**What is**

**Congregationalism?**

The Congregational Church tradition dates back to1620 and the voyage of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower to the “New World.” They came to America seeking religious freedom and an opportunity to worship and minister as a community of equals. From them, we have inherited a wonderful spiritual legacy, one that is uniquely suited to the needs of our contemporary world.

As Congregationalists, we believe in the freedom and right of each person to have their own individual and personal relationship with God. We believe that no institution, not even a church, stands between God and us as individuals. To help us nurture our relationship with God, we have God’s grace, the Bible, prayer, worship, the accumulated wisdom of the ages, and a supportive community with which to journey.

As a local Congregational Church, we are locally autonomous. We, the congregation, govern our own ministry, hire our own clergy, own our own property, envision our own call to service and worship, and define our own values and vision. There is no ecclesial authority over us. As seekers, not holders, of truth, we agree to honor each other’s interpretation of the Bible and personal faith journey. We seek to affirm one another along life’s pathway while being held together by unconditional love.