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**CONSTITUTION of
Webster United Church of Christ**

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4Pursuant to the Laws of the State of Michigan as Adopted by the Congregation on
5October 18, 1998, and amended by the Congregation on January 31, 1999. Subjected to
6review in 2002, 2005 and 2008 without any amendments offered for consideration
7during January 26, 2003 or January 29, 2006 or January 25, 2009 Annual Meetings. This
8Constitution shall supersede any previous Constitution.

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Article 1

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NAME

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14This Church is called the Webster United Church of Christ. It is located in Webster
15Township, Washtenaw County, State of Michigan.

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Article 2

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PURPOSE

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21The purpose of this Church, governed by the principles of Congregationalism, is to
22worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through common worship and
23service.

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Article 3

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GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATION

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28(A) The government of this Church is vested in its members, who exercise the right of
29control in all its affairs, subject, however, to the laws of the State of Michigan relating to
30ecclesiastical corporations. Because the autonomy of the local church is the heritage of
31Congregationalism, the denomination is essentially a fellowship in its organization. The
32principles of fellowship, the promise of covenant and cooperative action are recognized
33and honored as the ties that link this Church with Local Associations of Churches, State
34Conferences, and the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

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36(B) The Church may in its corporate name sue or be sued, acquire by purchase, gift,
37devise, bequest or otherwise and own, hold, invest, reinvest or dispose of property, both
38real and personal, for such work as the Church may undertake and may purchase, own,
39receive, hold, manage, care for and transfer, rent, lease, mortgage, or otherwise
40encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property for the general purposes of the
41Church; it may receive and hold in trust both real and personal property and invest and
42reinvest the same and make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the
43Church.

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45(C) All elected Officers, Board Members, the Pastor and employees shall be
46indemnified by the Church to the maximum extent feasible under law for all actions taken
47within the authorized scope of their duties.

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Article 4

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FAITH, COVENANT AND SACRAMENTS

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5(A)

This Church recognizes the Bible as the sufficient rule of faith and practice, and holds that living in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ is the true test of fellowship and Christian love. Each Member shall have the right to interpret the Word of God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

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11(B)

The following statement of faith, covenant and sacraments are an expression of the spirit in which the Church interprets the Word of God.

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Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ

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We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Saviour Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

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You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image and set before each one the ways of life and death.

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You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

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You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Saviour, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

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You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

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You call us into your Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, 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.

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You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

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Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

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Covenant

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3In the presence of God and these witnesses, I give myself unreservedly to God's service,
4and take this to be my Church. Ever mindful of the welfare of my fellow Members, I
5promise to walk with them in faithfulness and Christian love. I promise that so far as I
6am able, I will attend the services of the Church, observe its sacraments, share in its
7work, support its benevolences, and endeavor to make it a fruitful body of Christians.

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Sacraments

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11The Church, in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ, observes two sacraments,
12Baptism and Holy Communion.

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Article 5

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MEMBERSHIP

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18(A) Membership in this Church shall be open to any person who has been baptized, and
19has been confirmed or has made a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and
20Savior, and has been welcomed into the fellowship of the Church at a regular service of
21worship. The Pastor, working in conjunction with the Board of Deacons, will instruct
22and prepare all candidates for membership. Membership is open to all, in accordance
23with the gospel covenant which binds into unity "faithful people of all ages, tongues and
24races."

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26(B) The duties of membership are to:

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- (1) Walk with fellow Members in faithfulness and Christian love and regard all other Members as friends needful of companionship, conversation, support and aid.

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- (2) Attend the services of the Church and observe or participate in its sacraments.

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- (3) Share in the work of the Church, and be expected to share the leadership responsibility of service and teaching.

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- (4) Support the benevolences of the Church and be expected to make regular financial contributions to support the local and world missions of the Church.

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- (5) Endeavor to make the Church a fruitful body of Christians, and become aware of the needs of all others and act to meet those needs. Encourage others to become new members of the Church. Make your faith obvious in all situations and relationships.

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Article 6

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DISSOLUTION

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6(A)

A determination to dissolve must be made in due course after the calling of a Special Congregational Meeting for such purpose. Upon dissolution of the Church, its assets and all property and interests of which it shall then be possessed, including any devise, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be transferred as shall be determined by two-thirds vote of the active members. The transfer, however, shall only be made to a charitable organization. A Special Meeting of the Members, separate from the meeting in which the determination to dissolve was made, shall be called for the purpose of voting upon such transfer. If the necessary two-thirds vote needed cannot be made, the meeting shall adjourn and all property and interests of this Church shall be transferred to the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ.

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19(B)

At no time shall any retiring or seceding member(s) have any right in or to the Church property or assets.

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Article 7

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ABIDANCE

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The Pastor, employees, all Officers and Members of the Church shall agree to support the processes embodied in this Constitution and in the Bylaws.

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Article 8

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AMENDMENT

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The Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the Active and Sustaining Members voting, including valid proxies, at any Annual Meeting or at any Special Meeting called for that purpose, the proper notice having been given as required by the Bylaws (Article 14).

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MISCELLANEOUS

Church Council, without need for further authorization, will have and shall exercise administrative responsibility for the organizational format of this Constitution, and for correction of typographical errors and oversights in grammar, punctuation and spelling wherever they appear in this Constitution or any amendment thereof.

Journal of Adoption, Amendments and Review

This constitution was adopted October 18, 1998 and last Amended:

January 31, 1999

This Constitution cleared the Constitution & Bylaws Review Committee of 2002, without any proposed amendments developed for consideration by the Congregation during the Annual Meeting of January 26, 2003.

A committee appointed by Council last reviewed this Constitution: May 2002, without any amendments proposed for consideration during the 2003 Annual Meeting.

The Review Committee Members (alphabetically listed):

- Mark Boonstra
- David Calhoun
- Rev. LaVerne Gill, Pastor
- Karen Hertenstein, Chairperson
- Karen Keller
- Mike Metzler

This Constitution cleared the Constitution & Bylaws Review Committee of 2005, without any proposed amendments developed for consideration by the Congregation during the Annual Meeting of January 29, 2006.

The Review Committee (alphabetically listed):

- David Calhoun
- Mary Clark
- John Ellsworth
- Kirby Fisher
- Rev. LaVerne Gill
- Lynn Hill
- Jim Kulp, Chair
- Bill Stuart
- Lisa Sylvest

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1 This Constitution cleared the Constitution & Bylaws Review Committee of 2008,
2 without any proposed amendments developed for consideration by the
3 Congregation during the Annual Meeting of January 25, 2009.

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5 The Review Committee (alphabetically listed):

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Steve Bemis

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Mary Clark, Chair

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Kirby Fisher

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Barry Grossman, Scribe

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Lynn Hill

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Jim Kulp

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Rich McKenzie

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Bill Stuart, Associate Pastor

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Lisa Sylvest

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Bill Thayer

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