

First Congregational Church  
P.O. Box H  
Kulm, ND 58456

**Rev. Dr. Raymond DeLaurier, Pastor**  
(701) 647-2793 (Church)  
(701) 647-2708 (Parsonage)  
E-mail: rayd9668@yahoo.com

### Church Membership Application

Please Print

Full Name: Mr./Mrs./  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Names of any children living at home	Birth date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Have you read the attached Statement of Faith? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a Statement in which you have significant disagreement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Which One? \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently a member of another church? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ If so, which one? No \_\_\_\_\_

Name	City	State	Phone Number
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Have you accepted and trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
When? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, were you baptized as a new believer in Jesus Christ? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, would you like to speak to the Pastor about baptism? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us in your own words how you received Jesus Christ as Savior, what Christ means to you, and your walk with the Lord.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



What do you like best about First Congregational Church?

Applicant #1:

Applicant #2:

What improvements would you like to see at First Congregational Church?

Applicant #1:

Applicant #2:

How has the Holy Spirit led you to serve the Lord?

Applicant #1:

Applicant #2:

I (we) have read and understand the information in this Membership Application package for First Congregational Church. We are in agreement with the Membership Standards and the Accountability relationship into which we are entering with the Church.

Signature Applicant #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Applicant #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Process of Membership

Any person who desires to become a member of First Congregational Church will receive this membership packet which includes an application, a description of the church and membership standards. It is our desire for you to have all the information about the church so that you can make this important decision about church affiliation.

After you receive this packet, you will have ample time to read through the information in the packet and fill out the application. After you have completed the application, please call Pastor Ray (647-2708) and tell him that you have completed the application. A Deacon and the Pastor will meet with you in your home to answer any questions you may have regarding any information in the packet. You will be asked to share your testimony on how you came to know Christ as your personal Savior. You will also have the opportunity to share your opinions about the church, so that we may improve our ministries.

After your meeting with the deacon and pastor, the deacon board will meet and vote on your membership. After the acceptance of your request, we publicly bring you into the membership of our church concluding the following worship service.

### **First Congregational Church**

#### **Our Mission and Purpose**

1st Congregational Church is part of the Conservative Christian Churches as well as the Great Plains Fellowship.

**Purpose.** We exist to grow spiritually (being Christ like) by proclaiming the reign of God, and extending the kingdom of God through worship, study, evangelism, discipleship, prayer, and service to our community.

**Vision.** “We want to grow to be used mightily by God.” By that we mean to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth will naturally translate into numerical growth as the Lord Jesus builds His church.

**Mission:** First Congregational Church is dedicated to the faithful pursuit of obedience to the Word of God through their love for each other, and their love and trust in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Objectives.** There are several ways to meet this goal:

1. Fervent prayer ministry for all ministries of the church.
2. Consistent biblical expository preaching.

3. Solid biblical Christian education.
4. Focus 70% of the ministry, and activity at the church to be intentionally evangelistic. For every gathering and activity, we will ask, “How will people come to know Christ as Lord and Savior in this activity?”
5. Community outreach events designed to be evangelistic.
6. Community Service projects.
7. Evangelism training for our members, teaching them the Master’s way on how to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ.
8. Discipleship training for spiritual growth leading to personal evangelism.
9. Leadership development. The more ministry leaders we have, the more effective ministries will be conceived and carried out to reach the goals of the church.

**First Congregational Church**  
**Organization**

Please see attached copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**First Congregational Church**  
**Financial Information**

A copy of the Ministry Funding Plan is available upon request. This is how we spend the Lord’s money, and fund the various ministries He has called us to do.

All of the money we receive is the result of the generosity of the people who attend and support this church. The offering we receive during the worship service is the primary source of our income. We have no ecclesiastical “over-body” funding the needs of this church. Therefore, it is necessary for every member and attendee to realize that this church has bills to pay, salaries to pay, and ministries to fund. We believe that God will put on the heart of every person to give generously, and sacrificially to meet our needs.

The monies collected are handled according to the annual ministry funding plan which has been approved by the membership of the church. The church Treasurer (Mavis Brosz) is designated to pay the church bills, and salary, as well as keeping the church board up to date on income and expenditures. On

many matters, the church board makes decisions on expenditures, but will on occasion bring a matter to the congregation for consideration.

The following are reasons why we should give to the glory of God here at First Congregational Church

1. Giving is investing with God (Lk.6:38, Matt.6:19-24).
2. Giving is to be sacrificial (Mark 12:41-44; Heb.13:16; Phil.4:18-19) and cheerful (2Cor.8:9).
3. Giving is not a matter of what we have (Lk.16:10; 2Cor.8:2, 5) but a matter of priority and obedience.
4. Giving affects spiritual riches (Lk.16:11-12)
5. Giving amounts are to be personally determined (Lk.19:1-9; 2Cor.8:9)
6. Giving is to be in response to need (Acts 2:43-47, 11:27-30).
7. Giving is to demonstrate love not law (2Cor.8:8-9, 12, 9:7).
8. Giving is to be planned (1Cor.16:1-2; 2Cor.9:7).
9. Giving is to be generous (2Cor.8:2, 9:5-6).
10. This kind of giving results in tremendous spiritual blessing (Phil.4:15-19, 2Cor.9:6-11).

### **First Congregational Church**

#### **Membership Standards**

**1. Salvation.** We require that every person who is a member of FCC be a born-again believer in Jesus Christ. Since this church is a spiritual body, the members must be of the same spirit and faith. Those who are not born-again, and have not trusted Christ as their personal Savior are free to worship and fellowship with us, but would not be able to vote on church matters.

**2. Christian Living.** We believe that a spiritual church is built on spiritual Christians. Therefore we would expect our members to live a life “worthy of Christ” to the very best of their ability. This would include regular church attendance, home Bible study, prayer, and service. It is only when Christians are growing can we expect the Lord to build His church.

**3. Desire.** Each applicant will be asked, “Why do you want to join FCC?” It is our prayer that each applicant will have an earnest desire to be a part of this congregation to participate in and support the ministries of this church.

**4. Accountability.** A member of a church has a dual accountability role to play. As a member, you have the responsibility to hold the pastor and deacons accountable for Biblical leadership. Since church leaders are a prime target for Satan's devices, we need our members to hold us accountable for our own spiritual lives and our leadership in the church. The member also agrees to be accountable to the pastor and elders. When correction or reproof is needed, the member agrees to submit to that correction or reproof from the pastor or deacons. If discipline is in order, then the member must submit to that disciplinary/restoration process. If the member refuses to repent from sinful actions, then the process outlined in Matthew 18:15-18 will be implemented. The goal of any correction and discipline is repentance and restoration. We believe that true love for the brethren is demonstrated when we help each other overcome problems with sin. Therefore, the motivation in any correction, reproof, or discipline is our great love for you, and our desire that you be right before God, enjoying His maximum blessings.

**5. Support.** Each member of the congregation pledges support of the ministry, both financially, and in service. No church can survive without the support of its members. We would expect each member to financially contribute to the church both generously and sacrificially, and to be available to serve the body in any of the variety of ministry opportunities available.

**6. Agreement.** A member of the church must have substantial agreement with the doctrinal statement of the church. FCC is affiliated with the Conservative Congregational Conference of Churches, and generally follows the CCCC leadership in church matters. A member of FCC benefits by having committed deacons and a pastor ministering to and shepherding their souls in a dual accountability relationship. The member is accountable to the church leaders and the church leaders are accountable to the members for biblical spiritual leadership.

**7. Youth Membership (ages 5-17)** are non-voting members.

### **First Congregational Church**

#### **Membership Goals**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of His Church, in knowledge, holiness, and righteousness; to promote its prosperity and

spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and to spread the Gospel through our mountain communities and beyond.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to biblically educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk uprightly in this world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, with biblical truth; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the mandates of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that if we move from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other Christian church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

### **Church Staff**

**Reverend Raymond A. DeLaurier** was called to shepherd FCC, Kulm, in February 2010. Pastor Ray graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in May 2003. This doctoral program tract was "The Preacher and the Message." This course of study has equipped Pastor Ray to deliver quality expository sermons. He earned a Masters' of Divinity degree with high honors from Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, Oregon, in May 1992. Ray was already serving as an interim pastor when he graduated. Shortly after graduation, he faced the Ordination Council of the Ministers of the Northwest Conservative Baptist Association, for a four hour examination of his calling, ministry philosophy and doctrine. He passed this oral examination by unanimous vote in May 1992. Four days after the ordination council, Ray flew to Israel to study at the Institute of Holy Land Studies, in Jerusalem. This summer class had a dramatic impact on his life and ministry.

Deacon Rodney Brosz, 710-647-2465  
Deacon Tony Buerkley, 647-2280  
Deacon Dave Gackle, 701-685-2641  
Deacon Greg Richter, 701-349-5347