

CONSTITUTION

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH

*444 River Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

revised June 2010

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH – CONSTITUTION

I STATEMENT OF MISSION, VISION, VALUES

(Approved at a congregational meeting, October 17th, 2004)

Mission

The Mission of Augustine United Church is to worship God, care for each other, seek justice, and deepen our faith in an inclusive, Affirming Christian community.

Vision

The Vision of Augustine United Church is to grow in Spirit, kinship, and number by offering a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth; by being a welcoming sanctuary for seekers and skeptics; by inviting others to be part of our community of faith; by caring for each other as Christ cares for us; and by serving communities beyond our walls through the power of God's transforming love in human action.

Values

We are a community that seeks:

- justice
- caring, respectful relationships
- inclusiveness
- a welcoming spirit
- spiritual growth

Goals

The primary goals of Augustine are an active and involved membership, a hospitable building, a sound financial base, and a spirit of willing risk that will be open and responsive to the faith experiences and life issues inspired by the diversity of our community.

II GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The Constitution of Augustine United Church shall be structured within the general guidelines of *The Manual* of The United Church of Canada, including the provision that the fiscal year be the calendar year.
- B. The work of this church shall be carried out by three levels of responsibility:
 1. *The Congregation* shall actively support the Statement of Mission, Vision and Values as well as elect a group of its people to the Council and to Ministry Team Leader positions who shall be responsible for the administration and organization of the church.

2. *The Church Council* (herein referred to as "The Council") has all of the powers of a Pastoral Charge Board as set out in *The Manual (2010)*, sections 153, 154, 155, 165, 167, and 184.
 3. *The Ministry Teams* perform the functions outlined under the general mandate and the terms of reference of the teams.
- C. There shall be a Board of Trustees which shall hold the church property in trust as outlined in *The Manual*. The Trustees shall sit on the Finance Team, with power to vote.
- D. The Council shall review the constitution on a periodic basis and report to the congregation.

III GENERAL REGULATIONS

A. The Congregation

1. *Membership*

- a) Members are those who have joined Augustine United Church, and by extension, The United Church of Canada, by profession of faith or transfer of membership and adherents are those who support Augustine United Church without membership. Both members and adherents give of their time, talents and resources to the church.
- b) Members are entitled to vote at congregational meetings on temporal and spiritual matters (as per *The Manual (2010)*, 5.8.2 and 001, page 42 where spiritual and temporal matters are delineated).

2. *Duties* – Members and adherents of the congregation present at the Annual Meeting shall:

- a) Receive the Annual Report of the Council.
- b) Receive the auditor's report.
- c) Approve the annual budget.
- d) Appoint the auditor for the coming year.
- e) Receive proposals.

Members and adherents of the congregation present at the Annual Meeting shall elect people to:

- Council
- Board of Trustees
- Team Leadership Positions
- Presbyter and Alternate

3. Amendments to the Constitution shall be dealt with at a duly called congregational meeting. Editorial changes (i.e. numbering, lettering, spelling and punctuation) may be authorized by the Council. Such changes shall be reported to the congregation at the next annual meeting. Approval will require a simple majority of those present.

4. *Meetings*

a) The members and adherents of the congregation shall hold an annual meeting of the congregation each year, on a date set by the Council. At this meeting, the congregation considers reports on the life and work of the congregation, including financial reports and the Annual Report. The Council may call additional congregational meetings as required.

b) Unless otherwise provided for in the polity and procedures of the United Church, the notice for any meeting of the congregation shall specify its object, and shall be announced at least two weeks (not including the day of the announcement) before the time of the meeting.

c) A quorum at a congregational meeting shall be twenty members in full standing, and at least one member of the order of Ministry Personnel (As per section 123 of *The Manual (2010)*).

B. The Council

1. *Membership*

a) Persons elected to the Council shall be members of Augustine United Church who participate actively in its life and work.

b) It is comprised of ministry personnel settled in or appointed to the pastoral charge, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair of M&P, Worship Team Leader and one member at large.

2. *Terms of Office*

a) Persons are elected for a two-year term and may serve for a maximum of three consecutive terms, with the exception of the member at large who will serve for a maximum of one term. Persons appointed to the Council on an interim basis shall hold office for the full term of the vacancy, and such appointments shall be reported to the congregation at the next annual meeting.

3. *Mandate*

The Council's mandate is broad-based and touches upon all aspects of the life and growth of the congregation. That is, to:

- Discern God's vision of the church
- Establish parameters for the teams
- Monitor the teams
- Ensure good communication
- Develop the processes for the Council's work
- Oversee conduct of members and adherents
- Attend to matters outside the parameters of other committees and teams
- Create new teams as needed
- Liaise with Presbytery on matters of petitions and appeals
- Support lay ministry, pastoral relations and the constitution of Pastoral Charge
- Organize and call congregational meetings at least annually
- Give direction to the Board of Trustees concerning matters of property

4. *Meetings*

- a) The Council shall meet monthly on a date agreed upon by a majority of the members.
- b) All activities of the Council shall be reported through the Secretary, through minutes, which shall be distributed to members prior to the next meeting. A copy of the minutes shall be placed on file in the Augustine office.

C. **Ministry Teams**

1. The Ministry Teams were developed (and continue to be developed) according to our discernment of gifts and ministry necessities. The Council, as necessary, may formulate new teams and their mandates and parameters or disband a team other than those dictated by *The Manual*. Terms of reference for each team outline its mandates and parameters.
 - a) Teams may include:
 - Communication
 - Congregational Life
 - Faith Development
 - Finance
 - Ministry & Personnel
 - Newcomer
 - Pastoral Care
 - Property
 - Social Justice
 - Worship

- b) The Choir Director/Organist shall be an ex officio member of the Worship Team.
- c) All team leaders must be participating members of Augustine United Church.
- d) Each team may add to its membership, with the approval of the Council. That is, Team Leaders will seek advice from the Council before confirming membership within the team.
- e) Teams are required to operate according to their mandate and terms of reference.

2. *Ministry Team Leadership*

- a) Team Leaders shall be elected for a two-year term, to a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms (i.e. 4 years in all).
- b) Members appointed by the Council on an interim basis shall hold office until the next congregational meeting.
- c) All Ministry Teams shall record their business and activities in minutes.
- d) All Ministry Teams shall provide a copy of their minutes to the Council as well as email a copy of the minutes to the office for distribution to team leaders. Minutes will also be kept on file in the Augustine office.
- e) Members of Teams must be approved by Council.
- f) Oversight of teams (its leadership, functioning and membership) is the responsibility of council.

The operational structure of Augustine United Church as specified in this constitution adheres to the policies and procedures of The United Church of Canada, according to The Manual of the United Church. As stated previously in the body of the constitution, the Council will periodically review the constitution to ensure that it reflects current operational structures, procedures and practices of Augustine United Church.