

## Christ Methodist Church Of Sikeston

Whereas we, being an incorporate body of people of like faith:

1. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life through His death and the power of His resurrection.
2. Believe the Bible to be God's word and the revelation of His will to man and accept it as our rule for faith and conduct.
3. Believe Christian fellowship, mutual edification and evangelical effort, in the form of the local church, is God's ordained order for His people.
4. Believe each church is to assemble together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, and the work of the ministry.
5. Believe each church should exercise the gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament to obtain the Christian goal, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect."
6. Believe God has called and anointed us to emphasize the fullness of the Gospel through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, we have accepted and adopted the following Statement of Fundamental Truths and Constitution. We shall seek, by the grace of God, to be governed by the Constitution as set forth, and will also seek to teach and propagate the doctrines contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

### **Statement of Fundamental Truths**

#### **Article I – Of Faith in the Holy Trinity**

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and good; the maker and preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

#### **Article II – Of the Word, or Son of God, Who Was Made Very Man**

The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and

Manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided; whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile us to His Father, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men.

### **Article III – Of the Resurrection of Christ**

Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

### **Article IV – Of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

### **Article V – Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation**

The Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scripture, we do understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testaments of whose authority was never any doubt in the church. The names of the canonical books are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, The First Book of Samuel, The Second Book of Samuel, The First Book of Kings, The Second Book of Kings, The First Book of Chronicles, The Second Book of Chronicles, The Book of Ezra, The Book of Nehemiah, The Book of Esther, The Book of Job, The Psalms, The Proverbs, Ecclesiastes or the Preacher, Cantica or Songs of Solomon, Four Prophets the Greater, Twelve Prophets the Less.

All the books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive and account canonical.

### **Article VI – Of the Old Testament**

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testaments everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses as touching ceremonies and rites doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of

necessity be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

#### **Article VII – Of Original or Birth Sin**

Original sin stands not in the following of Adam, but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.

#### **Article VIII – Of Free Will**

The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and works, to faith, and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works, pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

#### **Article IX – Of the Justification of Man**

We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith, only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

#### **Article X – Of Good Works**

Although good works, which are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

#### **Article XI – Of Works of Supererogation**

Voluntary works—besides, over and above God's commandments—which they call works of supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogancy and impiety. For by them men do declare that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake than of bounden duty is required; whereas Christ says plainly: When you have done all that is commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants.

#### **Article XII – Of Sin After Justification**

Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Spirit, and unpardonable. Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be

denied to such as fall into sin after justification. After we have received the Holy Spirit, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and, by the grace of God, rise again and amend our lives. And therefore, they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here; or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

#### **Article XIII – Of the Church**

The visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

#### **Article XIV – Of Purgatory**

The Romish doctrine concerning purgatory, pardon, worshiping, and adoration, as well of images as of relics, and also invocation of saints, is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon no warrant of Scripture, but repugnant to the Word of God.

#### **Article XV – Of Speaking in the Congregation in Such a Tongue as the People Understand**

It is a thing plainly repugnant to the Word of God, and the custom of the primitive church, to have public prayer in the church, or to minister the Sacraments, in a tongue not understood by the people.

#### **Article XVI – Of the Sacraments**

Sacraments ordained of Christ are not only badges or tokens of Christian's profession, but rather they are certain signs of grace, and God's good will toward us, by which he does work invisibly in us, and does not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm, our faith in him.

There are two Sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord.

Those five commonly called sacraments, that is to say, confirmation, penance, orders, matrimony, and extreme unction, are not to be counted for Sacraments of the Gospel; being such as have partly grown out of the corrupt following of the apostles, and partly are states of life allowed in the Scriptures, but yet have not the like nature of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, because they have not any visible sign or ceremony ordained of God.

## **Bylaws**

Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of the one true God; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, irrespective of social position or worldly possessions; for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in home and foreign lands, this church shall be governed by the following Constitution:

### **KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT:**

That, we, the undersigned have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the Laws of the State of Missouri, and we hereby certify:

### **ARTICLE I**

Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the name of the corporate church shall be Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **PURPOSES AND POWERS**

THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THIS CORPORATION IS FORMED ARE:

1. To establish a Biblical Christian Church with a School of the Bible department and with missionary, literature, educational and all other departments it may deem useful to propagate and practice the full Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and for its service to the community.
2. It is one purpose of this local church corporation to earnestly seek and promote the unity of God's people in the Scriptural manner of Godly love, respect and faithful voluntary cooperation with liberty. To

The Sacraments were not ordained of Christ to be gazed upon, or to be carried about; but that we should duly use them. And in such only as worthily receive the same, they have a wholesome effect or operation; but they that receive them unworthily, purchase to themselves condemnation, as St. Paul says.

#### **Article XVII – Of Baptism**

Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration or the new birth. The Baptism of young children is to be retained in the Church.

#### **Article XVIII – Of the Lord's Supper**

The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; insomuch that, to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the Supper of our Lord, cannot be proved by Holy Writ, but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthrowes the nature of a sacrament, and has given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the mean whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshiped.

#### **Article XIX – Of Both Kinds**

The cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay people; for both the parts of the Lord's Supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered to all Christians alike.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION**

This corporation is organized pursuant to the General Non-Profit Corporation Law of the State of Missouri; the property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes, and upon liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment, shall not inure to the benefit of any private person except a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for religious or charitable purposes and as designated in Article X of these by-laws.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston shall be eligible to all who give evidence to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who voluntarily hold to the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. When a person chooses to be a part of Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston and involve themselves they are automatically considered a member (Ephesians 4:16). A member is one who attends regularly, serves at and contributes financially to Church.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **OFFICERS**

The officers of Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Church Board of Trustees. There shall not be less than three (3) and no more than nine (9) Trustees at any time. The board of trustees shall handle the business of the church and therefore should be business minded. They should see into the spiritual side of all business as well. These should lay hold of the vision given them and see it is implemented.

The Board of Trustees for the next year will be selected at the Annual Church Conference to be held in the month of January.

that end it shall associate and cooperate freely with other churches and with church organizations.

3. To act as Trustee under any trust incidental to the principal objects of the corporation and to receive, hold, administer and expend funds and property subject to such trust.
4. To enter into, make, perform and carry out contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose without limit as to amount and with any person, firm, association or corporation; to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, issue and execute promissory notes, warrants and other negotiable or transferable interests.
5. To take, purchase or otherwise acquire; to own, hold, occupy, use and enjoy, manage, improve, develop and work; to grant, sell, exchange, let, demise and otherwise dispose of real estate, buildings; and improvements and every right, interest and estate therein without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever the same may be situated; to erect, construct, alter and repair buildings; to assume any and every kind of contract, agreement and obligation by or with any person, firm, corporation or association, or any Federal, State or other Government for the erection, construction, alteration, repair, renewal, equipment, improvement, development, use, enjoyment, leasing, management or control of any buildings, improvements or structures of any kind wherever the same may be situated.
6. To purchase or otherwise acquire, to own, hold, use and enjoy, to sell, assign and transfer, exchange or otherwise dispose of, deal in or deal with personal property of every kind and description without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever the same may be situated.
7. To borrow and to loan money and to give and to receive evidence of indebtedness and security thereof; to draw, make accept, endorse, execute, and issue promissory notes, warrants, and other debentures of the corporation, or otherwise to make guarantees of every kind and secure any or all obligations of the corporation by mortgage, trust deed or otherwise.
8. To do all other acts necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the purposes of the corporation and to have and exercise all the powers now or hereafter conferred by the Laws of the State of Your State, upon non-profit corporations.



## SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Trustees shall be a member of the Board and have knowledge of finances. A secretary or administrative assistant may be utilized in the day-to-day record keeping (accounts receivable and payable) as is necessary.

## VACANCY OF OFFICES

The Chairperson plus one other Trustee of the Corporation shall have the authority to declare any office vacant. Grounds for such action shall be:

1. Failure to cooperate with the church's program and ministry.
2. Unscriptural conduct.
3. Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith.
4. For any good and sufficient cause. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing before the joint meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be considered final and the incumbent may have no further recourse.

## ARTICLE VI

### MEETINGS

**Section 1. Meetings for Worship.** Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor.

**Section 2. Annual Church Conference.** There shall be an Annual Church Conference of Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston. This Conference shall be held at the end of the fiscal year in January. This meeting shall be conducted at a place designated by the Board of Trustees. New Trustees shall be installed and all reports shall be read at the Conference.

**Section 3. Special Church Conferences.** Special church conferences be called by the Chairperson or by written petition of three-fourths (3/4) of the membership.

## PASTOR

**Section 1. Term of Office:** The pastor will be selected by the Board of Trustees and will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees or until he resigns.

**Section 2. Vacancy of Pastorate:** The vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a new pastor by the Board of Trustees.

**Section 3. Duties of Pastor:** The Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the church and shall direct all the church spiritual activities. He shall attend all Board meetings of the church.

**Section 4. Support of Pastor:** The Pastor shall be supported according to his needs, either by free-will offerings or by stated allowance as shall be decided upon by the Trustees.

## CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson shall be a member of the Board and be one who is trusted with adequate business and leadership gifts. His or her term of office will be by vote of the board at the annual meeting. His or her duties are to oversee all business and spiritual activities of the church. Removal of the Chairperson for cause shall be by majority vote of the board. Removal from the position does not remove him or her from the board.

## VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees shall be a member of the Board and be one who is trusted with adequate business and leadership gifts to take charge in the Chairperson's absence in its regular business sessions. His or her term of office will be by vote of the board at the annual meeting. Removal of the Vice-Chairperson for cause shall be by majority vote of the board. Removal from the position does not remove him or her from the board.

3. Deposits must be made by Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston promptly in a local bank.
4. A separate account will be established for Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston.
5. Annual reports will be furnished to the officers and made available to the membership.
6. Two signature checks are to be used.
7. The treasurer must be a board member (officer/director). However, a secretary or administrative assistant may be utilized in the day-to-day record keeping as necessary.
8. Financial records, without exception, are to be kept in the church office.
9. The Board of Trustees shall act as overseer of all financial activities.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **PROPERTY**

The Officers of Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston shall have power to carry out all of the purposes and powers set forth in Article II. The Chairperson and the Secretary-Treasurer's signature shall be sufficient certificate for negotiating any and all of the provided powers in said Articles.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **AMENDMENT**

This Constitution or By-Laws may be amended or changed by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Trustees at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made.

**Section 4. Notice of Church Conferences.** Written notice of the date and place of the Annual Church Conference and of any special Church Conference shall be posted in the church program at least ten (10) days and not more than thirty days prior to such meeting.

**Section 5. Quorum.** The number of persons in attendance of the church conference will constitute a quorum.

**Section 6. Order of Business.** The regular order of business for the Annual Church Conference of Christ Methodist Church shall be as follows:

1. Devotional.
2. Reading of previous minutes.
3. Report of the treasurer.
4. Report of committees.
5. Election of Trustees.
6. Installation of Trustees.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

This order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all debates when not in conflict with this Constitution.

## ARTICLE VII

### FINANCES

1. All funds needed for the maintenance of Christ Methodist Church of Sikeston shall be provided by voluntary contributions, tithes and offerings. Every member shall decide before God what he or she can cheerfully give to the support of the Lord's work at home and in the foreign field (Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians 16:1-2; Romans 12:8).
2. All offerings shall be counted by at least two members.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **ORGANIZATION**

Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **CONDUCT OF ORGANIZATION**

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax

code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of common pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.