

Church of Our Savior, MCC – By-Laws

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
ARTICLE I: NAME	2
ARTICLE II: NOT FOR PROFIT	2
ARTICLE III: PURPOSE	2
Section A: Preamble	2
Section B: What We Believe	2
Section C: How We Minister Our Shared Ministry	2
ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP	2
Section A: Becoming a Member	2
Section B: Members in Good Standing	3
Section C: Discipline or Removal of Members	3
ARTICLE V: STAFF	3
Section A: Our Pastor	3
Section B: Our Deacons	3
Section C: Our Candidates For Professional Ministry	3
Section D: Other	4
ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS	4
Section A: Vice-Moderator	4
Section B: Treasurer	4
Section C: Clerk	4
ARTICLE VII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS	4
Section A: Composition	4
Section B: Responsibilities	4
Section C: Pastoral Search Committee	4
Section D: Meetings	4
Section E: Terms	4
Section F: Removal	5
ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS	6
Section A: Annual Congregational Meeting	6
Section B: Congregational Meetings	6
ARTICLE IX: ELECTIONS	5
Section A: Nominations	5
Section B: Conference Delegates	5
ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY	6
ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS	6
ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION	6

Church of Our Savior, MCC – By-Laws

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization is Church of Our Savior, Metropolitan Community Church, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the “Church”.

ARTICLE II: NOT-FOR-PROFIT

The Church is organized under and shall operate as a not-for-profit organization under the laws of the State of Florida as a 501(c)(3) corporation or its legislative successor as a church for religious and charitable purposes, and affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, hereinafter referred to as UFMCC.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

Section A: Preamble – In order to build a community of worshippers in the Christian tradition, and to make God’s will dominant in the lives of all people—both in our community and in the lives of those with whom we may share the Good News of God’s love—we come to labor and to laugh, to worship and to work, to share both joys and sorrows, tribulation and triumph, as a family of faith and as individual faithful.

Section B: What We Believe - Our faith is based upon the principles of Jesus Christ outlined in the historic Apostles and Nicene Creeds, and the Statement of Faith of the UFMCC By-Laws (UFMCC By-Laws, Article III, Section A).

We embrace two holy Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion (UFMCC By-Laws, Article III, Section B). Other sacramental actions, performed by the Pastor or by an authorized representative of the pastor, are called Rites of the Church: Ordination, Membership, Holy Union, Holy Matrimony, Funerals, Memorial Services, Laying on of Hands, and Blessings. (UFMCC By-Laws, Article III, Section C).

Section C: How We Minister Our Shared Ministry - We affirm the universal priesthood of all believers. We are all called by God to a ministry of the Gospel of Christ in the Church and in the world. We recognize the giftedness of each individual, and urge each member of this community to seek those appropriate gifts, using them for the benefit and blessing of the entire Body.

This church teaches tithing as the scripturally affirmed means of supporting the church and its ministries, and as the expression of good stewardship of time, (skills) talent and (money) treasure by individuals. (Moved from “Our Stewardship)

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Becoming a Member – Persons who have expressed a desire to join this church may attain membership by confession of faith or letter of transfer from another Christian body. Candidates for membership shall complete a course of instruction provided by the Pastor or an appointed pastoral representative.

Church of Our Savior, MCC – By-Laws

Section B: Members in Good Standing - In order to maintain membership in good standing, each member shall have registered attendance at church services, identified financial support, definite service contribution, and expressed interest and loyalty.

Section C: Discipline or Removal of Members - Discipline or removal (for cause) of a Member shall be in compliance with (Article VII, Section C of) the By-Laws of the UFMCC.

The government of this Church is vested in its members who exert the right to control all of its affairs, subject to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of this church and of the UFMCC.

ARTICLE V: STAFF

Section A: Our Pastor - We recognize the rights of the UFMCC to authorize and legally recognize clergy to serve among the people as professional ministers of the Word and Sacraments. Our Pastor shall be a recognized clergyperson of the UFMCC, elected by this local congregation to be responsible for the duties of teacher, preacher, and spiritual leader.

The Pastor shall act as personnel director of the local church staff, shall have the authority to delegate such responsibilities and duties as seem wise, and shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, determine compensation, vacation periods, and titles of office staff.

Any termination of the Pastor shall be in compliance with (Article V, Section 2 (b) of) the By-Laws of the UFMCC.

Section B: Our Deacons - After meeting all the educational and experimental requirements established by the Pastor, the Pastor may appoint deacons, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Faculties shall be granted for three years, and after evaluation, may be granted for additional three-year periods without restriction.

At the option of a newly elected Pastor, the term of office of a deacon expires when the newly elected Pastor assumes, in person, the pastorate of the church.

Discipline, suspension, or removal shall be in compliance with (Article IV, Section A2 (e) of) the By-Laws of the UFMCC.

Section C: Our Candidates For Professional Ministry (Clergy Candidates) - As part of the process for ordination in the UFMCC, the Pastor may designate a qualified individual "in formation," to allow such person the opportunity to begin the process of becoming ordained clergy in the UFMCC. Such appointment is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The term of appointment shall be valid for one year, and may be reappointed for no more than a total of five years.

After the completion of all academic standards and local church experiential activities, the individual "in formation" may apply to be a "candidate" at a teaching church in accordance with (Article IV, Section B (1) (c) of) the UFMCC By-Laws.

The appointment of individuals "in formation" or as a "candidate" for ordination are subject to (Article IV, Section (1) of) the UFMCC By-Laws, the policies of the Steering Committee of the

Church of Our Savior, MCC – By-Laws

Board of Ordained Ministry, and the policies of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Southeast District of the UFMCC.

Section D: Other - Other pastoral personnel may be appointed by the Pastor subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section A: Vice-Moderator – The Vice-Moderator shall run the Board meetings and Congregational meetings in the absence of the Moderator or per the request of the Moderator.

Section B: Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing all financial transactions of the Church.

(All church financial accounts shall have a minimum of two signatories who are chosen by the Board of Directors). [This is being moved to the Standard Operating Procedures of the Church.]

Section C: Clerk - The Clerk shall keep minutes at all Board of Directors meetings as well as Congregational meetings. The minutes shall be presented to the Board of Directors in a timely basis.

ARTICLE VII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section A: Composition - The Board of Directors of this church shall consist of the Pastor and six (5) (6) members of the church who are in good standing and are duly elected according to these by-laws. (.in addition to the Pastor).

Section B: Responsibilities - The Board of Directors shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the Articles of Incorporation, church property, and physical and financial affairs of this church. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility for collecting and disbursing funds, keeping adequate church records, and making reports to the congregation and through the Southeast District to the UFMCC.

Section C: Pastoral Search Committee - The Board of Directors shall serve as the Pastoral Search Committee upon the event of a pastoral vacancy. For the purpose of its function as a pastoral search committee, additional voting members may be elected or appointed as appropriate.

Section D: Meetings - The Board of Directors generally meets monthly. These regularly scheduled meetings are open to Members and Friends of the church, and interested congregants. The Board may from time to time meet in “closed executive session”, especially when considering personnel matters, but will report the outcome at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Section E: Terms - Each Director shall hold office for a term of three years with the exception of the Pastor who shall hold office concurrently with the term of the pastorate of this church.

Church of Our Savior, MCC – By-Laws

The term of one-third of the members of the Board shall expire each year, with elections held to fill the vacancies thus created.

In the event of the resignation or death or removal of a Director, the remaining members of the Board shall appoint an Interim Director to serve until the next congregational meeting when an open election shall be held for a replacement for the remainder of the original term. One person per household may serve on the Board of Directors concurrently. No member of the Board of Directors may vote on a personnel issue involving his or her spouse.

No Director shall be elected to serve on this Board for more than two consecutive full terms. That person may seek election to the Board of Directors one year after completing the second term.

Section F: Removal - Discipline, suspension, or removal of a Director shall be in compliance with (Article V, Section B (3) (c) of) the By-Laws of the UFMCC.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

Section A: Annual Congregational Meeting - This church shall hold its annual congregation meeting in November of each year for the purpose of electing conference delegates and new or re-elected members to the Board of Directors, presenting reports, and conducting other business as may reasonably be presented at that time. The exact date of the meeting shall be set by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Special congregational meetings may be called by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section B: Congregational Meetings – Meetings shall be called and conducted in compliance with (Article IX, Section C of) the By-Laws of the UFMCC.

ARTICLE IX: ELECTIONS

Section A: Nominations - Nominations for Conference Delegates and members of the Board of Directors shall only be made by nominating petition, which shall be signed by three members in good standing and the person being nominated. These petitions shall be presented to the Church Clerk at least four weeks prior to the annual congregational meeting. Nominees to the Board of Directors or Conference Delegates shall have been a member in good standing of this church for at least 12 months.

Section B: Conference Delegates – Our voting representatives to General and (District) Regional Conferences shall be elected at the first congregational meeting following each General Conference, and shall serve for a term of (two) three years.

In the event of the resignation or death or removal of a Lay Delegate, the Board of Directors shall appoint an Interim Lay Delegate to serve until the next congregational meeting when an open election shall be held for a replacement for the remainder of the original term.

Church of Our Savior, MCC – By-Laws

ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition (USA) are used as a guideline for the conducting of business.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any congregational business meeting. Amendment (s) to these By-Laws shall be proposed either by majority vote of the Board of Directors, or by petition signed by 15% of the church members in good standing. The proposed amendment(s) shall be submitted in writing to the voting members of the congregation at least (two weeks) one month prior to the meeting. Any amendment(s) shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members present at the meeting.

ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION

The (Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches) UFMCC shall be the successor 501(c) (3) corporation in the event of the dissolution or abandonment of the Church.

Adopted November 2000

Proposed Changes November 2007

Items for deletion = (_____)

Items for addition = _____