

LANSDOWNE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Hull Memorial)
Lansdowne, Maryland

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Preamble

We, the members of the Lansdowne Christian Church (Hull Memorial), a congregationally governed body, in order to promote the work of the church in the spirit of Christ and thus advance His Kingdom, do hereby adopt this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME , PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

Section A. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Lansdowne Christian Church (Hull Memorial), Lansdowne, Maryland.

Section B. Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be as revealed in the Old and New Testament, to win people to faith in Jesus Christ and commit them actively to the church, to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will, and to work for the unity of all Christians and with them engage in the common task of building the Kingdom of God.

Section C. Affiliation

This church shall be affiliated with the brotherhood known as Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) and be committed to the historic principles of this body whose agencies report to the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) and/or the Christian Churches Capital Area or their successor organizations and whose local congregations are variously known as Christian Churches, Churches of Christ, or Disciples of Christ.

Section D. General Powers

The property and business of the corporation shall be managed under the direction of the Board of Trustees under the Maryland Corporation law. The Board of Trustees

may, from time to time, appoint or employ such persons in such capacities as the Board may consider necessary to assist in the proper conduct of the activities and business of this church with one or more additional churches. The terms and conditions of any such appointment or association shall be at the discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership

1. This church shall consist of all those at present members thereof.
2. This church shall receive into membership any persons who wish to join by transfer from any Christian church regardless of denomination, provided such persons are active members of such church.
3. This church shall receive into membership any persons formerly members of a Christian church regardless of denomination, provided such persons reaffirm their faith in Christ.
4. This church shall receive as members any persons who confess their faith in Christ and are then baptized.

Section B. Status

1. Active members are those who are living in accord with the purpose of the church as stated in Article I, Section B.
2. Inactive members are those who have failed to worship with the church and/or failed to contribute or serve in accordance with the purpose of the church for one year.
3. Inactive members may at the discretion of the Board, be dropped from the roles of the church at any regular or special board meeting.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

Section A. Elected Officers

The Officers of the church shall consist of duly elected members of not less than four (4), nor more than eight (8), elected by the membership at its annual meeting each and every year. The persons so elected shall be called the Board of Trustees.

The Minister of the church shall be a member of the Board of Trustees in the same status as other fully qualified elected members of this body.

The Board of Trustees, at its first meeting following the election of its members for the ensuing year, shall elect from its own membership a Chairman who shall serve for the term of one year or until his/her successor shall be elected and assume office.

The congregation, at its annual meeting (after giving due notice as prescribed herein) shall appoint a treasurer to serve from year to year until a successor shall be appointed by the congregation at a subsequent annual or special meeting, after proper notice as prescribed herein.

Section B. Appointing Officers

There shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees Elders and Deacons composed of men and women in such number as the Board of Trustees shall decide necessary to properly carry out the duties of Elders and Deacons as hereinafter set forth.

Official Delegates and Alternates to Area Convention and such other official representatives for Christian Church or other cooperative church groups, shall, from time to time, be appointed by the Board of Trustees, at which time duties and tenure of offices will be prescribed.

The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Secretary to act for the Board of Trustees and at its pleasure, whose duties shall be prescribed as hereinafter set forth.

Section C. Duties of Officers

1. The duties of the Board of Trustees shall include all matters for the administration of the spiritual and business affairs of the church, subject only to modification or amendment to these By-Laws as hereinafter set forth. Any action by the Board of Trustees at its regular or special meeting by a majority of those attending after due notice to its members shall be binding on the said church. The Chairman, together with one other member of the Board of Trustees, shall execute all contracts or other written instruments on behalf of the church. In the absence of the Chairman at any regular or special meeting the Minister of the church shall act in his/her stead.
2. The Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees with or without compensation, and shall keep minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Church Board of Trustees, and shall be responsible to keep and maintain all records of the church, important papers, etc., except Treasurer's reports.
3. The Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees, with or without compensation, and have custody of all financial records, and keep an accurate accounting, of all monies, funds, securities and properties of the church, and shall provide such financial statements for the Board of Trustees and the Congregation as may be required.
4. Elders primarily shall be responsible for the spiritual life and development of the congregation, preside at the Lord's Table. assist and share with the minister in the conduct of his or her pastoral and priestly functions and provide supportive counsel for the minister regarding the spiritual life and development of the congregation.
5. Deacons primarily shall be responsible for the maintenance and growth of the congregation through its individual members and corporate life in witness in the community and in the world.

Section D. Election of Officers

1. Eligibility to hold office shall be accorded to all members having active membership status, as defined in ARTICLE II of this constitution, and shall also have attained the age of eighteen (18) years, or such lesser years as may be required by the statutes of the State of Maryland for persons eligible to execute contracts.

2. The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Nominating Committee of two (2) of its members and three (3) members of the Congregation to submit a report of nominees at least two weeks prior to the annual business meeting. It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the office of the Board of Trustees as indicated in ARTICLE III, Section A. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting of the election of Board of Trustees members by members of the Congregation in attendance. The nominees receiving a plurality of vote shall be declared as elected.
3. When a vacancy occurs among the members of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired portion of the term for such vacancy. Such person so appointed shall be required to meet the qualifications hereinbefore mentioned for election of the office to the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE IV. THE MINISTER

Section A. Duties

The Minister of the church shall be a pastor to the members of the church and leader of the worship of the church and shall be a member of the Board of Trustees and all other organized groups. He (or she) shall be accountable to the Board of Trustees.

Section B. Selection of Minister

1. A pulpit committee of five (5), nominated by the Board of Trustees and elected by the Congregation shall serve as a pulpit committee and be responsible for recommendation of a prospective Minister to the Board of Trustees and the Congregation.
2. The Board of Trustees shall consider the recommendation of the pulpit committee and refer it to the Congregation together with the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, concerning the section to which, in the judgment of the Board of Trustees shall recommend to the Congregation only one prospective Minister at a time. It shall be the policy of the church to consider only such prospective Ministers as shall receive the approval of any one of the following: the Regional Minister of the Christian Church or Area Convention in the state from which he/she comes; the Regional Minister of the Capital Area Council of Christian Churches, or the director of Ministerial Placement. However, the church shall not necessarily limit itself to the consideration of Ministers suggested by the respective officers of the said organizations hereinbefore mentioned.
3. The recommendation of the pulpit committee must be accepted by at least a three-fourths majority of members present and voting in a regular or special business meeting of the church before a call may be extended after due notice to the church membership of at least two weeks.
4. The term of ministry shall be indefinite. A written statement setting forth the salary to be paid and other conditions of the call shall be made in duplicate, one copy for the Minister and one copy for the church. The salary to be paid and other conditions of employment shall be reviewed at least annually by the Board of Trustees.

Section C. Termination of Employment of Minister

1. A ministry may be terminated, at the initiative of the Minister, sixty (60) days following the delivery of written notice by him to the Chairman or Secretary of the Board of Trustees. It shall be the policy of this church that when a Minister resigns to accept his/her resignation immediately.
2. A ministry may be terminated, at the initiative of the church, sixty (60) days following delivery of written notice by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees to the Minister. Such notice of termination must be signed by the Chairman and Secretary and be pursuant to a resolution approved by the Board of Trustees and ratified by at least a three-fourths majority of members present and voting at a regular or special business meeting of the church membership.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

Section A. Required Meetings

1. The church shall hold an annual business meeting within the last sixty (60) days of each fiscal year, the exact date to be set by the Board of Trustees, at which meeting elections for the coming year will be held. The Congregation shall at this time receive reports concerning the work of the church during the preceding year.
2. The Board of Trustees shall be required to hold no less than four (4) meetings per fiscal year, the annual meeting counting as one and such other meeting as the business of the church may require.

Section B. Notices

Notice of all regular or special business meetings of the Congregation shall be given by sending same to each member of the Congregation at his/her last known address as shown in the records of the church, giving time and place of such meeting at least two weeks prior to the date thereof. Such notices shall also be posted at the church bulletin board and noted in the Bulletin.

Section C. Rules of Order

All business meeting of the church and the Board of Trustees shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order, except as such rules may be in conflict with this constitution or duly adopted by-laws.

ARTICLE VI. FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Section A. Purpose

1. Fellowship Groups, such as Christian Women's Fellowship, Christian Men's Fellowship, Christian Youth Fellowship, Chi Rho, etc., may be formed for the purpose of forwarding the work of the church.
2. Community Organizations sponsored by this church such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc., may be formed for the purpose of serving the needs of the community.

Section B. Authorization

1. Fellowship Groups or community Organizations may be formed in the name of the Lansdowne Christian Church (Hull Memorial) only upon authorization of the Board of Trustees of said church.
2. The Lansdowne Christian Church (Hull Memorial) may terminate the relationship of any group or organization with said church on condition that an action to so terminate the relationship is approved by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Section C. Constitution and By-Laws

Each group or organization shall direct its own affairs and, in doing so, adopt its own Constitution and By-Laws or plan of procedure, one copy of which shall be approved by and filed with the Board of Trustees of the Lansdowne Christian Church (Hull Memorial) as shall one copy of each subsequent amendment thereto. Any fund raising plan is subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees in advance.

ARTICLE VII. SEAL

The Seal of this Church shall consist of a scroll and contain the words: "Lansdowne Christian Church (Hull Memorial) of Lansdowne, Maryland".

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting on the amendment, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members of the Congregation. Such notice shall be given as stated in ARTICLE V, Section B, and the proposed amendment shall be quoted in the same.

ARTICLE IX. SCOPE

This Constitution and By-Laws supersede all other Constitutions and By-Laws of this church. Any provision or provisions of other Constitutions and/or By-Laws which are omitted herefrom are expressly repealed. This Constitution and By-Laws shall be effective immediately upon passage.

BE IT RESOLVED that on this 23rd day of April, 1989, at a duly constituted business meeting of the Congregation of Lansdowne Christian Church (Hull Memorial) and by a vote of three-fourths of those members present and voting on the proposed amendments, which were in writing, notice heretofore having been given in accordance with ARTICLE V, Section B, of the Constitution of said church, that the foregoing constitution and By-Laws were duly passed, to become effective immediately, which Constitution and By-Laws shall replace and supersede all other Constitutions and By-Laws heretofore passed, and which, up to this time, have been effective.

AS WITNESSED by the Chairman and Secretary of the Official Board.


Chairman


Secretary