

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH: COMPARISON OF CURRENT TO PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

	Current By Laws (2018)	Proposed Changes 2023
Article II. - PURPOSE AND STATEMENT OF FAITH	<p>A. The purpose of this church is to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the Sacraments of baptism and communion, to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal: to render loving service towards humankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace; and to the mission and ministries contained in our</p> <p>Statement of Mission:</p> <p>As we love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves, our church mission is:          To seek and to do God's will and as we spread the Gospel in our lives together;          To become a more inclusive community as we grow and share our faith as disciples of Christ;          To be a fellowship where education, arts, and Christian values are nurtured;          To be a center of outreach and to pursue justice in our world.</p>	<p>OUR MISSION</p> <p>We are a vibrant, Spirit-filled community seeking to follow in the ways of Jesus, love and care for our neighbors, do justice, act with humility, and be an example of the extravagant grace of God to the whole of creation.</p>
	<p>B. We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and do not have set beliefs which serve as a test of faith or requirement for membership. The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith shall be this congregation's guide in faith and doctrine, and is a testimony rather than a test of faith.</p>	

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	<p>We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.</p> <p>You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.</p> <p>You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.</p> <p>You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.</p> <p>You promise to all who trust you</p>	
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	<p>forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in hour realm which has no end.</p> <p>Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen</p>	
Article III B	<p>This church shall be a member church within the United Church of Christ, maintaining the relationship of a member church as described in the Constitution and By-laws of the United Church of Christ, and pledges itself to share common aims and work of the denomination. This church shall also be a part of the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, and shall act in ways consistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Conference.</p>	<p>This church shall be a member church within the United Church of Christ, maintaining the relationship of a member church as described in the Constitution and By-laws of the United Church of Christ, and pledges itself to share common aims and work of the denomination. We are in covenant with the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ.</p>
Article IV B	Members are expected	Active Members are expected
Article IV D 4	Any change in the membership status of any member shall be first considered by the Diaconate and upon recommendation of that body, shall be decided by vote of the Council.	Any change in the membership status of any member shall be first considered by the Diaconate and Pastor, and upon their recommendation, shall be decided by vote of the Council.
Article A A	GOVERNING AD INTERIM	GOVERNING BETWEEN CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS
Article V B2	Terms of office are to start January 1.	Terms of office are to start at the annual Congregational Meeting.
Article V C4	The council shall serve as the personnel committee of the church, and employ such employees as may be necessary to carry forward the program and conduct the business of the church, other than pastoral leaders.	The council has authority to hire employees, other than pastoral leaders, as may be necessary to carry forward the program and conduct the business of the church. Authority to terminate such employment shall also reside with council.

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	Termination of such employment shall also be a council function.	
Article V C9	The moderator and the treasurer shall sign all legal documents of the church and its members, as authorized	The moderator and one other officer shall sign all legal documents of the church and its members, as authorized.
Article VII C	may not serve more than one consecutive term in this position	Removed – Covered in A
Article VII D	The past moderator may not serve more than one consecutive term in this position	Removed
Article VII E	SECRETARY: the secretary shall be responsible for keeping an accurate record of all meetings of the congregation. The secretary shall perform those duties and maintaining those records required by the State of Oregon for corporate maintenance.	SECRETARY: The secretary shall be responsible for keeping an accurate record of all meetings of the congregation. The secretary shall oversee the reporting required by the Corporations Division of the Secretary of State, Oregon.
Article VIII A	Building and Grounds Council Member	Building and Maintenance Chair
Article VIII C	Personnel Council member shall meet with the paid staff and the pastor as needed to review and assess needs of the paid staff, work with the pastor and prepare annual written evaluations. This person shall prepare information and make recommendations regarding staff to the council. This person shall oversee annual background checks on all staff and volunteers over age 18 who work directly with children.	The Personnel Committee is appointed by the Council and acts in an advisory role to Council and the Pastor with respect to personnel policies and issues. The Council delegates to the Pastor the responsibilities of supervision of daily operations consistent with these policies.
Article IX A	PURPOSE: To facilitate the accomplishment of God's mission and ministry for this church. The church shall elect at its annual meeting persons to serve on the various ministry boards.	PURPOSE: To carry out its mission, the church shall elect at its annual meeting persons to serve on the various ministry boards.

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Article IX C	<p>MINISTRY OF DIACONATE: A minimum of six (6) members shall constitute the diaconate. The diaconate shall assist and support the pastor with the spiritual life and vitality of the congregation, plan and assist in normal and special worship services, as including staffing and assisting in the observance and administration of the sacrament of communion and baptism. It is also the responsibility of the diaconate to share in pastoral care to the sick, shut in, and members with special needs and to call on absent members and promote regular attendance at church services, and generally assist in pastoral care to the spiritual interests of the church and the community.</p>	<p>MINISTRY OF DIACONATE: A minimum of six (6) members shall constitute the diaconate. The diaconate shall provide a friendly and welcoming environment for those attending worship services and especially for visitors and guests. The diaconate shall assist and support the pastor with the spiritual life and vitality of the congregation, plan and assist in normal and special worship services, including staffing and assisting in the observance and administration of the sacraments of communion and baptism. The diaconate will share in pastoral care to the sick, shut ins, and members with special needs and call on absent members and promote regular attendance at church services, and generally assist in pastoral care to the spiritual interests of the church and the community.</p>
Article IX F	<p>BOARD OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS. A minimum of six (6) members shall constitute the board. It shall establish and coordinate the over-all mission and outreach and giving of the church and make recommendations to the council for ministry projects and funding.</p>	<p>BOARD OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS. A minimum of six (6) members shall constitute the board. Guided by the overall mission of the church, and in consultation with the pastor and church council, the committee shall establish and coordinate mission and outreach projects. The committee will manage the Pockets of Plenty offering, including determination of recipients and distribution of funds and/or material goods.</p>
Article X B	<p>PASTORAL RELATIONS MINISTRY shall provide pastoral support, strive to maintain the highest level of trust and communication between the minister and the congregation and seek to honestly convey the feelings of the congregation to the pastor. The ministry shall consist of a minimum of six (6) members and shall serve for three (3) years, two members retiring annually. At least one member shall be from pastoral</p>	<p>PASTORAL RELATIONS MINISTRY shall provide pastoral support, strive to maintain the highest level of trust and communication between the pastor and the congregation, and seek to honestly convey the feelings of the congregation to the pastor. The ministry shall consist of a minimum of six (6) members and shall serve for three (3) years, two members retiring annually. At least one member shall be from the</p>

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	search ministry involved in the selection of the current pastor, three selected by the pastor, and the remaining three by the council. Additionally, the ministry shall make annual salary and benefit package recommendation to the council, as well as providing the council with the pastoral evaluation instrument.	pastoral search ministry involved in the selection of the current pastor, three selected by the pastor, and the remaining three by the Council. Additionally, the ministry shall make annual salary and benefit package recommendations to the Council, as well as providing the Council with the pastoral evaluation instrument. At the discretion of the Council, this ministry may be reduced in number and scope to best serve the current needs of the pastor and congregation.
Article XII A	The annual meeting of the congregation shall be in January on a date determined by the moderator, and notice thereof, including agenda, shall be published in the church bulletin at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting	The annual meeting of the congregation shall be in January on a date determined by the moderator, and notice thereof, including agenda, shall be communicated at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting
Article XII B	QUORUM: At the annual meeting of the congregation or at any special meeting called for the transaction of business a quorum shall be 20 percent of the active membership. (As attested by the secretary within 30 days prior to the meeting)	QUORUM: At the annual meeting of the congregation or at any special meeting called for the transaction of business a quorum shall be 20 percent of the active membership.
Article XIV 3	The determination of apportionment for distribution may be changed at any congregational meeting in accordance with Article V; however, no funds, property, or value shall be transferred to any member(s). Disbursement must, by law, be made to charitable or qualified non-profit organizations that continue the mission of Riverside Community Church.	The determination of apportionment for distribution will be decided at any congregational meeting in accordance with Article V; however, no funds, property, or value shall be transferred to any member(s). Disbursement must, by law, be made to charitable or qualified non-profit organizations that continue the mission of Riverside Community Church.