

**Constitution and Bylaws of
The South Britain Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
South Britain, Connecticut**
(Adopted December 16, 2001)

Preamble

We, the members of the South Britain Congregational Church, with God's help will strive to be a dynamic community of Christian faith. Rooted in Congregationalism, and partnered with the United Church of Christ, we seek to celebrate and to bear witness in our rapidly changing world to the living God we know in Jesus Christ.

Our ministry is a shared ministry. While differently called and gifted as individuals, it is as a gathered body that our ministry is most faithfully discerned and lived out. Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as it speaks to us through scripture, tradition, reason, and our own experience, we commit ourselves:

To faithfully worship God, our Creator, our Redeemer and our Sustainer, in Word, in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, in prayer and in music;

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through whose death and resurrection we receive the gift of new life today and eternal life in the world to come;

To accept God's grace and forgiveness in our own lives, and to forgive each other;

To work and pray for peace, justice and equality and condemn the powers of evil and prejudice;

To strive for dignity, freedom from want, and wholeness of life for all people;

To reach out with understanding and compassion to those in need in our community, our nation and the world;

To be an oasis of spiritual renewal in an age of materialism and alienation;

To be a place of holy welcome to all and a place of comfort to those in pain;

To stand with each other in times of joy and of sorrow;

To teach and assist our children and each other in our spiritual growth;

To develop our own gifts for ministry;

To honor and respect the beauty of God's world;

To be a community of joy and love.

With God's grace, we covenant to do these things in a manner that celebrates honesty, honors differences and encourages dialogue, so that through the Holy Spirit we might be a reflection of God's love as we walk together in the ways of the Lord.