

LIVING PEACE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

CONSTITUTION

INTRODUCTION. We, the people of Living Peace Church of the Brethren, have discerned together that God has called us to fulfill a mission: “to live Christ’s gospel by accepting, ministering, and proclaiming God’s love; peacefully, simply, and together.” We recognize that to fulfill this mission, responsibility and power must be shared as we pursue many activities in an orderly fashion. Therefore, we have established the following Constitution. We pray that God will help us to always use it in Godly ways for Godly purposes.

WELCOMING STATEMENT. Living Peace Church of the Brethren affirms the core values of peace and nonviolence, simple living, and community that form the foundation of the Church of the Brethren as a denomination. We, the people of Living Peace, believe that prayerful discernment in the Holy Spirit leads us to better understand God's Word and God's Message to us in our daily living. We want everyone to live a life of plenty—full of the peace, compassion, and love brought by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

If this is your desire, join us! We earnestly need you to help us hear God more fully. Bring your gifts and talents and gather with us at God's Table, and share with us in abundant living. Living Peace Church of the Brethren does not and will not discriminate for any reason against any person who earnestly desires to be part of the life of our community.

DENOMINATIONAL AND DISTRICT RELATIONSHIPS. Living Peace Church of the Brethren is a vital and active member of the Church of the Brethren denomination, and of the Southern Ohio and Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren. Should Living Peace Church of the Brethren ever cease to be a vital and active Congregation of the Church of the Brethren, all properties would then revert to the ownership of the Southern Ohio and Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren denomination.

BASIC CONGREGATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING

MEMBERS. Members of Living Peace Church of the Brethren are believers who have joined Living Peace Church of the Brethren, either by baptism, by transfer of membership letter, by reaffirmation of faith, or by covenant.

DECISION MAKING. All decisions shall be made by consensus. Consensus is a group process where the input of each individual is carefully considered, and an outcome is crafted that best meets the needs of the Congregation, in accordance with the leading of the Holy Spirit. During the dialogue and discussion phase of consensus building, all persons, regardless of membership status, may participate. However, for a decision to be made, there must be a consensus among the Congregation’s members.

BUSINESS MEETING. The Congregation shall meet as needed to conduct the regular and normal business of the Church. All persons, regardless of membership status, are welcome to participate in these meetings; Ministers and Officers are especially encouraged to attend.

MINISTERS. All licensed and ordained Ministers who are members of the Congregation may participate in Living Peace's plural nonsalaried ministry.

OFFICERS. The Officers of the Church include the Moderator, Chair, Facilities Chair, Assistant Facilities Chair, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk, and Archivist.

MODERATOR. The Moderator serves as a resource and liaison to the Officers. The Moderator may facilitate the consensus decision-making process or be the presiding officer at a Business Meeting at the request of the Chair. Ideally, the Moderator should be a member of another Congregation in the Southern Ohio District of the Church of the Brethren.

CHAIR. The Chair represents and serves as the primary contact for the Congregation. The Chair develops agendas for and is the presiding Officer at the Business Meeting. The Chair facilitates the consensus decision-making process.

FACILITIES CHAIR. The Facilities Chair organizes and manages the general maintenance of the Church property and infrastructure. The Facilities Chair serves as a liaison for the Church during capital improvement projects and during partnerships in which Church facilities are shared with a third party. In the absence of the Chair, the Facilities Chair assumes the responsibilities of the Chair.

ASSISTANT FACILITIES CHAIR. The Assistant Facilities Chair assists the Facilities Chair as needed. In the absence of the Facilities Chair, the Assistant Facilities Chair assumes the responsibilities of the Facilities Chair.

TREASURER. The Treasurer keeps records in accordance with accepted principles of accounting, and submits written reports along with copies of all bank statements to each Business Meeting. The Treasurer also keeps the Congregation informed about the Church's financial status and affairs.

ASSISTANT TREASURER. The Assistant Treasurer assists the Treasurer as needed. The Assistant Treasurer also provides for internal controls of financial matters, including protection against conflicts of interest in transactions. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer assumes the responsibilities of the Treasurer.

CLERK. The Clerk records Minutes at each Business Meeting. Minutes from the previous Business Meeting are presented for approval at the next Business Meeting.

ARCHIVIST. The Archivist organizes and maintains the Historical Records of the Church, including all Business Meeting Minutes, Church Directories, and other historical documents.

AMENDMENTS. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed at any Business Meeting. Proposed amendments must be approved at the next Business Meeting by consensus and in accordance with the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Originally Approved by the Congregation March 16, 2008
Most Recent Revision Approved by the Congregation August 20, 2017