

## ***Constitution of the Council of Churches***

Of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity  
P.O. Box 303  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972-0303  
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*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*

*1 Corinthians 15:58*

### **PREAMBLE**

In the Providence of God, the time has come when it seems fitting to manifest more fully our oneness in Jesus Christ as Divine Lord and Savior, by the creation of an inclusive agency of the Christian Churches of Schuylkill Haven, PA and vicinity.

### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization is: "The Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity.

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Council shall be to express the fellowship of the Christian congregations of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity; to bring them into cooperative service for Christ and the world; to secure their concerted efforts in matters affecting the spiritual, moral and social welfare of the people of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity; and to witness to the teaching of Christ in all relations of life.

### **ARTICLE III – STANDARD**

The standard of faith and practice of this organization shall be the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God.

### **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

The Council shall be composed of those churches of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity that shall agree by action of their official bodies to unite with this organization. Any church of this area may become a member of the Council by declaration of intent at one of the regular Council meetings. Each church shall be represented in the Council by the pastor and two lay delegates. The lay delegates shall be chosen annually by the official bodies of the churches which they represent.

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ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

The officers of the Council to be chosen from the representatives of the churches shall be: a President, who shall be lay or ministerial representatives, (if lay person is elected, then a ministerial advisor will be appointed), a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall perform the usual duties of their respective offices and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

The Council shall meet bimonthly. The time and place to be determined by the Council. Special meetings may be called by the President. Nine official representatives and a representation from not less than one-third of the member churches shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chairmen of the Standing Committees – such as: Christian Education; Social Action, Finance; Nominating; Banquet Committee; Special Services of Worship; Pastors; Media Relations, shall be appointed by the newly elected officers of the Council. The membership of these committees shall be chosen by the respective chairmen and officers of the Council. Each committee shall have the power to add as many members as are necessary to carry out the work of its program.

ARTICLE VIII – VACANCIES

Vacancies among the officers and appointed personnel shall be appointed by the remaining officers and committee chairmen of the Council.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Council by a two-thirds vote of the representatives present, provided that written notice of such amendments shall have been given to all representatives one month in advance.

ARTICLE X – BY-LAWS

The Council may adopt such By-Laws as it deems proper, provided they are not in conflict with this Constitution.

BY-LAWS

1. Meetings (see ARTICLE VI)

Be it understood, that ALL meetings of the Council of Churches are open to any member of participating churches, (These persons will have voice, but NO voting power).



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2. Membership (see ARTICLE IV)  
Not more than two alternate delegates may be chosen, so that each cooperating church can be properly represented in the event that the regular delegates cannot attend the meetings of the Council.
  
3. Officers (See ARTICLE V)
  - A. Officers shall be elected at the March meeting of the Council and shall serve for a two year term of office. Together with the newly appointed committee chairmen, they shall assume their responsibilities beginning July 1 and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed.
  - B. An installation service for the newly elected and appointed officers and committee chairmen shall be conducted by the outgoing President of the Council at a regular meeting of the Council in the month of May.
  - C. Vacancies shall be cared for as soon as possible in accord with the Constitution.
  - D. Officers may be re-elected to their respective (or other) positions. In the event of re-election, the President may appoint an Installing Officer.
  
4. Standing Committees (see ARTICLE VII)

Standing Committees of the Council shall be as follows:  
Christian Education  
Special Services  
Blood Bank  
Social Action

and such other which the Council may determine for the promotion of its works. Non-member volunteers may be added at the discretion of the chairperson.

  - A. Committees shall be chosen as indicated in ARTICLE VII of the Constitution and shall serve for a two year term.
  
5. Dissolution of the Council (SEE ARTICLE IV)

In the event that the Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity dissolves or no longer ceases to exist, any remaining funds will be disbursed to other charitable organizations by a majority vote of the Council members. Under no circumstances will any surplus funds be used for private inurement to any person.