

**Constitution, Bylaws, and
Continuing Resolutions
Gathering Of Disciples Church
G.O.D.'s Church
Manitowoc, Wisconsin**

Adopted October 25, 2016

Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions

Gathering Of Disciples Church

G.O.D.'s Church

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Effective October 25, 2016

PREAMBLE

We, members of Christ's church, respond in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, bear witness to, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- 1.01. The name of this congregation shall be **Gathering Of Disciples LLC** Church, also known as G.O.D.'s Church of Manitowoc.
- 1.02. For the purpose of this constitution, the accompanying bylaws, and continuing resolutions, the congregation of Gathering Of Disciples Church of Manitowoc is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."
- 1.03. This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

Chapter 2.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

- 2.01. This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2.02. This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
 - b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.
- 2.03. This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.
- 2.04. This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.

Chapter 3.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- 3.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under His rule and authority.
- 3.02. This congregation is a non-denominational, non-affiliated Christian Church.

Chapter 4.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- 4.01. This congregation is established for the purpose of making known the Word of God through regular church services and fellowship gatherings. This Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- 4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
 - a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
 - b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to all.
 - c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people, do good and serve others to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministries with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
 - d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
 - e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
 - f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity, which the Spirit gives.
- 4.03. To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:
 - a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached.
 - b. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.
 - c. Teach the Word of God.
 - d. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.
 - e. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
 - f. Have Holy Communion, perform baptisms, and funerals.
- 4.04. This congregation shall develop an organizational structure as described in the bylaws.
- 4.05. This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

Chapter 5

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- 5.01. The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.
- 5.02. The powers of this congregation are vested in the Board of Directors as provided in this constitution and bylaws.

Chapter 6.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- 6.01. If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass in conformance with the Articles of Incorporation section VI, part B.

Chapter 7.

MEMBERSHIP

- 7.01. Members of this congregation shall be those persons who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
- 7.02. This congregation is a welcoming church that is open to anyone seeking to learn more about the Christian faith. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sexual orientation or national origin.
- 7.03. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:
 - a. Death
 - b. Resignation
 - c. Transfer or release

Chapter 8.

CONGREGATION MEETING

- 8.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time established by the Board of Directors.
- 8.02. Five (5) voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.
- 8.03. All actions approved by the Board of Directors shall be by majority vote of those members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.
- 8.04. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

Chapter 9.

OFFICERS

- 9.01. The officers of this congregation shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 9.02. The Board of Directors shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of the congregation.
- 9.03. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.
- 9.04. Duties of Officers.

The Chair shall preside over meetings of the Board of Directors unless the meeting decides otherwise. The Chair has authority to act on behalf of the congregation or delegate responsibilities to other officers.

The Vice-Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair unless the meeting decides otherwise.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Board of Directors and shall preserve its archives for a minimum of five years.

The Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the congregation, and shall disburse all such funds in accordance with the decisions of the Board of Directors. The treasurer shall present an annual report to the Board of Directors and other reports as may be required.

Chapter 10.

BYLAWS

- 10.01. This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.
- 10.02. Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.
- 10.03. A legally called congregational meeting shall be a meeting announced two Sundays to the congregation prior to the meeting.

Chapter 11.

AMENDMENTS

- 11.01. This constitution may be amended in the following manner:
 - a. Congregation member to submit written revisions to the Board of Directors for review and approval.
 - b. The approved amendment shall be ratified at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.

Chapter 12.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

- 12.01. The Board of Directors may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.
- 12.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Board of Directors. Continuing resolutions shall become effective upon distribution and/or presentation to the congregation.

Chapter 13.

INDEMNIFICATION

- 13.01. Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation provides indemnification for each person who, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Board of Directors member, officer, employee, agent, or other member of any committee of this congregation, was or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.

BYLAWS

2016 Bylaws of The Gathering Of Disciples Church LLC
Effective October 25, 2016

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP:

Active Member: Active members may be of any age; however the members of the Board of Directors must be least 18 years of age and have complied with all other regulations governing membership.

ARTICLE 2. MEETING OF MEMBERS:

The annual meeting of this corporation shall be held at a place and on a date to be selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The business and affairs of this corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS:

The principal officers of the corporation shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected by the Board of Directors.

Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by that Board whenever, in its judgment, the best interest of the corporation would be served.

ARTICLE 5. FISCAL YEAR:

The fiscal year of this corporation shall commence on the first day of January and end on the 31 day of December in each year.

ARTICLE 6. AMENDMENTS:

The general membership at any annual or regular meeting where notice of a proposed change in the bylaws has been given in writing may alter, adopt, amend, or repeal any or all of the bylaws of this corporation by a two thirds vote of those in attendance.

LOG OF DOCUMENT CHANGES

Date	Description of the Changes Made
September 19, 2016	Draft constitution prepared.
October 13, 2016	Draft constitution reviewed and modified by the B.O.D.
October 25, 2016	B.O.D. amended and adopted constitution as amended.