

**CONSTITUTION OF GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this Church shall be Good Shepherd United Church of Christ located in Washington Township, Lehigh County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND MISSION

The avowed purpose of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ shall be to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the Sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this local Congregation and the Church-Universal; to render loving service toward humanity; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

The mission of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ is:

To proclaim the good News of Jesus Christ in word and action

To provide knowledge, understanding, and nurturing in the Christian faith, enabling all peoples to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ

To create a warm and committed Christian Fellowship for people of all ages

To minister to the needs of others in the name of Jesus Christ

ARTICLE III STATEMENT OF FAITH

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ's expression of its faith is based on the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith, acknowledgement of the Bible as the inspired Word of God, acceptance of the Triune God, and two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

ARTICLE IV DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ shall be a part of the United Church of Christ and it shall sustain that relationship to the United Church of Christ described in those portions of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ adopted July 4, 1961 relating to local churches.

ARTICLE V DISCIPLESHIP

The government of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ is vested in its disciples, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, subject, however, to the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Persons become disciples by (a) baptism and either confirmation or profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; (b) reaffirmation of faith, or (c) letter or certificate of transfer from other Christian churches. Responsibilities of discipleship are defined in the Bylaws of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE VI ORGANIZATION

The Congregation is defined as the active disciples of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ.

The governing body of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ will be the active disciples assembled in a congregational meeting.

The Consistory, elected and duly installed, serves as the executive, policy-making body of the Church, and shall transact the business of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, provide for the auditing of the financial accounts, and for the adequate support of the staff.

ARTICLE VII PROPERTY RIGHTS

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ may in its corporate name sue or be sued; acquire by purchase, gifts, 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. The Church 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.

Upon dissolution of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, its assets and all property and interests 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 to Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ or a non-profit organization or agency designated by the congregation at the time of dissolution.

ARTICLE VIII DECISIONS

In all cases, except for constitutional changes (which require a two-thirds majority) and the call of a Pastor (which requires a three-fourths majority), a simple majority vote of the quorum present shall affirm or decline a decision.

All disciples of this Congregation, who have been confirmed and whose age meets the requirement of Pennsylvania non-profit law are entitled to vote. All confirmed disciples of this Congregation are entitled to voice.

ARTICLE IX RULES OF ORDER

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

ARTICLE X CHANGES AND/OR AMENDMENTS

Changes and/or amendments to this Constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the active disciples over the age of 16 present at any duly called congregational meeting, public announcement of the text of the proposed changes and/or amendments having been made at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Approved November 17, 2019