

**Proposed Constitution of
Zion United Church of Christ
Baroda, Michigan
Preamble**

It is the will of our Lord Jesus Christ that His disciples should preach the gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:16, Matthew 23:18-20, Acts 1:8). Therefore we have organized to be a mission outpost which deliberately seeks to connect broken lives to a healing Jesus through education, dynamic worship, and significant relational groups.

**Article I
Name**

The name of this congregation shall be "Zion United Church of Christ Baroda, Michigan."

**Article II
Purpose**

The purpose of this church shall be to worship God, as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; to preach and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; to celebrate the Holy Sacraments; to recognize the Word of God as being true and reliable; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this body of Christ, and the church universal; and to advance the kingdom of God both at home and abroad. To accomplish this purpose we intend ...

To establish and maintain the Office of the Christian Ministry in our midst
To facilitate the spreading in our community and around the world of the Christian faith
To establish and maintain Christian education and training of our youth and adults
To reach out to those "unchurched" in our local and larger community
To foster Christian fellowship and charity
To acquire, hold title to, sell, transfer, convey and otherwise dispose of property-real, personal, and mixed

**Article III
Confession of Faith**

Zion United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and Savior of all people.
The Holy Scriptures are recognized as the Word of God, and the ultimate rule of Christian faith and practice.

We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the word and will of God. We depend upon the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us as we walk together in the ways of the Lord. We hold it to be the mission of the church to Proclaim the Gospel to all our brothers and sisters, to render loving service toward them, and to strive for righteousness, justice, and world peace. We depend upon the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, praying for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God, and look with faith to the triumph of righteousness and life everlasting.

Zion United Church of Christ, Baroda, Michigan holds fast to the historical and traditional creeds of faith as gifts from God which come not only through history, but as new creations as each person struggles in his/her own faith journey to a mature and responsible faith:

Our church's expression of this faith is found in "The Apostle's Creed," and the "United Church of Christ Statement of Faith." In addition the doctrinal standards of this United Church of Christ are derived from the Heidelberg Catechism, Luther's Catechism and the Augsburg Confession, which are summarized in the Evangelical Catechism. They are accepted as an authoritative interpretation of the essential truth taught in the Holy Scriptures.

Article IV Denominational Affiliation

This congregation shall be affiliated with the "United Church of Christ", whose National offices are located in Cleveland, OH.

Article V Membership

The membership of this congregation shall be those persons who intend to actively participate in the life, work and mission of Zion UCC in Baroda, MI

Article VI Organization

Voters' Assembly

The Voters' Assembly shall consist of all voting members present at a regular or special meeting of the congregation. The congregation, through the Voters' Assembly, shall have final authority in managing its internal and external affairs.

Ministry Leadership Group

The Ministry Leadership Group shall be the governing body of the congregation and is responsible to administer all the congregation's affairs except the following matters for action only by the Voters' Assembly:

Call or remove a ministerial (Ordained) worker.

Purchase or sell church property or buildings valued over 10% of the annual operating budget.

Adopt the Annual Financial Plan.

Dissolve the congregation.

Officers and Boards

The officers of this congregation shall be such officers as the Bylaws of this Constitution prescribe. The officers and boards prescribed in the Bylaws shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them in the Constitution or Bylaws.

Article VII Ministerial (Ordained) Workers

Only those persons who are authorized by the UCC shall be considered as candidates for ministerial (ordained) positions.

Article VIII Property Rights

If, at any time, a separation shall take place within this congregation, the advice of the officers of the "United Church of Christ" shall be sought. If, despite all efforts to resolve differences in peace and love, a division into factions of the congregation shall occur, the property of the congregation and all benefits connected shall remain with those who wish to remain as a part of the "United Church of Christ." In the event the congregation shall be totally disbanded, then ownership of the remaining property, both real & personal, shall be transferred to the Michigan Conference United Church of Christ or its successor.

Article IX Voter Assembly / Quorum for Decisions

All congregational matters shall be decided by the Voters' Assembly with rules as determined by the By Laws. Decisions shall be decided by a simple majority of the voting members present at a properly convened meeting of the Voters' Assembly, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Article X Amendments

This Constitution may be amended, with the exception of Article III that is irrevocable, by a three-fourths majority of the votes cast in a meeting of the Voters' Assembly. The wording of the amended Constitution shall be distributed to the congregation through a general distribution and/or mailing at least two weeks prior to the date upon which the amendment is presented for action.

Bylaws of Zion United Church of Christ Baroda, Michigan

Article 1 Membership

Voting members are persons whose level of membership in the congregation is self-determined, but whose level of commitment demonstrates their love of Jesus Christ and their commitment to Zion UCC, Baroda, MI as a legitimate expression of that love. Membership implies baptism, confirmation (or a continuing education program) and regular participation in the life, work, and mission of Zion UCC, Baroda, MI through time, talent, and treasure.

All persons who are considered members will have attended a membership class and signed the "Believer's Covenant." All members of Zion are entitled to vote at the Voter's Assembly.

Article 2 Change of Membership

Transfers

A member desiring transfer to another congregation shall make that fact known to the Senior Administrative Pastor. The Senior Administrative Pastor shall cause the creating and mailing of a letter of transfer to the receiving congregation.

Whereabouts unknown or moved

The names of people whose whereabouts are unknown or who have moved from the area, shall be removed from membership after a period of one year.

Non-participation

Persons who have not participated in the life, work, and mission of Zion UCC, Baroda, MI for a period of one year shall be removed from membership

Discipline

All discipline in this congregation shall be administered in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20. The purpose of any disciplinary action is to renew a member's relationship with the Lord and with His church. A member shall be considered self-excluded when unresponsive to the witness and ministry of the church.

Article 3 Voters' Assembly

The Voters' Assembly shall meet at least twice a year. The day and hour of the annual meeting shall be set by the Ministry Leadership Group and publicized at least one month in advance. The notification shall contain an agenda of items to be considered as well as the slate of nominees for election.

The Voters' Assembly may meet at other times of the year subject to a call by the Ministry Leadership Group or at the request of 15% of the voting members of the congregation. Notice of any such special meeting shall be publicized as far in advance as possible but no less than two weeks in advance. The notice shall contain an agenda of items to be considered. No agenda items may be added once notification of any meeting is publicized. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, or their designated Ministry Leadership Group member shall preside at all Voters' Assembly meetings.

A quorum of 10% of the voting membership must be present to conduct the business of the Voters' Assembly.

Article 4

Ministerial (Ordained) Workers and Other Workers

Calling into Office for Ministerial (Ordained) Workers

After authorization is received from the Voters' Assembly, the Ministry Leadership Group shall create and appoint a Search Committee. No more than one-third of the Search Committee members may be members of the Ministry Leadership Group.

The Search Committee will follow the "Search Process" as prescribed by the United Church of Christ.

The Search Committee will only consider candidates who are authorized by the United Church of Christ.

The Search Committee will present a final candidate to the Voters' Assembly for issuance of the Call.

Removal from Office of Ministerial (Ordained) Workers

Any Ministerial (Ordained) Worker may be removed from office by the Voters' Assembly by a three-fourths majority, voting by secret ballot, at an appropriately called Voter's Assembly.

Hiring and Termination of other workers shall be at the discretion of the Ministry Leadership Group, consistent with the Personnel Policies of the Congregation.

Article 5

Ministry Leadership Group

Membership

The Ministry Leadership Group shall consist of seven (7) voting members, elected at large by the Voters' Assembly. Officers of the Congregation will be chosen by the Ministry Leadership Group from the Ministry Leadership Group. The Senior Administrative Pastor is an ex officio member.

Election

Nomination:

The Ministry Leadership Group shall annually appoint a Nominating Committee as needed. The Senior Administrative Pastor shall be an ex officio member of the Nominating Committee.

All nominees shall be voting members noted for their Christian knowledge, zeal, and experience in the spiritual work in the Kingdom.

No Officer or Ministry Leadership Group member shall receive any compensation from the congregation for their role as Officer or Ministry Leadership Group.

Nominations for Ministry Leadership Group member may be made from the floor during the appropriate Voter's Assembly meeting.

Nominees who receive a simple majority vote of the ballots cast at the Voters' Assembly shall be elected.

Term of Office

The term of office shall be up to five years, elected in staggered terms, and shall be eligible for renewal indefinitely. The term of office commences immediately following the election.

Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy, the Chairperson shall create a list of candidates from which the Ministry Leadership Group will elect an individual to serve until the next Voter's Assembly.

Meetings

The Ministry Leadership Group shall meet at least quarterly and may be called more frequently at the request of the Chairperson or any three Ministry Leadership Group members. Four (4) members of the Ministry Leadership Group shall constitute a quorum for any meeting. The minutes shall fully disclose all actions taken, and approved at the next meeting of the Ministry Leadership Group. Minutes of the meetings shall be available to voting members upon request.

Removal from Office

Any Ministry Leadership Group member who is unable or is willfully neglectful in the performance of his official duties, may be removed from office by the Ministry Leadership Group. Such action shall be reported to the Voter's Assembly.

Article 6 Officers

Officers of the Congregation will be chosen from the membership of the Ministry Leadership Group by the Ministry Leadership Group

Chairperson:

Preside at all meetings of the Voters' Assembly and the Ministry Leadership Group.

Appoint any necessary boards, committees, task groups or action teams in consultation with the Ministry Leadership Group.

Enforce the constitution and bylaws.

Perform the general duties as are common for the office, including such additional duties as may be directed by the Voters' Assembly from time to time.

Vice Chairperson:

Perform all of the duties of the Chairperson in the latter's absence and such other additional duties which may be directed by the Voters' Assembly or by the Chairperson from time to time.

Chair and appoint a Nominating Committee with the advice and consent of the Ministry Leadership Group.

Secretary:

The duties shall be those commonly required of that office, especially the keeping and preserving of accurate records of all Voters' Assembly meetings, and handling such correspondence as the congregation may require.

Keep and make available the minutes of all Ministry Leadership Group meetings.

Treasurer:

Keep and preserve the accurate records of all receipts and disbursements, and submit a written report of them at all regular meetings of the Voters' Assembly.

Assure accuracy and propriety of all financial transactions of the congregation.

Article 7
Powers of the Ministry Leadership Group

The Ministry Leadership Group shall have the power to develop policies as required to execute the goals approved by the Voters' Assembly. Written policies shall be available upon request. The Group shall have no authority beyond that which has been conferred upon them by the constitution, its bylaws, or by the Voters' Assembly.

Article 8
Duties of the Ministry Leadership Group

The Ministry Leadership Group, as the chief governing Council of the congregation, shall act in all matters pertaining to the legal and general welfare of the congregation, except those reserved for the Voters' Assembly in Article VI Paragraph 2 of the Constitution.

The Ministry Leadership Group shall see to it that all activities of the church reflect the purpose and faith of the congregation.

It shall concern itself with establishing all policies governing the activities of the congregation and with the implementation of the mission, vision, budget, and plans adopted by the Voters' Assembly.

The Ministry Leadership Group may appoint any entity needed. It shall oversee and have authority over all other boards, committees, task forces, action teams, or other entities of the congregation.

Article 9
Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made in the following manner:

A copy of the proposed amendment shall be mailed to all voting members at least two weeks prior to a Voters' Assembly meeting at which the amendments will be considered.

At this meeting the vote shall be taken on the amendment and two-thirds of the voting members present shall secure adoption.

Zion
United Church of
Christ
Baroda, MI

Constitution & Bylaws

Adopted Sunday, January 26, 2003