

**CONSTITUTION
OF
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT
(United Church of Christ)**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this church shall be The First Congregational Church of Guilford, Inc., located in the Town of Guilford, State of Connecticut.

This church was organized after the Congregational Way in 1643. It was incorporated in 1921 according to the laws of Connecticut. In May 1961 the church voted to become a member of the United Church of Christ.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

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

**ARTICLE III
POLITY**

The government of this church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs and who pledge to share the common aims and work of the United Church of Christ.

**ARTICLE IV
FAITH AND COVENANT**

Faith. This church acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. 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, it recognizes two Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

Covenant. In accordance with the Congregational Way we join ourselves together by covenant.

We covenant with the Lord and one with another and doe bynd ourselves in the presence of God, to walke together in all his waies, according as he is pleased to reveale himself unto us in his blessed word of truth. (Salem Covenant, 1629)

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Membership in First Church shall be open to any person who has been baptized, has been confirmed, or has made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Members shall own the Salem Covenant (1629) stated in Article IV. Members shall also pledge themselves to attend 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.

ARTICLE VI DISSOLUTION

This church and its property shall be forever devoted to religious purposes. No officer, member or employee thereof shall receive any pecuniary profit from this church except reasonable compensation for services rendered. In the event of the dissolution of this church, its property shall become vested in, and its functions as trustee shall be assumed by such church or other institution which is organized and operated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes as the membership of this church shall designate at a meeting called before the said dissolution, or, in the absence of such determination, as the Superior Court of the County of New Haven (or whatever court may have jurisdiction) shall determine.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be altered, amended or repealed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at any annual church meeting or at a special church meeting called for the purpose, such modifications having been announced in the call of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII VALIDATION

This Constitution shall become effective upon adoption by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at any annual church meeting or at a special church meeting called for the purpose, due notice having been given in the call of the meeting.