THE CONSTITUTION

MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MIDDLEBURY, CONNECTICUT 06762

Approved and Effective January 29, 1995

To supersede JANUARY 26, 1992

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I = NAME

 The name of the Church is the Middlebury Congregational Church. Middlebury, Connecticut. This Church is a member of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE II = OBJECT

The object of this Church is to unite followers of Christ for the purpose of making the will of God dominant in our lives individually and collectively.

ARTICLE III = GOVERNMENT AND FELLOWSHIP

 The government of this Church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, subject in legal matters to the Laws of the State of Connecticut relating to Church Corporations.

 This Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body but it recognized the obligation of mutual council, comity and cooperation among Congregations of the United Church of Christ, and is in fellowship with all Churches which, in the love of truth and the spirit of Christ, are devoted to the worship of God and the service of humanity.

ARTICLE IV = FAITH AND COVENANT

 The Faith and Covenant by which this Church exists as a distinct body, and which every member accepts, is as follows:

We covenant with God and with one another

In mutual love and trust:

 To worship God together

 To study and respond to God’s Holy Word

To witness in all the world to God’s reconciling love

To strive for love, justice, and peace

And to walk together in the ways of the Lord.

 We rely on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us.

We acknowledge God’s covenant with us, made known to us in Jesus Christ.

We recognize our continuing need for God’s grace,

and our dependence on each other in the fulfillment of this covenant.

# Covenant adopted by the Congregation April 1994

We recognize the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith as a guide and testament to our faith:

 We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

 He calls the worlds into being,

 creates man in his own image

 and sets before him the ways of life and death.

 He judges men and nations by his righteous will

 declared through prophets and apostles.

 In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,

 he has come to us

 and shared our common lot,

 conquering sin and death

 and reconciling the world to himself.

 He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit,

 creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ,

 binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,

 tongues, and races.

 He calls us into his Church

to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

to be his servants in the service of men,

to proclaim the gospel to all the world

and resist the powers of evil,

to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table,

to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him

forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,

courage in the struggle for justice and peace,

his presence in trial and rejoicing,

and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

The church has adopted the following Open & Affirming Covenant:

The Middlebury Congregational Church welcomes all who choose to seek to share the Good News of God’s love for us, and we proclaim ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all persons of all sexual orientations, gender expressions, socioeconomic status, family configurations, ages, national origins, races, physical, cognitive, and medical ability, and religious background. We celebrate God’s inclusive welcome, where all are encouraged to work together, in mission and in service, to participate fully in the ministry, worship, leadership, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, joys, and blessings in our church. We embrace all people at any point in their faith journey and affirm each person's freedom to pursue God's unique calling. As Christians, we commit ourselves to the ongoing work of being an Open and Affirming congregation, continuing to strive for love, justice, and peace. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome at Middlebury Congregational Church.

-adopted by the congregation February 23, 2025

ARTICLE V = MEMBERSHIP

 The membership of the Church shall include its present members and those received into membership by vote of the Diaconate. The latter shall have made public assent to the Faith and Covenant of the Church, and shall have fulfilled one of the following requirements:

1. Confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and Baptism, If not previously baptized,
2. Presentation of satisfactory Letters of Transfer from other Churches.
3. Reaffirmation of faith.

ARTICLE VI = MEETINGS

 The annual meeting of the Church and other regular or special meetings for public worship and other religious exercises shall be held as provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII = OFFICERS

 The principal officers, all of legal age, of this Church shall be:

1. Pastor
2. The Chair of the Church Council
3. The Church Council
4. The Clerk
5. Treasurer
6. The Deacons
7. The Trustees

ARTICLE VIII = AMENDMENTS

 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members 18 years of age and over, present and voting at an Annual Meeting. The amendment shall have been published in Church Life and /or Sunday program at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, at which action would be expected. Notice of the meeting shall also be read to the Congregation on a Sunday between the publication date and the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IX = DISSOLUTION

 This Church and its property shall be forever devoted to religious purposes. No officer, member or employee of the Church shall receive any pecuniary benefit from the Church except reasonable compensation for services in effecting one or more of its purposes.

 This Church may be dissolved by a vote of two-thirds of its members of legal age present and voting at a meeting of the Church specifically called for that purpose. In the event of the dissolution of the Church, its property shall become vested in such Church or other organization which is organized and operated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes which the membership of the Church shall designate at a meeting called before said dissolution, or, in the absence of such determination, as the Superior Court of the County of New Haven sitting at Waterbury shall determine.