

CONSTITUTION for
Chestnut Hill Church United Church of Christ

Name

The name of this corporation is Chestnut Hill Church of the United Church of Christ, located at 6870 Chestnut Hill Church Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036.

Purpose, Vision, Mission

Our purpose is to:

- Worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the sacraments
- Realize Christian fellowship and unity within the Church and the Church Universal
- Render loving service toward mankind
- Strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

Vision:

Chestnut Hill Church UCC is a

Compassionate

Helping

Community

Faithfully serving God and our neighbors

Mission:

Chestnut Hill Church UCC is to worship, minister, and share the gifts of the Spirit with one another and the community.

Denominational Affiliation

This church is a member of the United Church of Christ.

Membership Requirements

Full voting membership at Chestnut Hill Church UCC is a covenantal partner who has been baptized or professed their faith and covenanted to do the work of the Church in accordance with current bylaws.

Organization

We are Chestnut Hill Church United Church of Christ, a community of faith organized in the state of Pennsylvania, serving the communities of Limeport, Coopersburg, Emmaus, and beyond. Our Church, incorporated on September 20, 1992, works and serves as Christ's hands and feet using our time, talents, and gifts to advance God's word into all the world. We strive to create a space where all are welcomed, and all may find safety, comfort, and rest in our midst. We achieve all this by prayerfully considering how God influences our lives and living out the command to love one another.

Property Rights

The Church may in its corporate name sue or be sued, acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise 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; may receive and hold on trust both real and personal property and invest and reinvest the same and make any contracts for promoting the objects and purpose of the Church.

Upon dissolution of the Church, its assets and all property and interests of which it shall then own, including any devise, bequest, gift, previously designated funds, or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be distributed or transferred based on the recommendations of the Church Council and accepted by a two-thirds vote of active members present at a duly called Congregational Meeting. At no point shall any property owned by Chestnut Hill Church UCC be distributed to the individual members of the Congregation. According to the Internal Revenue Service regulations, if there is not a specific disavowal that the assets on dissolution will be distributed to the membership, the Church will not qualify as an exempt organization.

Decision-making

Governing Body: The governing body of the organization shall consist of the voting membership in good standing as defined in the organization's bylaws.

Church Council: Church Council shall have primary responsibility for making all business decisions related to the organization between annual congregational meetings for all things not needing specific congregational approval.

Nominations and Elections: Nominations to Church Council shall be made from the floor at an Annual Congregational Meeting.

Meeting requirements: The Congregation shall meet at least once a year in the fall to discuss and approve the annual budget for the following year and at least once in the winter/early spring to hold nominations and elections of new Council members. In addition, other congregational meetings can be called as outlined in our bylaws.

Quorums: The definition of a quorum is, at a minimum, 10 percent of active members in good standing as defined in the organization's bylaws

Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by this Constitution.

Amendment Processes

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any duly called Congregational Meeting. All such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Church Council. Such proposed amendments will then be submitted by mail to all active members in good standing by electronic or physical mail at least one month prior to such called meeting and the meeting shall be announced by the Pastor on two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. For the amendments to become a part of the Constitution, a two-thirds affirmative vote of the active membership present shall be required.

This Constitution shall replace all Constitutions previously in effect and shall become effective upon the approval of the Congregation at a duly called Congregational Meeting.

Approved by the Congregation of Chestnut Hill Church UCC on February 16, 2020.