

By-Laws
Of
Trinity United
Church of Christ

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this congregation shall be Trinity United Church of Christ of Glen Rock, Pennsylvania, originally organized as Trinity Reformed Church, June 5, 1894.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The avowed purpose of this congregation shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the Sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this congregation and the Church Universal; to render loving service toward mankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

ARTICLE III. Polity

Section 1. This congregation 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 and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ relating to local congregations.

Section 2. The government of this congregation is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs.

ARTICLE IV. Faith and Covenant

Section 1. This congregation believes in the triune God. It acknowledges as its sole head Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of mankind. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own. One expression of this faith is contained in the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ.

In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, our congregation recognizes two Sacraments: Baptism is the mark of acceptance into the care of Christ's Church. The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is the bond of our living union with Christ and fellowship with each other.

Section 2. We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all of the world, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our fathers, we depend upon the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

ARTICLE V. Membership

Section 1. Membership in this congregation shall be open to any person who has been baptized into the Christian faith, and who has been confirmed or made public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Section 2. Members pledge to attend the regular worship of this congregation and the celebration of the Lord's Supper; to live the Christian life; to share in the life and work of the Church; to contribute to its support and benevolence; and to seek diligently the spiritual welfare of the membership and the community.

Section 3. Any member may, at his own request, withdraw from membership or be granted a letter of transfer.

Section 4. A member who for a period of two years, in spite of spiritual care, has not attended the congregation's worship, contributed to the support, or partaken of the Holy Communion may by recommendation of the Spiritual Council and vote of the Consistory be removed from the membership roll.

ARTICLE VI. The Governing Body

The governing body of this congregation shall be the membership assembled in meeting. The vote of a majority of members present at the meeting shall be the action of the congregation except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws. A quorum shall consist of ten percent of the membership.

ARTICLE VII. Consistory

Section 1. The Consistory shall be the executive body of this congregation and shall be responsible for its supervision, oversight and management. It shall be composed of the Pastor (non-voting member), the Elders, the Deacons, and the Trustees. One-half of its voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Four Elders and eight Deacons shall be elected by majority vote cast at a congregational meeting. They shall be elected for two years. Three trustees shall be elected by majority vote cast at a congregational meeting. They shall be elected for three years. In order to provide continuity, not more than two of each office – one in the case of Trustees – should become vacant in any one year. No person shall be permitted to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Consistory.

Section 3. Nominations shall be made for the office of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees by a committee appointed each year by the Consistory. All nominees must be members in good standing and earnestly devoted to the cause of Christ. Public notice of such nominations shall be given from the chancel or by bulletin or by letter at least two weeks prior to the election. This election is to take place on the first Sunday of December, or as designated by the Consistory. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting at which the election is held.

Section 4. When elected, the Elders, Deacons, and Trustees shall be publicly ordained to or installed in their respective offices during the Lord's Day Service on the first Sunday in January, or as designated by the Consistory.

Section 5. Vacancies on the Consistory shall be filled by the Consistory for the unexpired terms.

Section 6. The Consistory shall organize itself at the beginning of each calendar year, electing a President and a Vice-President from within its membership, with the exception of the Pastor, who is not eligible to hold office. A Recording Secretary, a Financial Secretary, and a Treasurer shall also be elected at this time either from the Consistory or from the congregation at large. The Consistory shall from such committees as will serve to further the purpose of this congregation. All Church committees are responsible to the Consistory and shall make periodic and annual reports to the Consistory.

Section 7. The Consistory shall be the policy-making body and shall transact the business of the congregation. It shall make provisions for the determining and raising of the Church budgets, it shall provide for the yearly auditing of financial accounts and for the adequate support of the staff. It shall keep a complete and accurate record of its proceedings, be the custodian of all congregational records, and keep the congregation informed of its meetings, regular and special, and business transacted. All acts and deliberations of the Consistory are subject to the will of and revision by the governing body.

Section 8. The Consistory shall meet monthly at stated or fixed times for the transaction of business and at such other times as may be required at the call of the President or any three members. At the January meeting each year the old Consistory and such new members as may have been elected shall meet together. At this time the old Consistory shall terminate all its business of the preceding year and then adjourn. The President shall continue to conduct the business session until the new President is elected. The new Consistory shall then proceed with reorganization and its duties from that point.

Section 9. All deeds, notes, mortgages, leases, pleadings, and instruments of any nature with respect to or in connection with the business and affairs of this congregation shall be executed on behalf of this congregation, following authorization by the congregation or Consistory when required by the laws of Pennsylvania or the Bylaws, by the President or Vice- President and by the Recording Secretary or Treasurer.

Section 10. Whenever any measure of general interest presents itself, such as expenditure of funds in an amount of one thousand dollars above the budgeted, the buying or selling of property, the borrowing of money, or the erection of new buildings, the will of the majority of such of the voting members of the congregation as shall assemble at a meeting called for that purpose must be ascertained.

ARTICLE VIII. Office of Elder

An Elder is a member of the congregation who has previously served as Deacon, elected by the congregation and ordained to his/her office to assist and support the Pastor in the spiritual affairs of the Church. The Pastor and Elders form the Spiritual Council. Responsibilities of the Elders shall include advising and counseling the Pastor, overseeing the spiritual life of the congregation, providing the elements for the Lord's Supper, and, with the approval of the Consistory, exercising jurisdiction in all matters of membership and discipline.

ARTICLE IX. Office of Deacon

A Deacon is a member of the congregation chosen by the Congregation and consecrated to his/her office to aid in securing the funds necessary for the support of the Church in its various activities, to foster the principles of stewardship, to dispense the charity of the Church, and to be concerned with other temporal affairs of the Church.

ARTICLE X. Office of Trustee

A Trustee may be any member of the congregation in sympathy and cooperation with its spiritual aims and work. A Trustee should have good business judgment and be prudent in action. The Trustees shall see that all congregational records are well kept and properly preserved, and shall be responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, and insuring of all property of the congregation.

ARTICLE XI. Office of Pastor

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, direct the work of Christian education, exercise pastoral oversight, comfort the sick and distresses, visit in the homes of member and prospective member families, and perform all such duties as belong to the pastor's office in the United Church of Christ. He shall keep a record of all services performed and make an annual report of his work to the congregation.

Section 2. The Pastor is an ex-officio member of the Consistory and all organizations within the Church. As long as he/she is the Pastor, no other minister shall perform any religious ceremony in the Church without consent. The Pastor's salary shall be paid promptly and shall be sufficient to relieve him of temporal cares as far as possible and to preserve the dignity of his calling.

Section 3. When the election of a Pastor becomes necessary, a Pastoral Search Committee shall be appointed by the Consistory. This committee shall request the Penn Central Conference to recommend suitable candidates. It shall nominate one candidate for the pastorate, to be voted on by the congregation. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the congregation present and voting constitutes a call. The call must be confirmed by the York Association and Penn Central Conference, and the new Pastor installed in his office by the York Association.

ARTICLE XII. Property

Section 1. The congregation may in its corporate name sue or be sued; acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, and own, hold, invest, reinvest or dispose of property, both real and personal, for such works as the congregation may undertake; and may purchase, own, receive, hold, manage, care for and convey such property for the general purposes of the congregation. It may receive and hold in trust both real and personal property, invest and reinvest in the same, and make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the congregation.

Section 2. As a property of the congregation, Trinity United Church of Christ Cemetery shall be administered by a committee appointed for that purpose by the Consistory. This committee shall operate in accordance with its own Bylaws and shall report annually to the Consistory.

Section 3. Upon dissolution of the congregation, 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 the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE XIII. Congregational Meetings.

Section 1. Congregational meetings shall be held for the purpose provided in these Bylaws. Public notice of such meetings and their stated purposes shall be given from the chancel or by bulletin or by letter at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The President of the Consistory shall preside over all congregational meetings. In his absence, the Vice-President or the Consistory shall preside.

Section 2. Congregational meetings may be called by the Consistory or by a petition to the Consistory by at least five percent of the members. The Consistory shall call such meeting within three weeks from receipt of the petition.

ARTICLE XIV. Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any duly called congregational meeting by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present and voting, public announcement of the text or the proposed amendment(s) having been made at least two weeks prior to the meeting by letter to the membership.

These Bylaws were approved on October 7, 1979 by the congregation of Trinity United Church of Christ of Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.

Bylaws Committee members: Harry D. Bauman, Chairman
 Millard A. Slonaker
 Darryl J. Engler
 Jean M. Bailey, Consistory President

Ex-Officio: David R. Wetmiller, Pastor

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:

Amendment #1 (Article VII, Section 11)

All bequests, special gifts, and endowments received by Trinity United Church of Christ shall be administered by a committee, known as the Bequest Committee, appointed for that purpose by the Consistory. This committee shall operate in accordance with its own bylaws and shall report annually to the Consistory.

Amendment #2 (Article VII, Section 12)

With an important role in Sunday morning worship, Trinity United Church of Christ Sunday School shall be supervised by a committee, known as the Christian Education Committee, appointed for that purpose by the Consistory. This committee shall operate in accordance with its own bylaws and shall report annually to the Consistory.

Amendment #3 (Article VII, Section 13)

As a vision of the future, Trinity United Church of Christ Youth Fellowship and its advisors will be overseen by a committee appointed by the Consistory for that purpose. The Trinity United Church of Christ Youth Fellowship shall operate in accordance with its own bylaws and shall report annually to this supervisory committee. It is the responsibility of the committee to report annually to the Consistory.

Amendment #4 (Article VII, Section 14)

As an active group within Trinity United Church of Christ, the Women of Trinity shall operate in accordance with its own bylaws and shall report annually to the Consistory.

Amendment #5 (Article XI, Section 2)

The Pastor and the Consistory (representing the congregation) are bound by a contract, known as the “call”.

Amendment #6 (Articles VII, IX)

“Four Deacons and four Deaconesses” will be replaced by “eight Deacons”. All references to “Deaconess” will be dropped. Article VII, Section 2 will read “...not more than half of each office should become vacant in any one year.” Congregational approval: December 1, 1991

Amendment #7 (Article VII)

Article VII Section 2 is replaced with: “Four Elders, six Deacons, and two Trustees shall be elected by majority vote cast at a Congregational Meeting. They shall be elected for a two-year term. In order to provide continuity, not more than two Elders, three Deacons, and one Trustee’s office should become vacant in any one year. No person shall be permitted to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Consistory.” Congregational approval: December 5, 2010

The Bylaws were re-typed with no changes and approved on review at the April 2004 Consistory Meeting. (4/6/04)