

**Vine Street Christian Church
Arthur, IL 61911
September 14, 2009**

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the members of Vine Street Christian Church, a congregationally-governed body eager to respond more effectively to the power of the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, do hereby adopt this constitution.

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section A. Name

The name of this congregation shall be "Vine Street Christian Church," located at Arthur, Illinois, affiliated with and an integral part of the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and its regional organizations or their legal successors.

Section B. Purpose

The purpose of this congregation is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through all areas of its life and work, witnessing in all situations to the grace of God in Jesus Christ, thereby seeking in all people a response in faith and commitment to Him.

It shall be the purpose of this congregation to work cooperatively with other Christians in Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in carrying out the mission of the church and in making a united witness for Jesus Christ.

It shall be the purpose of this congregation to work cooperatively with Christians in other communions, through such agencies as councils of churches and in all other ways possible to testify to the unity of Christ's church.

Article II. Membership

Members of this congregation, as part of the Church Universal, shall consist of those who are now members of the congregation, and those who shall unite with it by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, giving expression to their faith through baptism and personal commitment to Him, or those who unite by transfer of membership and reaffirm their faith and commitment to Christ.

Article III. Incorporation

The incorporation of this congregation shall be in accordance with the decree of incorporation, dated 25 May, 1950, and recorded on page 419, book no. 17 Misc., in the office of the County Clerk of Moultrie County in the State of Illinois.

Article IV. Officers of the Congregation and the General Board

Section A. Officers Elected by the Congregation

The congregation shall elect from its members elders, deacons, and trustees. Their election, qualifications and responsibilities shall be set forth in the by-laws.

Section B. Officers Elected by the General Board

The General Board shall elect a Moderator, Vice-moderator, Secretary of Board and Congregation, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Historian. These officers shall serve as officers of the congregation and the General Board. Their election, qualification and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the by-laws.

Article V. The General Board

Section A. Responsibilities and Authority

The congregation shall have a General Board which shall be responsible to the congregation and have authority to act on behalf of the congregation when the congregation is not in business meeting.

Section B. Membership

The General Board shall be composed of members as set forth in the by-laws and for terms of office therein stated.

Section C. Function

The General Board shall be responsible for receiving reports from its Minister, officers and the various committees and ministries within the congregation. It shall establish by its action the program and budget of the congregation, subject to action by the congregation at a business meeting. It shall be responsible also for conducting all legal business matters of the congregation and shall carry out such other responsibilities as may be defined in the by-laws.

Section D. Meetings

Stated meetings of the General Board shall be held at least monthly. Special meetings of the General Board shall be called by the Moderator of the Board upon request of the Minister or three members of the General Board. Notice of special meetings shall be made by telephone, by announcement at a Sunday morning worship service, by mail, or by e-mail. The purpose, date, time and place of the meeting shall be indicated in each notice.

Article VI. The Cabinet

The Minister shall have a cabinet which will be responsible for coordinating the program and work of the congregation and generally assisting the Minister in administering the same. It may also initiate program subject to approval by the General Board. It would be composed of such members as set forth in the by-laws.

Article VII. Committees and Departments

The congregation, through its General Board, shall establish ministries, standing committees, and other organizations necessary for the conduct of the work of the congregation as set forth in the by-laws.

Article VIII. Employment

Section A. The Minister

The congregation shall have a Minister, whose selection, responsibilities, terms of employment and resignation shall be as set forth in the by-laws.

Section B. Church Staff

Vine Street Christian Church shall be an equal-opportunity employer.

Article IX. Meetings of the Congregation

A business meeting of the congregation shall be held annually within 60 days immediately preceding the beginning of the church year. This annual business meeting, as well as any special business meetings of the congregation, shall be announced at a regular Sunday morning worship service of the congregation at least one week in advance of the meeting and by means of a written notice to members of the congregation sent through the mail, or by e-mail, and postmarked at least ten days before the meeting. Purpose, date, time and place of meeting shall be indicated in each notice.

Article X. Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting on the amendment, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been sent through the mail to members of the congregation, postmarked at least ten days and no more than seventeen days prior to the time the vote is to be taken, or the proposed amendment has been read at two successive regular Sunday morning worship services immediately prior to the time the vote is taken.