

**Bylaws of The Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka
Adopted November 14, 2010**

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. In addition, this document serves to describe an administrative structure through which church business is conducted

Article 1 - Who We Are

We are The Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka (MCC of Topeka), registered as a non-profit corporation in the State of Kansas, and affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

Article 2 - What We Believe

In accord with UFMCC Doctrines, Sacraments, and Rites under the UFMCC Bylaws, we affirm the Good News that every person is a loved child of God, created in God's image, and in whom the Light of Jesus shines. We are all persons of inherent sacred worth.

Article 3 - How We Minister

Section 1 - Our Shared Ministry

We affirm the universal priesthood of all believers (I Peter 2:5). 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 every person of this community to seek those appropriate gifts, using them for the benefit and blessing of the entire Body.

We all are ministers, called by God to the life and work of a Christian. As such, we will strive to express the teachings of Christ in our lives, living the life of grace and proclaiming the Good News to the world. As ministers, we will serve within the church and the community. We will give sustenance, aid, and support to the sick, needy, and those experiencing pain and sorrow. We will contribute to the spiritual life of the congregation by faithful attendance and support. To all who we encounter, we will witness in word and deed of the love of God. Our witness and work will be both encouraged and recognized as the true essence of the Church and of The Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka.

Section 2 - Our Pastor

We affirm the rights of 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 UFMCC, elected by an affirmative vote of 80% of those members present at a congregational meeting. The pastor is responsible for the duties of teacher, preacher, and spiritual leader.

Other pastoral personnel may be appointed by the Pastor subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. 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 discipline or termination of the Pastor shall be in compliance with the Bylaws of UFMCC.

Section 3 - Our Ministry Council

Lay people are called of God and authorized by scripture to respond the Word, thus serving as Christ served. We affirm the ministry of every lay person in our congregation.

The Ministry Council serves as the coordinating point for all ministry activities of the congregation with each congregant called to serve through the varied ministries. The Ministry Coordinator of each ministry serves on the Ministry Council along with the Ministry Council Chair and the Pastor. The Ministry Council Coordinators and the Chair are appointed by the Pastor.

Section 4 - Our Candidates For Professional Ministry (Clergy Candidates)

Persons who feel called to service as professional ministers should register with the Readiness for Vocational Ministry and follow UFMCC's guidelines and procedures for attaining ordination.

Article 4 - How We Govern Ourselves

Section 1- Our Congregation

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

This church shall hold its annual congregation meeting in the fall of each year for the purpose of electing members to the Board of Directors, and when appropriate, electing Lay Delegates, and Alternate Lay Delegates. In addition, annual reports will be presented and other appropriate business will be conducted at that time. Special congregational meetings may be called by the pastor, a majority vote of the Board of

Directors, or by a petition to the Board signed by 25% of the members in good standing. In order to transact business no less than 25% of the members in good standing must be present. Proxy voting will not be allowed at any congregational meeting. Absentee ballots are allowed pursuant to the provisions of the MCC of Topeka Standard Operating Procedures.

The principles of Robert's Rules of Order (USA) are used as a guideline for the conducting of business.

Section 2 - Our Nominations

Nominations for members of the Board of Directors, Lay Delegates, and Alternate Lay Delegates shall be made by the Nominating Committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors nominees shall be members in good standing of MCC of Topeka for at least one year prior to election to the position of member of the Board of Directors. Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates nominees shall be members in good standing of MCC of Topeka for at least 18 months, and members in good standing of UFMCC for at least 3 years, prior to election to the position of Lay Delegate or Alternate Lay Delegate.

Section 3 - Our Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of this church shall consist of 6 members of the church, in addition to the Pastor. The Board of Directors shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the Bylaws, church property, physical and financial affairs of this church and church policies. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility for collecting and disbursing funds, keeping adequate church records, establishing the general policies of the church, and making reports to the congregation and UFMCC.

The Board of Directors shall serve as the Pastoral Search Team in the event of a pastoral vacancy. For the purpose of its function as a Pastoral Search Team, additional voting members may be elected or appointed as appropriate.

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 as appropriate.

[At the November 2010 annual meeting, three members of the Board of Directors will be elected, two of whom will serve two year terms and one who will serve a three year term. At the 2011 annual meeting, three members of the Board of Directors will be elected, two of whom will serve three year terms and one who will serve a two year term. This language in brackets will expire automatically on January 1, 2012.] 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. 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, death, or removal of a Director, the remaining members of the Board shall appoint an Interim Director, who meets the qualifications for a member of the Board of Directors, to serve until the next annual congregational meeting when an open election shall be held for a replacement for the remainder of the original term. Only 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 a household member or significant other.

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.

MCC of Topeka cannot condone disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty on the part of its members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is authorized to initiate reconciliation procedures, or remove a member from the Board of Directors, if circumstances warrant this action.

Section 4 - Our Lay Delegates

The Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates to the General Conferences shall be elected at the first congregational meeting following each General Conference, and shall serve for a term of 3 years.

In the event of the resignation, death, or removal of a Lay Delegate, the elected Alternate Lay Delegate shall assume the duties of the former Lay Delegate.

Article 5 - Our Membership

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, in addition to meeting the requirements of the membership Bylaws of UFMCC.

Discipline or removal for cause of a Member shall be in accordance with the MCC of Topeka Standard Operating Procedures.

Article 6 - Our Stewardship

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, talent, and treasures by individuals. Because it is the obligation of each individual to support the church, there is the commensurate duty on the Board of Directors, as the financial stewards of the church's resources, to conduct all matters, particularly those dealing with finances, in an

open and transparent manner, recognizing that the Board is the accountable to congregation for its generous support the church.

To ensure appropriate financial accountability of the church's resources, the Board of Directors shall establish and maintain appropriate financial procedures, including risk management.

Article 7 - Our Property

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches shall be the successor 501 (C) (3) corporation in the event of the dissolution or abandonment of MCC of Topeka.

Article 8 - Our Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any congregational meeting. Amendment (s) to these Bylaws 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 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.