

**CONSTITUTION**  
**OF**  
**FOX RIVER COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

As Amended October 5, 2003

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**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this Church shall be The Fox River Community Congregational Church.

**ARTICLE II - MISSION**

The Mission of this Church is to fulfill Christ's Great Commandment<sup>1</sup> and Great Commission<sup>2</sup> in which we are called to

Love God through worship and living according to His will,

Love one another through serving people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs, in Christ's name, and

Make disciples of Christ through

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 22:36-40.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 28:18-20.

Reaching out to all people by witnessing the good news of Christ so that they may accept Him as their Lord and Savior,

Teaching what Jesus taught so that we may grow toward living a Christ-like life,

Encouraging Christian fellowship so that joys may be celebrated, hurts may be healed and communion with God may be richer.

### **ARTICLE III – COVENANT**

The Covenant of this Church is as follows:

As followers of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Lord and Savior, we covenant with God and one another to personally commit to creating an environment for richer communion with God and to

OWN the Mission of our Church

LOVE God and love all people through worship, service and fellowship

WITNESS the power of God's love to all people as revealed through Christ

GROW in the knowledge and expression of our faith

WALK in fellowship with one another in respect, understanding, forgiveness and love

DEDICATE our time, talent, and treasure to the service of God

ABIDE in the Congregational Way as understood and embraced by our fellowship.

### **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

The Congregation of this Church shall consist of individual adults (age eighteen years or older), referred to as Members, who have affirmed their belief in the Mission and have owned the Covenant of this Church during a worship service, during a Meeting of the Congregation or, in special circumstances, simply before a Minister of this Church. A minor may become a Member upon successfully completing a confirmation program authorized by the Congregation and meeting the aforesaid requirements.

Furthermore, if the Congregation so decides, new membership may also be conditioned upon participation in a new Member orientation program.

#### **ARTICLE V - RESERVATION OF POWERS**

Under the Headship of Christ, the governance of the Church is vested in its members who exercise the right of full and final control of its affairs. Other than the powers delegated by the Congregation in either the Church Constitution or the By-Laws, all powers are reserved to the Congregation.

#### **ARTICLE VI – AUTONOMOUS**

This Church is self governing, entirely free from external ecclesiastical and political control. It shall remain autonomous, independent and Congregational in character.

#### **ARTICLE VII – ASSOCIATION**

This Church acknowledges and accepts the obligations of mutual counsel, cooperation, courtesy and fellowship involved in the free fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches and it further declares acceptance of the Christian obligation to love, pray for and have fellowship with churches of Christ everywhere which seek to promote the Kingdom of God. However, such association with others must be free of any outside authority over this local Church.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - BY-LAWS**

The Congregation shall adopt By-Laws in furtherance of this Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE IX - GOVERNANCE**

This Church shall be governed by the Congregation which shall meet at least quarterly. However, the Congregation may meet more often in Regular and/or Special Meetings as set forth in the By-Laws. To develop policies for consideration and adoption by the Congregation, to implement policies adopted by the Congregation, and to administer the day to day affairs of the Church, the Congregation shall elect Officers and Teams as set forth in the By-Laws.

#### **ARTICLE X – PROPERTY**

The Church shall have the right to own both real and personal property and to hold the same, sell, mortgage or otherwise deal in both real and personal property, all in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin. All property held by the Church shall be for the sole use and benefit of the Church.

#### **ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENT**

This Constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of eighty percent (80%) of the Congregation present at two successive Meetings, held at least 45 days apart, attended by at least 30% of the Membership. The proposed amendment shall be distributed to the Members at least thirty (30) days prior to each Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE XII – MISCELLANEOUS**

(1) The purposes for which the corporation is organized are exclusively religious, charitable and educational within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

(3) In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of the 1986 or corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal, State, or local government for exclusive public purpose.