

ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR CONGREGATIONAL  
CONDUCT  
FOR FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ODESSA, MO  
(part of the Ethical Guidelines for Congregational Conduct,  
Christian Church, Disciples of Christ)  
March, 2018

We, the members of this congregation, following much prayer and discussion of our attitudes and practices in the light of the life and teachings of Jesus, hereby resolve to follow the ethical principles delineated in the New Testament. The following Ethical Guidelines For Congregational Conduct, while not to be construed as a set of rules or law, will help us to make specific application of our New Testament faith to our practices as a congregation. May God guide us and give us strength and determination as we endeavor to understand and to fulfill the resolves mentioned in these guidelines.

I. OUR RELATIONSHIP AS MEMBERS TO ONE ANOTHER

- A. We will treat one another with courtesy and kindness. We will endeavor to maintain an attitude of Christian love in all our relationships.
- B. We will seek to keep confidences and will refrain from gossip. We will seek in all we do and say to strengthen character and dignify personality.

II OUR RELATIONSHIP AS MEMBERS TO OUR CHURCH  
OFFICERS AND LEADERS

- A. We will select our officers intentionally and impartially on the basis of their commitment, competence, compassion and maturity in the faith. We are committed to having men, women and youth serve in the various responsibilities of the congregation.
- B. We will endeavor to distribute our offices among many

persons and be appreciative of the services of every member.

### III OUR RELATIONSHIP AS MEMBERS TO OUR MINISTER

A. We will encourage and assist our minister through constructive feedback, appropriate praise, constant prayer and faithful participation with him or her in ministry.

B. Because the congregation is a priesthood of believers that minister to one another (pastor to the congregation and congregation to the pastor), our relationships in the church will be covenantal as well as contractual, and we will maintain and conclude all pastoral relationships in a spirit of Christian love.

### IV OUR RELATIONSHIP AS MEMBERS TO OUR COMMUNITY AND/OR COUNTRY

A. We accept our missional responsibility for the moral and spiritual development of our community. We agree to live in a manner consistent with our Christian convictions.

B. We will establish no barriers that might prevent anyone from worshipping with us.

### V OUR RELATIONSHIP AS MEMBERS TO THE CHURCHES IN OUR COMMUNITY

A. We will seek to understand the beliefs and practices of others. While we may be constructively critical of their doctrine, we will refrain from unkind remarks about people who differ from us.

B. We will encourage unity and harmony among the various communions of Christian peoples and will give evidence of our sincerity through participation at appropriate local, state/province, national and/or world levels.

### VI OUR RELATIONSHIP AS MEMBERS TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

A. We will seek to know and to understand the various points of view within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and will respect the opinions of those whose interpretations differ from our own.

B. We will recognize our covenantal relationship with the Disciples and will give generous and prayerful support to our programs at home and overseas.

VII OUR RELATIONSHIP AS MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH  
UNIVERSAL

A. With the church universal we proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of the world, in his name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

B. Because all Christians in the church universal have the obligation to uphold the Christian life in the face of the evil forces of our day, we will cooperate with other church bodies in living the Christian witness.

We the members of First Christian Church of Odessa, MO on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, desire to uphold the covenantal relationships we share with one another, our church officers and leaders, our minister, our community and country, the churches in our community, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Church universal regarding these guidelines. Signed on behalf of the Congregation by:

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Chair of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)