

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(aka The Little Stone Church)

Adopted August 18, 1982
Amended August 13, 2000

First, the name assumed by this corporation and by which it shall be known in law is Union Congregational Church (aka The Little Stone Church).

Second, the location and principal place of worship shall be in the city of Mackinac Island, Mackinac County, Michigan. The mailing address of the registered office is Mackinac Island Michigan, 49757.

Third, the time for which said corporation shall be created shall be perpetual.

Fourth, the members of said church shall worship and labor together according to the general practices of Congregational Churches, although not bound to follow any precedent. The church is affiliated with the Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches and the National Association of Congregation Churches.

Fifth, the membership shall consist of those persons who have been received into the church by confession of faith and baptism, by renewal of covenant or by letter from other Christian churches, and are accepted by the membership and publicly welcomed into its fellowship.

Sixth, the activities of this Church shall be carried on in conformance with all applicable laws of the State of Michigan and of the United States, including all provisions of the Internal Revenue code and amendments thereto, and to the end that all contributions to this Church, in any form, shall be exempt from taxation (income, gift or estate) either to the Church or the donor.

BYLAWS OF UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
(aka THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH)

Adopted August 18, 1982
Amended August 11, 1985
Amended August 31, 1986
Amended September 17, 1989
Amended August 18, 1991
Amended August 13, 2000
Amended August 18, 2002
Amended August 15, 2010

Article I STATEMENT OF FAITH AND CONVENANT

This church recognizes the Bible as the sufficient rule of faith and practice, and holds that living in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ is the true test of fellowship. Each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the Word of God according to the dictates of his/her own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. The following statement of faith therefore is not a test but an expression of the spirit in which the church interprets the Word of God.

FAITH: We believe in God, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again and lives evermore; and in the Holy Spirit who comforts us and empowers us, and leads us into truth.

CONVENANT: We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scripture, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, make known or to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all humankind, Exalting the worship of the one true God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human kinship. Depending as did our forebears upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truths, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God; and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

Article II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall consist of two (2) classes:

- (a) Members
- (b) Associate Members

Section 2. A candidate for membership may be approved by the Executive Board at its next meeting. Baptized persons are received by confession of faith, letter of transfer or renewal of covenant, and give assent to the Covenant of the Church as stated in Article I, and are publicly welcomed by the Church into its fellowship.

- (a) Only members who have attained the age of 18 shall have the right to vote on issues involving the acquisition and disposition of property.
- (b) All members who attained the age of 13 years (the normal age of confirmation) may vote on all other matters.

Section 3. Associate membership shall consist of those who are members in good standing of other Christian Churches but are desirous of a closer affiliation with the Union Congregational Church. Associate Members shall have all the rights and duties of Members except the right of a letter of transfer to another church. They become Association Members upon acceptance by the membership, and by the same procedure as outlined in Article II, Section 2.

Section 4. Termination of Membership

- (a) Membership may be terminated in the following ways:
 - (1) Letter of recommendation and transfer to another church may be granted.
 - (2) Any member who for reasons satisfactory to the membership desires to withdraw his or her name from the Church Roll, may have such permission.
 - (3) Members who for any reason have not actively participated in the life of the church for a sustained period may be contacted by the Executive Board and by consent or failure to respond have their names moved to the inactive list.
 - (4) All requests for transfer or dismissal must be in writing and submitted to the Moderator or any member of the Executive Board. Such Transactions must be reported at the next congregational meeting.

Articles III OFFICERS

Section 1. Minister

- (a) The minister shall guide the spiritual welfare of the congregation, shall preach the Word, and shall be a member ex-officio of the Executive Board and all committees.
- (b) The Minister may be called on the recommendation of the Pastoral/Search Committee and approval of a majority vote of the members.
 - (1) The Minister shall confer with the Moderator about continuing, prior to the last Executive Board meeting before the annual membership meeting.
 - (2) Cause for non-renewal or termination will be reviewed by the Pastoral/Search Committee on request. The committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Board. The Executive Board may request a vote of the membership.

Section 2. Moderator

- (a) The Moderator shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year.
- (b) The Moderator shall chair all meetings of the Church and the Executive Board.
- (c) The Moderator shall serve year-round as executive officer of the Church carrying out the will of the Executive Board and membership.
- (d) As coordinating lay officer of the Church, the Moderator shall be responsible for the administration of these bylaws.
- (e) The Moderator shall be a member ex-officio of all committees.
- (f) The Moderator shall execute upon authorization by the Executive Board any and all documents required in connection with acquisition and transfer of properties.
- (g) The Moderator shall appoint committees subject to the review and approval of the Executive Board. These committees are responsible to the Executive Board and when possible each committee shall have a member of the Executive Board on the committee.

Section 3. Clerk

- (a) The Clerk shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year.
- (b) The Clerk shall keep a complete record of all transactions of all business meetings of the Church and its Executive Board.
- (c) The Clerk shall maintain a register of all Members and Associate Members with dates of admission, transfer or death. The Clerk shall also maintain a register of baptisms and marriages.
- (d) The Clerk shall issue a letter of transfer upon a written request.
- (e) The Clerk shall conduct correspondence for the Church and perform other duties usually pertaining to the office of a secretary.

Section 4. Treasurer

- (a) The Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year, and shall remain in office until a successor is elected.
- (b) The Treasurer shall have custody of all financial records, documents, title papers, insurance and investment certificates. All documents of importance shall be kept in a safe box or fire-proof box.
- (c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt of all monies and the disbursement of all budgeted funds. An unbudgeted item up to \$5,000 must be approved by the Executive Board; over \$5,000, approved by the membership.
- (d) The Treasurer shall prepare a budget to be considered at the annual meeting.
- (e) The Treasurer of Investment Committee Chairman shall annually review the stock portfolio of the Church with the Executive Board and execute the Executive Board's recommended action. No individual has the authority to assume control of the stock portfolio, nor change the proportions of fixed income, equity and cash/cash equivalent without majority approval of the Executive Board.
- (f) In the absence or temporary incapacity in the office of Moderator, the Treasurer shall act in place of the Moderator.

Article IV EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of 7 members, the three officers of the Church (Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer) and 4 additional members. The Moderator shall act as chairperson.
- Section 2. The Executive Board shall visualize the entire task of the Church and represent the membership in routine matters between church meetings.
- Section 3. The Executive Board shall meet at least monthly, May through September, at a time designated by the Moderator.
- (a) Any 3 members of the Executive Board may petition the Moderator to call a meeting.
 - (b) A quorum shall be 4 members.
- Section 4. The Executive Board shall call an annual meeting to be held in August and inform all the members 4 Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.
- Section 5. The duties of the Executive Board shall include, but not be limited to:
- (a) Providing for church sacraments.
 - (b) Recruiting candidates for Membership or Associate Membership.
 - (c) Providing for music and ushers for worship services.
 - (d) Handling all secular business matters including the supervision of church property. It shall have the power to borrow, but shall have no power to buy, sell, lease, transfer or mortgage real estate without specific authority by vote of the members who have attained the age of 18.
 - (e) Employing, discharging and fixing compensation for church staff other than the minister.
 - (f) Appointing a qualified person to audit the Treasurer's books annually.
 - (g) Seeking a candidate to serve as Minister, and if possible recommending him/her to the Annual Meeting for the following summer.
 - (h) Appointing committees when the need arises. These committees are responsible to the Executive Board and when possible each committee shall have a member of the Executive Board on the committee.
 - (i) Filling any vacancy which shall arise in the Executive Board.

Section 6. The Executive Board of the Congregational Church is established to implement the intent of the membership in the operation of the Church and its functions. The Executive Board of the Little Stone Church shall be subject to the authority of the church membership in all matters.

Article V MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Church shall be held during the month of August.

- (a) The Executive Board shall establish each year the exact date and shall inform the members four (4) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.
- (b) Necessary annual reports of the Treasurer, other officers and committee chairpersons shall be presented.
- (c) Election of officers for the coming year shall be held.
- (d) Proposed budget for the coming year will be presented, discussed, modified if warranted and adopted by the members.

Section 2. Special Business Meetings

- (a) The Minister, upon request of the Executive Board, shall call from the pulpit special business meetings, the particular purpose of each meeting being clearly stated in the notice.
- (b) Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board through notices given by the Clerk.
- (c) Special meetings of the Church shall be called by the Moderator upon written application of any five members specifying the purpose of the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall be read at two (2) successive Sunday services prior to the meeting date.
- (d) The Executive Board during off-season may confer via postal service or electronic means with written votes sent by mail, by phone conference where the roll call will be taken and votes recorded.
- (e) Appointed Church Committees may follow this procedure off-season.

Section 3. In all matters of business a majority vote of membership present who qualify under Article II, Section 2, and Section 3 shall rule.

Section 4. A mail ballot will be considered valid duly authorized by the Executive Board or membership.

Section 5. All meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition.

Article VI NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Nominating Committee for the following year shall be appointed by the Moderator for a 1-year term at the Annual Meeting after the election of officers and four additional members for Executive Board for the next year has been held. The committee shall consist of at least three (3) members.

(a) The committee shall make a report of consenting nominees for the offices of Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and four additional members at the Annual Meeting the following year.

(b) This shall not in any way prevent additional nominations from being made from the floor of the meeting itself.

Article VII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Articles of Association and Bylaws substitute and displace any and all constitutions, bylaws and special rules before enacted, and are the sole basis of authority in and over this Church.

Section 2. These Articles of Association and Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at an Annual Meeting of the Church or at any meeting especially called for that purpose, providing in either case that notice of the same shall be given at least two (2) Sundays previous to the meeting.

Article VIII CHURCH PROPERTY

- Section 1. The Church may in its corporate name sue or be sued, acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise and own, hold, invest, reinvest or dispose of property both real and personal, for such work as the Church may undertake and may purchase, own, receive, hold, manage, care for and transfer, rent, lease, mortgage or otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property for the general purpose of the Church; it may receive and hold in trust both real and personal property and invest and reinvest the same and make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Church.
- Section 2. Upon dissolution of the Church its assets and all property and interest of which it shall then be possessed, including any devise, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust, or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be transferred as determined by a two-thirds vote of the active members. The transfer, however, shall be made only to a charitable organization. A special meeting of the members shall be called for the purpose of voting upon such transfer. If the necessary two-thirds majority vote needed cannot be attained, either in person or by written proxy, the meeting shall adjourn and all property and interest of this Church shall be transferred to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Original Constitutional Committee: Robert Benjamin, (chairman), Dr. Britton, Lorabeth Fitzgerald, Alice Sawyer and Anna Timmons.