

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
for
PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church "Gathered" January 8, 1961

ARTICLE I: NAME AND INCORPORATION

- A. The name by which this Church is to be known in law is PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, hereafter referred to as "This Church" or "Pilgrim Church."
- B. This Church is incorporated as an ecclesiastical corporation under Act 53 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1901 as amended.
- C. This Church is dedicated as a Continuing Congregational Christian Church.

ARTICLE II: LOCATION

- A. Location of this Church and its principal place of worship shall be at 3061 North Adams Road, Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

- A. This Church is organized for the purpose of Christian worship, work and fellowship.
- B. No substantial part of the activities of this Church shall include the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, nor shall it participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office and no part of the earnings or assets of this Church shall inure to the benefit of any individual, member thereof, contributor thereto, or for any private, personal or selfish purpose. No part of the assets of this Church or income derived therefrom shall be given to or inure to the benefit of any person, corporation or organization not tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America. In the event of the dissolution of this Church, none of its property shall be distributed to any person, corporation or organization not tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America. It is further delineated that in the event of the dissolution of this Church, its property shall be distributed at such time to the Missionary Society of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches or its successor(s).

ARTICLE IV: FAITH

- A. This Church is a Christian Church. As such, its members accept the Scriptures as their authority in matters of faith and practice. They hold to themselves as individuals, the right of interpretation of the Scriptures and accept the responsibility, as individuals, of nurturing a strong and abiding Christian faith within themselves and among all with whom they come in contact, and further, of working as they are capable for the glorification of God and the extension of Christian faith throughout the world.

ARTICLE V: POLITY

- A. The government and administration of the affairs of this Church is vested in the voting members of this congregation.
- B. This Church accepts no ecclesiastical authority other than the word of God as revealed in the Scriptures as interpreted by individual members of this congregation.
- C. This Church shall not affiliate or merge itself with any organization if, after such affiliation or merger, it would be or might be legally subject to the authority of any worldly individual, body or bodies whether representative or not.
- D. This Church may participate in the mutual council, comity and cooperation involved in any free fellowship of Churches, and may seek and continue relationships with Congregational associations, conferences and other cooperative organizations and send delegates thereto so long as such associations, conferences and other cooperative organizations are in fact the agencies of the local member churches.
- E. This Church may cooperate with other denominations, ministerial associations, councils of churches and other joint Christian efforts in such ways and at such times as the membership shall determine.
- F. This Church may send delegates or representatives to various ecclesiastical organizations that are financially, spiritually, or otherwise supported by this Church and such delegates or representatives are pledged to support in this work as delegate or representative, the policies and principles of this Church as set forth in these Articles of Association, the Bylaws or by directed actions taken at duly constituted Congregational meetings of the membership of this Church. Delegates or representatives shall seek advice from the Church Council prior to attendance at meetings of the mentioned organizations.
- G. This Church may operate a non-profit day nursery for pre-school children in compliance with provisions of the laws of the State of Michigan and ordinances enacted by Bloomfield Township.

1. The Board of Trustees shall contract for qualified personnel to operate such nursery as specified in the "Employment Contract", dated August 20, 1976 and amended November 12, 1981.
2. Additions or revisions to the above named contract will be by mutual agreement between the Director and the Board of Trustees and signed by the Director and two officers of this Church.

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any person shall be accorded membership in this Church upon completion of all of the following requirements:
 1. Attendance at the orientation meeting(s) organized by the Board of Deacons to discuss with prospective members the basic principles of a Congregational Christian Church and the polity of Pilgrim Church.
 2. Reading and accepting the Covenant of this Church.
 3. Reading and accepting the Articles of Association and Bylaws of this Church.
 4. Expression of a desire to participate in the free Christian Fellowship, and the willingness to grow in the Christian life and faith.
 5. Expression of a willingness to support this Church and to serve in its organized work.
 6. Submission of any of the following evidences of faith:
 - a. By a letter of transfer from a Christian Church.
 - b. Re-affirmation of faith.
 - c. Confession of faith and baptism (as appropriate).
 7. Reception by the membership at a Service of Worship.
- B. Membership in this Church may be terminated in the following manner:
 1. By letter of transfer, request of the member, death or by having become a member of another Church.
 2. a. By action of the Board of Deacons upon recognition that a member has ceased to actively participate in the fellowship. An active member is one who supports this Church and/or serves in its organized work. The Board of Deacons shall make an effort of personal contact to encourage participation. If this fails or is impractical, the Board shall communicate by letter, advising of our concern and inviting comment. If the Board is unsuccessful in its attempt to encourage the member to again participate in Church activities, the Board shall advise the Clerk to remove the name from the rolls of this Church.
 - b. It is explicitly understood that no member actively participating in the affairs of this Church or whose participation is limited by reason of health may be dropped from the rolls as a purely disciplinary measure.

- c. All names to be removed from the rolls shall be recognized and recorded by the Board of Deacons who shall instruct said removal from the rolls by the Clerk.
- C. Members in Absentia:
1. Members who in the opinion of the Board of Deacons have moved beyond reasonable driving distance will be designated as "Members in Absentia."
 2. Their association and identification with Pilgrim Church will continue, and they will be considered full members with all rights and privileges except the right to vote.
 3. The status of "Member in Absentia" is not applicable to any member living within a reasonable driving distance.
 4. Upon permanent return to the Pilgrim area, members in absentia will automatically be reinstated as voting members.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

- A. The Annual Regular Meeting shall be held during the month of May. At this meeting the annual reports of the Officers and Committees shall be presented; the election of Officers, Committee and Board Members and Delegates, if any, shall be held; and such other business as may be specified in the call or authorized by the Bylaws shall be transacted. All reports made at the annual regular meeting shall be in writing.
- B. The Annual Budget Meeting shall be held on or about the first Wednesday in November. At this meeting the Congregation shall review the plans of the Officers and Boards and Committees for the current year and shall consider the budget proposed for carrying out these plans. The Congregation shall then determine the budget for the coming year.
- C. Special Meetings shall be called by the Moderator upon the request of any Officer or Committee of the Church or upon petition in writing signed by at least ten percent of the members listed on the rolls of the Church.
- D. The time, place and purpose of each meeting of the Congregation shall be published for not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. This shall include reading of the notice on at least two successive Sunday worship services immediately prior to the meeting and the inclusion of the notice in all written publications issued to the membership at large by this Church, its Officers or Boards or Committees during the fourteen (14) day period immediately preceding the meeting.
- E. A Quorum for any meeting of the Congregation called for any purpose shall consist of a number equal to twenty (20) percent of the voting members listed on the rolls of the Church. If a quorum is not present at a meeting of the Congregation, or if there is a need for a

continuation of the called meeting, the formal notification requirements of paragraph D may be waived and the meeting rescheduled within the next two week period with a reasonable attempt to notify the Congregation at least 48 hours prior to the rescheduled meeting.

- F. All members of Pilgrim Church, who have reached the age of 18 years shall be privileged to vote on any matter.
- G. Roberts Rules of Order will apply at all meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

- A. Any amendment or change to these Articles of Association must first be presented to the Congregation in a duly called Congregational Meeting.
- B. An exactly worded copy of the proposed amendment or change and a ballot shall be mailed to each eligible voter not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Congregational Meeting at which results of the letter ballot will be announced.
- C. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of acceptance by the certified voting members of the Church constitutes passage of amendments or changes to these Articles of Association.