

CONSTITUTION OF THE DANBY COMMUNITY CHURCH - {New Date of Acceptance}

We, the partners of the Danby Community Church, in order to govern ourselves, present this Constitution. This Constitution presents a framework of governance of this faith community and is not a mechanism of Management.

Article 1: Name and Legal Status

1.1 This Christian fellowship shall be known as the Danby Community Church, located in the Town of Danby, Tompkins County, New York. The mailing address is 1859 Danby Road, Ithaca, New York 14850

1.2 Danby Community Church is incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) Corporation registered in the State of New York. The Trustees serve as our Corporate Officers.

Article 2: Mission Statement

2.1 To add to and build up the Kingdom of God.

Article 3: Purpose and Beliefs

3.1 The purpose of this Church shall be to maintain regular public worship of God, build up its congregation in the Christian faith, promote systematic study and teaching of the Bible, strengthen the bond of Christian fellowship, offer Christian rituals as well as the sacraments of Baptism, The Lord's Supper and Holy Matrimony, and participate in evangelism both locally and throughout the world.

3.2 This church believes that Jesus Christ is the leader of his Church. We believe that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant word of God. The Bible shall be the final authority in faith and conduct. We affirm our faith through the tenants of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

Article 4: Partnership

4.1 Persons become partners by baptism and either by confirmation or profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior before the congregation. Partnership with the church shall be renewed annually. At least once per calendar year every person in the congregation will have the opportunity to update their partnership covenant with the church.

4.2 Partners shall be in community with one another, attend the regular worship activities of the Church and the celebration of the Lord's Supper; live the Christian life; share in the life and work of the church; contribute to its support and benevolences; and seek diligently the spiritual welfare of the partnership and the community.

4.3 The partnership roll shall be kept in the church office.

4.4 Each partner shall have one vote at the annual meeting or special meetings called by the administrative council.

Article 5: Spiritual Leader Known as Pastor

5.1 The Pastor may be chosen or called from any

denomination providing he/she is appropriately credentialed.

5.1.1 A pastor shall be called or appointed based upon the recommendation of the Staff/Pastor Oversight Committee (SPOC) and by a two-thirds vote of the partners of the church.

5.1.2 An announcement to the congregation must be made three (3) consecutive weeks prior to the vote.

5.2 The Pastor shall:

5.2.1 Provide spiritual, visionary, and pastoral leadership to the congregation and greater community.

5.2.2 Preach the Word of God, administer the Sacraments, and conduct public worship.

5.2.3 The pastor shall serve as ex-officio partner in all ministry areas.

5.2.4 The pastor shall have voice and vote when needed in case of tie.

Article 6: Meetings

6.1 Annual and Special Meetings

6.1.1 The Annual meeting shall be held on a Sunday in January, preferably on the third Sunday. In case of extenuating circumstances, no later than February 15.

6.1.2 A quorum of thirty-five percent (35%) of the partnership is required.

6.2 The Pastor or Administrative Council may call congregational meetings. Notice shall be given three (3) weeks prior to the meeting through all church publication modes.

Article 7: Election of Officers, Trustees, and SPOC Members

7.1 All officers of the church shall be partners in good standing.

7.1.1 The election of officers shall be held at the Annual Meeting.

7.2 SPOC members shall be partners of the church and are nominated by the Administrative Council, in consultation with the pastor for election at the annual meeting.

7.2.1 SPOC shall consist of at least 6 members.

7.3 The SPOC shall provide a slate of nominees for the following offices and hold descriptions of the responsibilities of each ministry area coordinator and church position including:

7.3.1 Financial Secretary

7.3.2 Church Treasurer

7.3.3 Trustees

7.3.4 Church Clerk

7.3.5 Ministry Area Coordinators

Article 8: Ministry Areas

8.1 Administrative

8.1.1 Administrative includes Trustee Chair or

Representative, Officers, and Ministry Area Coordinators. Officers and Ministry Coordinators shall meet monthly in an 'Administrative Council'. An Administrative Ministry Area Coordinator shall serve as the Administrative Council Chair. Voting members of the Administrative Council shall be Trustee Chair, Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Church Clerk, SPOC Committee Chair, Ministry Area Coordinators. A quorum of five (5) members would be required for all voting.

8.1.2 Administrative Council shall meet monthly but not less than 10 times per year.

8.1.3 Anyone may be asked to participate in certain ministry areas and participants do not need to be partners, except for the Ministry Area Coordinator of each area and unless otherwise stated.

8.2 Hospitality Fellowship

8.2.1 Hospitality/Fellowship includes, *but is not limited to*, events such as receptions for funerals and weddings, coffee hour, church dinners, Sundaes on Wednesdays, etc.

8.2.2 Anyone may participate, but the Hospitality Ministry Area Coordinator must be a partner with the church.

8.3 Missions

8.3.1 Missions includes, *but is not limited to*, local ministries, global ministries, disaster response, and mission trips outside the local area.

8.3.2 Anyone may participate, but the Missions Ministry Area Coordinator must be a partner with the

church.

8.4 Spiritual Development

8.4.1 Spiritual Development includes, *but is not limited to*, Bible studies, Sunday and mid-week worship, Sunday School, Children's Church, prayer groups, spiritual advisors to the pastor, spiritual retreats and visitations.

8.4.2 Anyone may participate, but the Spiritual Development Area Coordinator must be a partner with the church.

8.4.3 Anyone working with children or vulnerable adults in the church must have a background check, take the training offered yearly in this area, and abide by the church's Safe Sanctuary Policy.

8.5 Outreach

8.5.1 Outreach includes but is not limited to establishing and maintaining community relationships. This involves building connections with individuals, organizations, and businesses within the local community.

8.5.2 Anyone may participate, but the Outreach Coordinator must be a partner with the church.

Article 9: The Board of Trustees

9.1 The Board of Trustees shall consist of six to nine (6-9) members - all of which must be partners with the church - and shall be the legal body of the Church. The Trustees shall be responsible for the maintenance and use of all church property and shall see that the property is properly and adequately insured. The Trustees shall ensure that the church property is used in the manner

consistent with our sacramental beliefs.

Article 10: Dispatch of Property

10.1 Upon dissolution of the Church, its assets, interests and liabilities including any device , bequest, gift, or grant contained in any Will or other Instrument, in trust or otherwise made before or after such dissolution, shall be dispensed as recommended by the Administrative Council and voted upon by the partnership of the congregation in a congregational meeting.

10.2 In the event that the property is no longer used for Church purposes, the land “shall remain open as the common” as stated in the deed.

Article 11: Amendments

11.1 Recommendations of amendments and/or revisions to the Constitution may be proposed at any duly called Administrative Council meeting.

11.1a Copies of proposed amendments and/or revisions will be made available for three (3) consecutive weeks in the church for partner review and comment.

11.1b A public announcement concerning proposed amendment(s) and/or revisions will be placed in the Church bulletin for three (3) consecutive weeks prior to a congregational meeting.

11.1c The final approval shall be by a two-thirds vote of the Church partners present at the congregational meeting.

Article 12: Rules of Order

In all events and situations regarding order not covered in the Constitution, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order will remain as the final resource for change of regulations or order.