the administrative responsibilities of the church. The Vice-Moderator shall share the Moderator’s responsibility as an ex-officio member of all boards and committees. The Vice-Moderator shall preside in absence of the Moderator. The Vice-Moderator shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Vice Moderator shall serve as a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Section 4. **CLERK** The Clerk shall serve as Secretary of the Congregation and of the Church Council. The Clerk is the custodian of all original documents and records pertaining to the organization and government of the church. The Clerk will give notice of Annual and Special Meetings of the congregation; and perform such other duties required of this office or as may be delegated to the Clerk by members of the Church Council. The Church Council, upon consultation with the Clerk, may appoint or designate such acting or assistant clerks as are necessary for the performance of these duties. The Clerk shall be elected in even-numbered years.
Section 5. **TREASURER** The Treasurer shall oversee the receipt and acknowledgment of all funds, pledges, and contributions to the church, and give a receipt therefore; supervise such records of pledges and contributions to the support of the church as may be appropriate to keep the Church Council and Business Affairs Board correctly informed. On a monthly basis, the Treasurer shall check the monthly financial reports, confirming the accuracy of all accounts being used for additions and disbursements and directing transfers of funds as necessary. The Treasurer shall furnish a report at each Annual Meeting and from time to time, as requested, to the Church Council or Business Affairs Board and perform such other duties required of this office or as delegated by the members of the Church Council.

The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee and as an ex-officio member of the Business Affairs Board. The Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Section 6. **OTHER OFFICERS** The Church Council may appoint such assistant or acting officers as it deems necessary.

**ARTICLE IX. MINISTER AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Section 1. **MINISTER**

A. **Election and Call** When a vacancy occurs in the pastorate, the Church Council shall appoint a Pastoral Call Committee which shall then proceed in consultation with the Conference Executive to find a minister who in their judgment should be called to be pastorate; introduce the candidate to the church; and, at a duly called business meeting of the church, propose election and call. Election shall require the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present and entitled to vote.

B. **Tenure of Office** The Minister shall be elected for an indefinite period. In order to terminate this relationship, ninety days’ notice shall be given by either party, unless by mutual consent the relationship is sooner terminated. When either party desires to
terminate the relationship, the termination shall be by action of the congregation upon recommendation of the Church Council at a duly called meeting. Termination shall require the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present and entitled to vote.

C. Duties With the assistance of the Church Council, the boards and congregation, the Minister shall be in charge of the spiritual welfare of the church. The Minister shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees. The Minister shall plan and prepare worship services, preach the gospel, administer the sacraments, and coordinate the activities of the church in cooperation with the Church Council and the boards. The Minister shall act as the supervisor of all personnel. Specific duties may be directed, or altered by resolution of the Church Council, and shall be reported annually to the membership.

Section 2. ASSOCIATE MINISTER

A. Election and Call One or more Associate Ministers may be elected by following the same procedure set forth in Article IX, Section 1, above, in consultation with the Minister.

B. Tenure of Office The Associate Minister shall be elected for an indefinite period. In order to terminate this relationship, ninety days’ notice shall be given by either party, unless by mutual consent the relationship is sooner terminated. When either party desires to terminate the relationship, the termination shall be by action of the congregation upon recommendation of the Church Council at a duly called meeting. Termination shall require the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present and entitled to vote.

C. Duties The duties of an Associate Minister shall be such as the Church Council in consultation with the Minister shall determine.
ARTICLE X. PERMANENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. NAMES AND PURPOSE  There shall be the following seven (7) Permanent Boards:

1. Business Affairs Board
2. Christian Education Board
3. Christian Service Board
4. Church Growth and Vitality Board
5. Fellowship Board
6. Worship Board
7. Stewardship Board

These boards shall serve as advisors to the Church Council and be immediate supervisors of the programs and activities of the church falling within the scope of their respective duties. All boards are strongly encouraged to draw from the broader membership of the church to assist in carrying out the mission and ministry of the church.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP AND TENURE  Each board shall have a minimum of five (5) and no more than eleven (11) members, one of whom is to be elected as Chairperson. The chairperson or designee shall be a member of the Church Council. Each must be a member of the church. Board members shall be elected for a three-year term.

Section 3. ELECTION  Board members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting from nominations presented by the Nominating Committee and such nominations as are made from the floor, for one three-year term beginning with the first board meeting following installation at the annual meeting. Their terms shall be staggered, with approximately 1/3 of the members of each board being elected each year. Board members shall serve no more than two consecutive terms and shall be ineligible for re-election to the same board for one (1) year following their term.
Section 4. **COMMON DUTIES**

A. It shall be the duty of each board to cooperate with any other board or boards on any matter of mutual concern.

B. It shall be the duty of all boards to evaluate their work throughout the year. At the end of each year, each board shall make recommendations to the incoming boards and the Church Council and submit a report for the Annual Meeting.

C. It shall be the privilege of all boards to create and disband task force groups and committees as necessary with the approval of the Church Council.

D. Each board shall authorize vouchers for payment of proper expenses of that board.

E. Each board shall propose its own budget for the forthcoming year and submit it to the Business Affairs Board.

F. When a member of a Church board has missed three consecutive board meetings without excuse during any church year, the member may be notified in writing that a fourth un-excused absence may result in suspension from office upon a 2/3 vote of the Church Council. The Moderator may also call upon the member to discuss reactivation.

G. One-half of the board voting members shall constitute a quorum.

H. Provide education pertaining to their programs and offerings.

Section 5. **BUSINESS AFFAIRS BOARD** The duties of the Business Affairs Board shall be:

A. Review and verify vouchers authorized by boards;

B. Oversee financial resources;

C. Provide tellers for church services;

D. Coordinate the capital improvements of the church property in cooperation with the Joint Facilities Committee as appropriate.

E. Ensure and oversee risk management of the church;

F. Set salaries for all paid personnel upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee;

G. Compile the final budget for presentation to the Council;
H. Consider and approve for recommendation to the Church Council all expenditures
not otherwise permitted within the current annual budget.

J. Responsible for retaining appropriate accounting services.
The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of this board.

Section 6. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD The duties of the Christian Education
Board shall be:
A. Develop programs and staff for lifespan Christian education of youth and children;
B. Coordinate young adult and adult education programs and fellowship;
C. Coordinate inter-generational gatherings;
D. Plan and implement Christian Education programs with Christ United Methodist
   Church when suitable;
E. Oversee the nursery.
The Christian Education Coordinator shall be an ex-officio member of this board.

Section 7. CHRISTIAN SERVICE BOARD The duties of the Christian Service Board
shall be:
A. Submit recommendations for the benevolence budget;
B. Recommend and promote the special offerings;
C. Encourage ecumenical cooperation;
D. Identify and consider responses to needs within the church and community;
E. Organize Christian service activities for the membership.

Section 8. CHURCH GROWTH AND VITALITY BOARD The duties of the Church
Growth and Vitality Board shall be:
A. Assist the Minister with Inquirers’ classes for prospective members;
B. Recruit and encourage active participation of new members;
C. Retain existing members;
D. Review church membership rolls;
E. Develop community awareness of our local congregation, its activities, and
   objectives.
F. Secure greeters for Sunday morning worship.

Section 9. FELLOWSHIP BOARD The duties of the Fellowship Board shall be:

A. Plan and coordinate church social events;
B. Oversee the offering of fellowship following worship and other appropriate times.
C. Assist other Boards in matters of offering fellowship throughout the church’s programming as suitable.

Section 10. WORSHIP BOARD The duties of the Worship Board shall be:

A. Arrange for ushers and other worship leadership for the assistance at services of worship;
B. Prepare and serve communion;
C. Supply the pulpit in the absence of the minister;
D. Make recommendations for the planning of worship and festival observances.
E. The chair of the Worship Board or his or her designee shall serve as a member on the Pastoral Relations Committee.
The Director of the Chancel Choir shall be an ex-officio member of this board.

Section 11. STEWARDSHIP BOARD The duties of the Stewardship Board shall be:

A. Oversee the planning and implementing of an annual Stewardship Campaign to encourage church members to make an annual financial pledge. The Stewardship Campaign shall be conducted prior to the development of an annual budget.
B. Oversee a process through which church members can regularly indicate their interests in giving of their time and talents for the mission and ministry of the church.

Section 12. JOINT FACILITIES COMMITTEE The Joint Facilities Committee is the governing body established by the Reciprocal Use Agreement dated June 8, 1975, and revised on December 17, 2018 between the Christ United Methodist Church of Great Falls, Montana, and First Congregational United Church of Christ of Great Falls, Montana, which provides generally for the joint maintenance and care of the facilities of
the two congregations located on Ninth Avenue South between 29th and 30th Streets in Great Falls, Montana. The make-up of the committee shall be as provided in that agreement and currently consists of four voting members from each of the two congregations and one minister from each congregation as ex-officio members. The voting members under that agreement serve a three-year staggered term with one member from each congregation selected each year for two years and two members selected the third year of the cycle. First Congregational United Church of Christ Committee members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting from nominations presented by the Nominating Committee and such nominations as made from the floor.

The committee shall report to the Church Council as directed.

Section 12. PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE A Pastoral Relations Committee shall consist of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, and Chairperson of the Worship Board. For one year following the installation of a new minister an additional member shall be chosen by the Church Council from the Pastoral Call Committee to serve as a member of this Committee. The Moderator shall serve as chairperson of this committee. This committee shall meet at least four times a year and such other times as may be deemed necessary by any committee member.

The committee shall have as its duties:

A. Advise and support the Minister(s);
B. Provide a means of communication for member(s) to Minister(s);
C. Function as a mediating body in instances of conflict involving staff or members of the congregation;
D. Provide guidance for the professional development and continuing education of the Minister(s);
E. Make recommendations for Ministerial compensation and benefits to the Business Affairs Board and the Church Council.
This committee shall evaluate the performance of the Minister(s) annually, report their evaluations, and make recommendations to the Church Council.

Section 13. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** The Personnel Committee shall consist of the Vice-Moderator and representatives as appointed by the Church Council from Business Affairs Board, Christian Education Board, Joint Facilities Committee, and Worship Board. The Vice-Moderator shall serve as chairperson. The committee shall establish and coordinate personnel policies for all church staff.

The committee shall have the following duties relating to all staff exclusive of the Minister(s):

A. Prepare and make recommendations for compensation and benefits to the Business Affairs Board and the Church Council;
B. Supervise the hiring process and make recommendations to the Church Council;
C. Hear any personnel grievances and recommend appropriate action to the Church Council;
D. Recommend any disciplinary or termination actions to the Church Council.

Section 14. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** The chairperson of each of the seven boards shall appoint from that board one member to serve on a Nominating Committee. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall be one of the Council Members-at-Large as determined by the Church Council. The Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Minister, and Christian Education Coordinator shall serve as ex-officio members of this committee.

The duties of the Nominating Committee shall be:

A. Select candidates to fill vacancies for Church Officers, Council Members-at-large, Youth Representative, and board members;
B. Select candidates for the Board of Directors of the Memorial Fund Corporation;
C. Present these candidates as a single slate to the Annual Meeting of the Church and the Memorial Fund Corporation, respectively.
ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENT

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed at any Annual Meeting or Special Meeting called for that purpose upon the vote of 2/3 of the members present and entitled to vote or 2/3 of the votes actually cast in a mail ballot as herein provided.

ARTICLE XII. GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Non-designated, non-memorial gifts shall be referred to the Business Affairs Board for determination of use. Memorials to this Church, other than those pledged or designated to defray its operating budget, shall first be referred to the Memorial Fund, First Congregational Church, Great Falls, Montana, (hereinafter the Memorial Fund) for review prior to acceptance. The Memorial Fund Board shall, after appropriate consultation with the Joint Facilities Committee, make its recommendation to the Church Council regarding the appropriateness of the proposed tangible gift or memorial and the manner in which it may be received or declined. The Memorial Fund shall generally take title to and be the repository for all gifts to this Church other than:

A. Certain tangible gifts relating to the church building, title to which is more appropriately taken in the name of this Church; and

B. Gifts pledged or designated to defray the operating budget of this Church.

ARTICLE XIII. TRANSITION

Upon adoption of these Bylaws, the Church Council shall designate the terms for Board members as may be necessary to accomplish the required staggering of terms.