

**THE CONSTITUTION OF
WESTBANK UNITED CHURCH**
(Westbank, British Columbia)

PART A: WESTBANK UNITED CHURCH

Mission Statement: *We are a church, responding to God in worship, helping children, youth and adults recognize the Holy Spirit in our lives. Creating an atmosphere of acceptance, tolerance and love, through shared leadership and example, we strive to learn and mature as followers of Jesus Christ, ministering compassionately in our community and the world.*

Our Vision: “Walk with me, I will walk with you
And build the land that God has planned
Where love shines through.”
(VU649 Chorus/Words: John S. Rice. 1988)

Our Core Values:

Spirituality/Faith
Love
Courage/Strength
Cooperation
Integrity
Responsibility

Warning Signs:

Intolerance
Anger
Cliquishness
Lack of Communication

Our Basic Beliefs:

We are not alone; God walks with us through the Spirit
We believe in and trust in God.
We believe that God is love
We believe that God calls us to love and serve others
We believe that God is our hope in life, in death, and in life after death.
We are people of the way of Jesus; we treat God's world with respect,
compassion and forgiveness

PART B: THE CHURCH BOARD

Mission:

Parameters:

- May not operate outside the established values and beliefs of the congregation.
- May not neglect to ensure coordination of communication between the Congregation and the Chief Executive Team (CET)
- May not operate contrary to the United Church Manual.
- May not fail to provide information and training to new members of the Board.
- May not meet less than ten times per year.
- May not meet with less than one half(½) of the members present.
- May not extend the meetings beyond two hours per sitting.
- May not neglect time for spiritual growth of its members in the community

The Board will provide strategic leadership by:

- Being elders as defined by the United Church Manual
- Developing “*Mission Statements*” for the Board, CEC, Core Ministries and Staff.
- Developing policies for the Board, CET, Core Ministries and Staff
- Monitoring the policy ends of the Board, CET, Core Ministries and Staff.
- Determining Board Process.

Membership:

The Church Board will consist of five (5) members elected by and from the congregation. To supply continuity, the first Church Board in the new operating structure, will consist of:

- 1/3 members elected for three (3) years;
- 1/3 members elected for two (2) years;
- 1/3 members elected for one (1) year:

Thereafter all terms will be for three (3) years. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary will be appointed from the five elected members. Board members may serve for two (2) terms to a maximum of six consecutive years.

The CET will consist of three (3) members from the congregation.

To supply continuity, the first CEC in the new operating structure, will consist of:

- 1/3 members elected for three (3) years;
- 1/3 members elected for two (2) years;
- 1/3 members elected for one (1) years:

Thereafter all terms will be for three (3) years. CEC members may serve for two (2) terms to a maximum of six consecutive years.

PART C: CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE(CEC) & CORE MINISTRIES:

The Church Board will provide the CET and each Core Ministry with its Mission and its limiting Policies through a process of discernment and consultation. These Missions and Policies are subject to revision as deemed appropriate, but will always be consistent with the Mission of the Congregation and the Manual of the United Church of Canada.

The CET and the Core Ministries are empowered to carry out their Mission within the given parameters of the policies.

Core Ministries will be:

1. Christian Development
2. Stewardship
3. Human Resources
4. Ministry & Personnel
5. Outreach
6. Pastoral Care
7. Property
8. Worship

Note:

The Policy Governance Guidelines for all of the Core Ministries will be spelled out in the Appendix attached to the Constitution subject to revision as required.

There will be a Board of Trustees of five (5) members

The Constitution is owned by, and changes approved by, the Congregation of Westbank United Church and the Central Okanagan Presbytery. The Appendix may be changed by motion of the Church Board.

Revisions:

1. 19 Jan. 2006