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3 **BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

4 **PREAMBLE**

5 100 These Bylaws, consistent with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, further define  
6 and/or regulate the General Synod and its relationships with the Covenanted, Affiliated, and  
7 Associated Ministries and Other Bodies which are related to the General Synod, and the United  
8 Church of Christ Board, and describe the free and voluntary relationships which the Local  
9 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed Ministers  
10 sustain with the General Synod and with one another. The pattern of relationships and procedures  
11 so described is recommended to Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and authorized  
12 ministers to enable them more effectively to accomplish their tasks and the work of the United  
13 Church of Christ.

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15 **ARTICLE I. THE MINISTRY**

16 **Members in Discernment**

17 101 A member of a United Church of Christ Local Church wishing to explore God's call to  
18 ministry, and the potential of that call leading to authorized ministry (ordained, commissioned or  
19 licensed), requests, along with the member's Local Church, to enter a covenant of discernment  
20 with the Association.

21  
22 102 The Committee on Ministry of the member's Association interviews the member to decide  
23 whether to join with the member and the Local Church in a covenant of discernment. The goal of  
24 discernment is to determine whether the member is called to authorized ministry, what the  
25 specific character of that ministry might be, and, if authorization is appropriate, what steps are to  
26 be taken toward authorization. Normally a covenant of discernment leading to authorization is  
27 expected to be for not less than two years.

28  
29 103 The Association and the Local Church are in a mutual covenant with the Member in  
30 Discernment to offer support, counsel, and direction during this time of decision making and  
31 preparation.

32  
33 104 A Member in Discernment who is called to authorized ministry will follow a plan of  
34 preparation for that ministry which has been prepared with the Association Committee on  
35 Ministry. With respect to ordained ministry, a bachelor's degree and Master of Divinity may be  
36 included in the plan.

37  
38 **Ordained Ministry**

39 105 Not more than six months prior to the completion of theological preparation for  
40 authorization, a Member in Discernment preparing for the ordained ministry applies with the  
41 Member in Discernment's Local Church to its Association for approval as a candidate for  
42 ordination. If the service of ordination is to be performed within an Association other than that of  
43 the Member, the procedure, including that described in the following paragraph, is initiated by  
44 that Association after consultation with the Association which is in covenant with the Member in  
45 Discernment.

46  
47 106 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with  
48 respect to Christian faith; character; ability to do the work expected; preparation to meet the  
49 responsibilities of the office; educational and theological attainments; and knowledge of the  
50 history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If, following this examination, the  
51 committee is satisfied with the fitness of the Member in Discernment, it makes an affirmative

52 recommendation to the Association. In turn, upon receipt of this recommendation, the  
53 Association may opt for further examination or proceed immediately to authorize the ordination,  
54 subject to a call recognized by the Association.  
55

56 107 Ordination by an Association of the United Church of Christ, in cooperation with the Local  
57 Church, confers Ordained Ministerial Standing as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of  
58 Christ and recognition as an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of  
59 Christ) [and The United Church of Canada](#).

60  
61 108 After the ordination or in anticipation of it, a certificate is issued bearing the signatures of the  
62 proper officers of the Association and the General Minister and President of the United Church of  
63 Christ.  
64

### 65 **Ordained Ministerial Standing**

66 109 An Ordained Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another applies for a  
67 transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing to the new Association.  
68

69 110 An Ordained Minister engaged in Local Church ministry has standing in the Association in  
70 which the Local Church served has standing. An Ordained Minister engaged in other than Local  
71 Church ministry has standing in the Association where the Ordained Minister's Local Church  
72 membership is held.  
73

74 111 An Ordained Minister engaged in a ministry requiring prolonged absence from the United  
75 States, or one that does not permit a fixed residence, may apply to have Ordained Ministerial  
76 Standing in the Association of the Ordained Minister's choice.  
77

78 112 An Ordained Minister who withdraws from active service in the ordained ministry prior to  
79 retirement applies to the Ordained Minister's Association for Leave of Absence. The Association  
80 may grant such Leave of Absence for one year at a time. Except in special cases such Leave of  
81 Absence is not granted for more than five years in succession.  
82

83 113 An Ordained Minister retiring from active service by reason of age or disability retains  
84 Ordained Ministerial Standing in the Association of the Ordained Minister's choice. Membership  
85 in a Local Church must be maintained.  
86

87 114 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ serving a church not affiliated with the  
88 United Church of Christ, ~~or~~ the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), [or The United Church of](#)  
89 [Canada](#), or serving a local church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) [or The United](#)  
90 [Church of Canada](#) without Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing retains Ordained Ministerial  
91 Standing in the United Church of Christ so long as the Ordained Minister's Association approves.  
92

93 115 The church membership of an authorized minister serving in Local Church ministry shall be  
94 in the Local Church served. The church membership of an authorized minister serving in a setting  
95 other than Local Church Ministry, or of an authorized minister without fixed residence shall be in  
96 a Local Church of the United Church of Christ in the Association where the authorized minister  
97 holds or seeks authorized ministerial standing.  
98

### 99 **Ordained Ministers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

100 116 An ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may hold Ordained  
101 Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church

102 of Christ calling body or serving in a ministry capacity directly relating to the United Church of  
103 Christ.

104  
105 117 Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of  
106 the United Church of Christ to the Association in which the person resides, an Ordained  
107 Ministerial Partner from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may seek a call in the United  
108 Church of Christ.

109  
110 118 An Ordained Ministerial Partner from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who accepts  
111 a call in the United Church of Christ joins a Local Church in the United Church of Christ and  
112 applies for Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the Association in which Local Church  
113 membership is held.

114  
115 119 An ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds Ordained  
116 Ministerial Partner Standing in an Association shall maintain ordained ministerial standing within  
117 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Region in which the United Church of Christ calling  
118 body is located.

119  
120 120 In the United Church of Christ, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is granted by the  
121 Association where the ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called  
122 to serve and is for the period of call for which it is granted. If a new consecutive call to perform  
123 the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ is  
124 extended, then Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may be transferred across Associations  
125 pursuant to the process for transferring standing.

126  
127 121 Ordained ministers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) holding Ordained  
128 Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ are expected to maintain  
129 requirements for ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

130  
131 122 Primary oversight of an ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
132 holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is with the United Church of Christ. In the event of  
133 a fitness review, the Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in which the person's  
134 ordained ministerial standing is maintained shall be informed and invited to participate in the  
135 procedures.

136  
137 **United Church of Christ Ordained Ministers Serving in the Christian Church (Disciples of**  
138 **Christ)**

139 123 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner  
140 Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

141  
142 (a) shall maintain Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ.  
143 Ordained Ministerial Standing shall be held in the Association in which local  
144 church membership is held;

145  
146 (b) shall hold local church membership in a local church of the Christian Church  
147 (Disciples of Christ); and

148  
149 (c) shall relate to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the Ordained  
150 Minister's primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.

151

152 124 Ordained Ministers from the United Church of Christ holding Ordained Ministerial Partner  
153 Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are expected to maintain requirements for  
154 ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.  
155

156 125 Primary oversight of an Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ holding  
157 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is with the  
158 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In the event of a disciplinary procedure, the United  
159 Church of Christ Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to  
160 participate in the procedures. The Association may accept the procedures and outcome of the  
161 Region or utilize its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United  
162 Church of Christ.  
163

164 126 When a person no longer has Ordained Ministerial Standing in either the United Church of  
165 Christ or Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial  
166 Partner and no longer has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.  
167

### **Ordained Ministers from The United Church of Canada**

168 [New ¶] An ordained minister from The United Church of Canada may hold Ordained Ministerial  
169 Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church of Christ  
170 calling body or serving in a ministry capacity directly relating to the United Church of Christ.  
171

172 [New ¶] Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and  
173 practices of the United Church of Christ to an Association, an Ordained Ministerial Partner from  
174 The United Church of Canada may seek a call in the United Church of Christ.  
175

176 [New ¶] An Ordained Ministerial Partner from The United Church of Canada who accepts a call  
177 in the United Church of Christ joins a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, and applies  
178 for Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the Association in which Local Church membership  
179 is held.  
180

181 [New ¶] An ordained minister from The United Church of Canada who holds Ordained  
182 Ministerial Partner Standing in an Association shall also maintain ordained ministerial standing  
183 within their current presbytery of The United Church of Canada.  
184

185 [New ¶] In the United Church of Christ, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is granted by the  
186 Association where the ordained minister from The United Church of Canada is called to serve  
187 and is for the period of call for which it is granted. If a new consecutive call to perform the duties  
188 and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ is extended,  
189 then Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may be transferred across Associations pursuant to  
190 the process for transferring standing.  
191

192 [New ¶] Ordained ministers from The United Church of Canada holding Ordained Ministerial  
193 Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ are expected to maintain requirements for  
194 ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.  
195

196 [New ¶] Primary oversight of an ordained minister from The United Church of Canada holding  
197 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is with the United Church of Christ. In the event of a  
198 fitness review, The United Church of Canada Ministry Personnel Office shall be informed and  
199 invited to participate in the procedures.  
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### **United Church of Christ Ordained Ministers Serving in The United Church of Canada**

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[New ¶] An Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada

- (a) shall maintain Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ. Ordained Ministerial Standing shall be held in the Association in which Local Church membership is held.
- (b) shall hold Local Church membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ and in a presbytery of The United Church of Canada.
- (c) shall relate to The United Church of Canada for the Ordained Minister's primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.

[New ¶] Ordained Ministers from the United Church of Christ holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada are expected to maintain requirements for ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

[New ¶] Primary oversight of an Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada is with The United Church of Canada. In the event of a disciplinary procedure, the United Church of Christ Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to participate. The Association may accept the procedures and outcome of The United Church of Canada or utilize its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United Church of Christ.

[New ¶] When a person no longer has Ordained Ministerial Standing in either the United Church of Christ or The United Church of Canada, that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial Partner and no longer has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.

**Ordained Ministers from Denominations Other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United Church of Canada**

127 An ordained minister of a denomination other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who desires to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ applies for Privilege of Call to the Association within whose bounds the minister resides.

128 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the applicant as to the applicant's abilities, reasons for desiring to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ, educational and theological attainments, knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ, and Christian faith and experience. If the applicant is found to be qualified, the Association grants Privilege of Call, thereby declaring said applicant eligible to seek a call in the United Church of Christ. Privilege of Call shall be granted for a period of one year and may be renewed. After accepting a call, the ordained minister applies for Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ to the Association of which the Local Church of membership is a part.

129 An ordained minister of another denomination other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United Church of Canada who wishes to retain ordained ministerial standing in that denomination and who has become pastor of a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, or serves in a Covenanted, Affiliated or Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ, or has become pastor of a yoked charge or a federated church one part

254 of which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, or has been called to an ecumenical  
255 ministry one constituent of which is the United Church of Christ, may apply to the Association  
256 for dual ordained ministerial standing which is limited to duration of that pastorate or that  
257 responsibility, and during that period may have all the rights and privileges of such membership.  
258

259 **Commissioned Ministers**

260 130 A Member in Discernment seeking initial recognition and authorization as a Commissioned  
261 Minister applies with the Member in Discernment's Local Church to the Association of which  
262 that church is a member.  
263

264 131 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with  
265 respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected and preparation to meet the  
266 responsibilities of the office to be filled, and make its recommendation of fitness to the  
267 Association. If upon acceptance of the recommendation or upon further examination and decision  
268 by the Association itself, the applicant is found to be qualified, commissioning thereby is  
269 authorized.  
270

271 132 Commissioned Ministers are listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Licensed  
272 Ministers on the rolls of the Association.  
273

274 133 A Commissioned Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another and who  
275 continues in the specific church-related ministry, applies for a transfer of the commission to the  
276 new Association.  
277

278 134 A Commissioned Minister seeking to be commissioned for a new or different church-related  
279 ministry applies to the Association for commissioning for the new ministry.  
280

281 135 A Commissioned Minister who ceases to function in the specific church-related ministry to  
282 which the minister was commissioned resigns the commission or applies to the Association for  
283 Leave of Absence. Leave of Absence is granted for one year at a time, but not more than three  
284 consecutive years.  
285

286 136 A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be  
287 recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church of  
288 Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly  
289 reviewed.  
290

291 **Licensed Ministers**

292 137 A Member in Discernment seeking recognition and authorization as a Licensed Minister  
293 applies with the Member in Discernment's Local Church to the Association of which that church  
294 is a member.  
295

296 138 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with  
297 respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected, preparation to meet the  
298 responsibilities of the office, educational and theological attainments, and knowledge of the  
299 history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If the applicant is found to be  
300 qualified, a license is granted by the Association for not more than one year to serve in a  
301 designated Local Church or within that Association. Following a review by the Committee on  
302 Ministry, the license may be renewed annually for two more years after which the Association  
303 may grant the license for a time determined to be appropriate.  
304

305 139 At the request of the Local Church which the person serves, the Association may grant the  
306 Licensed Minister the right to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church for this Local  
307 Church.

308

309 140 Licensed Ministers are listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Commissioned  
310 Ministers on the rolls of the Association.

311

312 141 A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized by  
313 the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting  
314 membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

315

316 **Calling, Installing and Terminating a Pastor**

317 142 It is the responsibility of a committee of the Local Church to seek a candidate for a vacancy  
318 in the office of pastor.

319

320 143 In filling a vacancy or in securing pastoral services during the period of a vacancy, the  
321 committee of the Local Church, through its Conference Minister, obtains counsel and access to  
322 the services of the “Search and Call” process of the United Church of Christ.

323

324 144 The committee of a Local Church requests the Conference Minister to secure relevant  
325 information about any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister  
326 whom it wishes to consider or who requests to be considered for the vacancy.

327

328 145 Any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister may confer with  
329 the Conference Minister concerning a pastoral vacancy. At the Ordained Minister’s request or at  
330 the request of the Ordained Ministerial Partner, that person’s name shall be submitted by the  
331 Conference Minister for consideration by the committee of any Local Church where there is a  
332 pastoral vacancy.

333

334 146 All vacancies within the Conference shall be reported promptly to the designated  
335 administrative office in the National Setting of the Church.

336

337 147 The committee of the Local Church presents to the Local Church the name of a candidate it  
338 recommends to fill the vacancy. The Local Church determines whether or not it wishes to call the  
339 person recommended.

340

341 148 In the call agreement the terms of the pastoral relationship are stated, including the agreement  
342 of the Local Church to participate in the pension fund on the pastor’s behalf. The pastor, the  
343 Local Church, Association Committee on Ministry, and the Conference Minister should each  
344 receive a copy of the call agreement. The Conference Minister shall inform the designated  
345 administrative office in the National Setting of the Church when the call has been accepted.

346

347 149 When an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister accepts a call to a Local Church, the  
348 Minister and the Local Church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of  
349 installation or recognition.

350

351 150 Report of the service of installation or recognition is signed by the proper officer of the  
352 Association and by the Conference Minister, and is reported to the designated administrative  
353 office in the National Setting of the Church.

354

355 151 When a pastor or a Local Church decides to terminate the pastoral relationship, notice of the  
356 decision is sent to the Conference Minister and the Association. The Association takes action  
357 appropriate to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. The Conference Minister promptly  
358 informs the designated administrative office in the National Setting of the Church.  
359

360 **Ministerial Accountability**

361 152 All authorized ministers of the United Church of Christ are active partners in a covenant of  
362 mutual accountability with their Association of standing, their Local Church, and, in the case of  
363 those serving in settings other than a Local Church, with their calling body. Such a covenant  
364 includes, but is not limited to, mutual support and care, continued discernment of call, and  
365 lifelong learning.  
366

367 153 All authorizations for Ordained Ministerial Standing, for Ordained Ministerial Partner  
368 Standing, and for commissioned and licensed ministry granted by an Association are subject to  
369 oversight by that Association, including periodic consultation and review.  
370

371 154 The ecclesiastical oversight of Ordained Ministers, persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner  
372 Standing, Commissioned Ministers, and Licensed Ministers is the responsibility of the  
373 Association in which their current ecclesiastical authorization is held.  
374

375 **ARTICLE II. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

376 **Associations**

377 155 An Association elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary  
378 for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the Conference and  
379 the General Synod.  
380

381 156 An Association determines its own method for securing financial support.  
382

383 157 An Association is concerned with the welfare of all Local Churches within its boundaries.  
384

385 158 An Association seeks ways and means to assist Local Churches when they are undergoing  
386 unusual difficulties requiring help beyond their own resources.  
387

388 159 An Association offers encouragement, guidance, and assistance in the organization of new  
389 Local Churches.  
390

391 160 An Association, with the counsel of the Conference, receives Local Churches into the United  
392 Church of Christ.  
393

394 161 An Association covenants with members of the United Church of Christ within that  
395 Association as together they discern God's call to authorized ministry and prepare for ordination,  
396 commissioning or licensing.  
397

398 162 An Association ordains, commissions, and licenses qualified candidates; grants standing as a  
399 covenantal relationship with Ordained Ministers, Licensed Ministers, Commissioned Ministers,  
400 and persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing; certifies to, transfers, and terminates  
401 Ordained Ministerial Standing, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing, commissioned ministerial  
402 standing and licenses; installs Ordained Ministers and persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner  
403 Standing; covenants with Licensed Ministers, Commissioned Ministers, and the Local Churches  
404 to which they are called; grants Privilege of Call and Leaves of Absence; reviews and  
405 ecclesiastically oversees Ordained, Commissioned, and Licensed Ministers and persons with



406 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing; and verifies that an Ordained Ministerial Partner has  
407 demonstrated knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United  
408 Church of Christ.

409  
410 163 An Association receives and acts upon business referred to it by its Local Churches, its  
411 Conference, the General Synod, and other bodies.

412  
413 164 An Association may petition and overture its Conference or the General Synod.

414  
415 **Conferences**

416 165 A Conference elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary  
417 for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the General Synod.

418  
419 166 A Conference employs such salaried personnel as its program may require.

420  
421 167 A Conference receives and acts upon business, requests, counsel, and references from Local  
422 Churches, Associations, the General Synod, and other bodies.

423  
424 168 A Conference provides names to the General Synod Nominating Committee as requested.

425  
426 169 A Conference may petition and overture the General Synod.

427  
428 170 A Conference chooses delegates and alternate delegates to the General Synod in accordance  
429 with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and these Bylaws.

430  
431 171 A Conference receives from the Local Churches contributions for denominational support  
432 and keeps detailed records of the same.

433  
434 172 A Conference consults on a regular basis with the General Minister and President, or the  
435 General Minister and President's designee, acting on behalf of the General Synod, to reach  
436 mutual agreement upon the percentage, or the dollar amount, of the undesignated gifts for  
437 denominational support to be retained for its own support.

438  
439 173 Upon the basis of the agreed upon percentage, or dollar amount, the Conference each month  
440 retains the amount necessary for its own support and forwards the balance to the treasury office of  
441 the National Setting.

442  
443 174 A Conference, in the interest of the Local Churches, discharges those duties and provides  
444 those services which will strengthen the witness of the United Church of Christ, such as:

- 445
- 446 a) Coordinating the work and witness of the Local Churches and Associations;
  - 447
  - 448 b) Rendering counsel to Local Churches and ministers in situations calling for help  
449 beyond their own resources;
  - 450
  - 451 c) Rendering an advisory service to Local Churches and to ministers with reference to  
452 pastoral search;
  - 453
  - 454 d) Establishing and maintaining Conference offices, Conference centers, institutions, and  
455 other agencies needful to its growth and welfare;
  - 456

- 457 e) Sponsoring in-service training for ministers; and  
458  
459 f) Conducting conferences, retreats, clinics, and workshops.  
460

461 175 A Conference maintains ecumenical and interfaith relations within its boundaries with other  
462 fellowships to the end that mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.  
463

### 464 **ARTICLE III. THE GENERAL SYNOD**

#### 465 **Meetings of the General Synod**

466 176 Regular meetings of the General Synod shall be held biennially.  
467

468 177 Special meetings of the General Synod may be called by resolution of the General Synod, by  
469 the United Church of Christ Board, or upon receipt of a petition from at least twenty percent of  
470 the Conferences. A special meeting so petitioned shall be convened not earlier than three months  
471 nor later than four months after the petition is received by the General Minister and President of  
472 the United Church of Christ. The petition and the call for a special meeting shall contain a  
473 statement of the purpose of the meeting. In any special meeting only such business may be  
474 transacted as is specified in the call.  
475

476 178 The time and place of all meetings of the General Synod shall be determined by the United  
477 Church of Christ Board unless otherwise directed by the General Synod.  
478

479 179 The call for any meeting of the General Synod shall be signed by the General Minister and  
480 President of the United Church of Christ. Such call shall be issued at least six months prior to a  
481 regular meeting and at least three months prior to a special meeting of the General Synod. All  
482 calls shall be sent to the Conferences and the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries,  
483 and notice of these calls shall be transmitted to the Local Churches by the Conferences.  
484

485 180 All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by  
486 the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as amended.  
487

488 181 Expenses of General Synod delegates, including travel expenses for meetings of the General  
489 Synod, shall be the responsibility of the sending groups, except expenses of Conference voting  
490 delegates as negotiated with the Conferences shall be borne by the General Synod.  
491

#### 492 **Membership of the General Synod**

493 182 The membership of the General Synod shall consist of voting delegates and associate  
494 delegates. Visitors shall be welcome.  
495

#### 496 **Voting Delegates**

497 183 Voting delegates shall consist of Conference delegates, all members of the United Church of  
498 Christ Board, and delegates named by the Historically Underrepresented Groups, as these are  
499 hereinafter defined. All voting delegates shall be members of a Local Church of the United  
500 Church of Christ. Each voting delegate to the General Synod shall be entitled to a single vote at  
501 the General Synod.  
502

#### 503 **Conference Delegates**

504 184 The number of Conference delegates shall be allocated to each Conference by the United  
505 Church of Christ Board on the basis of the number of persons who have membership in the Local  
506 Churches of the Conference. There shall not, however, be fewer than three delegates allocated to  
507 any Conference. The total number of Conference delegates in any biennium shall not be fewer

508 than 675 nor more than 725. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be chosen by each  
509 Conference from among its authorized ministers in full standing and persons with Ordained  
510 Ministerial Partner Standing and the members of its Local Churches. Conferences may initiate  
511 and consider nominations from the Associations. From each Conference, except in Conferences  
512 having three delegates, (a) lay persons shall constitute at least fifty percent of the delegates and  
513 (b) the delegation shall reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to affirmative action; it  
514 shall be representative of racial and ethnic persons (Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, Asian  
515 Americans, and Pacific Islanders), women and youth and young adults (at least twenty percent of  
516 each delegation shall be under 30 years of age at the time of the commencing of their terms, and  
517 where possible, be represented equally by (1) youth, persons of high school age; and (2) young  
518 adults, persons graduated from high school or over 19 years of age). In Conferences with three  
519 delegates the above requirements for representation are recommended but shall not be mandatory.  
520 Despite any lack of exact compliance with these requirements, actions of a General Synod which  
521 is constituted in substantial compliance with these representation requirements, as determined by  
522 the United Church of Christ Board, shall be valid.

523

524 185 The term of Conference delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired terms, shall begin  
525 at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall  
526 continue for a period of four years, terminating at the opening of the third regular meeting of the  
527 General Synod following such election; provided, however, that each Conference delegation shall  
528 be divided into two classes with terms expiring in alternate bienniums. When the number in one  
529 class from a given Conference exceeds the number in the other class by more than one, the  
530 Conference shall at the earliest possible opportunity make use of a two-year term for one delegate  
531 or fill any delegate vacancy that may occur in such a way as to equalize the two classes. No  
532 delegate who has served a full term shall again be elected until after at least two years have  
533 elapsed. Delegates shall be members of all regular and special meetings of the General Synod  
534 which are held during their term of office unless they have become separated from the  
535 Conference which elected them.

536

#### 537 **United Church of Christ Board Delegates**

538 186 The members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting delegates at the General  
539 Synod, and their term shall be concurrent with their terms as members of the United Church of  
540 Christ Board.

541

#### 542 **Historically Underrepresented Groups Delegates**

543 187 There shall be thirty-six (36) Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, four (4) from  
544 each of the Historically Underrepresented Groups: Council for American Indian Ministry;  
545 Council for Hispanic Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific  
546 Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black Christians; UCC Disabilities Ministries;  
547 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; the United Samoan Ministries; and the Open and  
548 Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. The term of Historically Underrepresented  
549 Groups delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired terms, shall begin at the opening of the  
550 next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall continue for a period  
551 of four years, terminating at the opening of the third regular meeting of the General Synod  
552 following such election. No delegate who has served a full term shall again be elected until after  
553 at least two years have elapsed.

554

#### 555 **Associate Delegates**

556 188 Unless otherwise serving as a voting delegate to  
557 the General Synod, the chairperson of the governing body and the principal minister(s) or  
558 executive(s) of each Conference; the chairperson of each Task Force created by the General

559 Synod not otherwise represented on the United Church of Christ Board; the chairperson of each  
560 General Synod standing committee; a representative of the Christian Churches (Disciples of  
561 Christ); and one representative of each of the seminaries of the United Church of Christ not  
562 otherwise represented, chosen by the seminary, shall be Associate Delegates, with voice but  
563 without vote.

564

565 **Ecumenical Delegates**

566 189 In each biennium the United Church of Christ Board may invite a representative from each of  
567 its U.S. [and Canada](#) full communion partners as an associate delegate to the General Synod of the  
568 United Church of Christ. In addition, the United Church of Christ Board may invite a  
569 representative from up to three other partner churches in the United States. These representatives  
570 shall be accorded the same privileges as Associate Delegates.

571

572 **Moderators of the General Synod**

573 190 The Moderator shall be elected by the General Synod. The office of Moderator shall be filled  
574 alternately by lay persons and authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner  
575 Standing. The Moderator shall take office upon the adjournment of the regular meeting at which  
576 the Moderator is elected and shall hold office through the next regular meeting or until a  
577 successor has been qualified and installed.

578

579 191 The Moderator shall preside at the sessions of the General Synod.

580

581 192 There shall be elected an Assistant Moderator of the General Synod to assist the Moderator in  
582 presiding at sessions of the General Synod. The Assistant Moderator shall take office upon  
583 adjournment of the regular meeting at which the Assistant Moderator was elected and shall hold  
584 office through the next regular meeting. The Assistant Moderator will be eligible for nomination  
585 and election to the position of Moderator, upon completion of the term of Assistant Moderator.

586

587 193 The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall include an authorized minister or a person with  
588 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson, and shall reflect the diversity to which the  
589 United Church of Christ is committed.

590

591 **Committees of the General Synod**

592 194 The General Synod shall have such Committees as it may deem necessary, including but not  
593 limited to those named hereafter.

594

595 195 **Nominating Committee** The Nominating Committee shall consist of 16 members elected by  
596 the General Synod as follows:

597

598 a) Ten members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the Conferences, as  
599 follows: At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the  
600 United Church of Christ Board shall invite each Conference not currently represented on  
601 the Nominating Committee to submit the name of an authorized minister or a person with  
602 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and the name of a layperson for possible  
603 membership on the Nominating Committee as an at-large member. The United Church of  
604 Christ Board shall submit these names to the General Synod. Not more than one of the  
605 at-large members of the Nominating Committee shall be from any one Conference.  
606 Notwithstanding this requirement, if a member of the Nominating Committee moves to a  
607 Conference from which there is another member of the Committee currently serving, the  
608 member moving to the Conference currently served by another member shall continue to  
609 serve as a member of the Nominating Committee until the end of the biennium. The

610 position on the Nominating Committee held by the member who moved becomes vacant  
611 at the end of the biennium during which the above change in Conference occurs.

612  
613 b) Four members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the following  
614 groups: the Council for American Indian Ministry; the Council for Hispanic Ministries;  
615 Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific Islander and Asian American  
616 Ministries; United Black Christians; United Samoan Ministries, the Open and Affirming  
617 Coalition of the United Church of Christ; UCC Disabilities Ministries; and the Council  
618 for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. At least nine months before each regular meeting  
619 of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board shall invite each of the five  
620 groups not currently represented on the Nominating Committee to submit the names of an  
621 authorized minister or a person with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a  
622 layperson for possible membership on the Nominating Committee. The United Church of  
623 Christ Board shall submit to the General Synod for election the number of names needed  
624 to maintain four members from these groups on the Nominating Committee. Two  
625 members will be an authorized minister or a person with Ordained Ministerial Partner  
626 Standing and two members will be laypersons. The Conference affiliations of the  
627 representatives from these groups will not affect the determination of the Conference  
628 affiliation of the at-large members elected in accordance with paragraph 201a.

629  
630 c) Two members will be appointed from among the members of the United Church of  
631 Christ Board.

632  
633 d) The diversity of the Nominating Committee shall reflect the diversity requirements for  
634 the United Church of Christ Board, as set forth in these bylaws.

635  
636 e) A member of the Nominating Committee who has served a full term shall not be  
637 eligible for re-election until a biennium has elapsed. Terms of members shall begin at the  
638 close of the General Synod at which the members have been elected and continue to the  
639 close of the third regular General Synod after their election. The Chairperson of the  
640 Nominating Committee shall be named by the United Church of Christ Board from the  
641 members of the Nominating Committee within six months after each regular meeting of  
642 the General Synod.

643  
644 196 The Nominating Committee of the General Synod, prior to the call for nominations, reviews  
645 the composition of the continuing membership of the United Church of Christ Board and  
646 determines the needed nominations. In its call for suggestions of names, the Nominating  
647 Committee will indicate the criteria consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws which will be  
648 used for filling positions on the United Church of Christ Board. Each Conference or group to be  
649 represented shall provide at least two names for each of the positions.

650  
651 197 The Nominating Committee shall make all nominations for election by the General Synod for  
652 which the Constitution and Bylaws do not otherwise provide. The Nominating Committee shall  
653 consider, but not be limited to, such attributes as candidates' leadership, a wide range of life  
654 experience and background including socio-economic, cultural competency, financial knowledge,  
655 fund raising experience, community building skills, commitment to justice, and understanding of  
656 good governance. The Nominating Committee shall maintain records of suggested nominees and  
657 their qualifications.

658  
659 198 The Nominating Committee is responsible for ensuring that the membership of the United  
660 Church of Christ Board embodies the commitment of the United Church of Christ to diversity and

661 balance, both in its overall composition and in its internal segments. In order to achieve this end,  
662 the Nominating Committee may, if necessary, approach any group submitting and/or  
663 recommending names with the request that they assist in that task by presenting additional names.

664

665 199 When selecting candidates for offices, the Nominating Committee shall consider all names  
666 submitted.

667

668 200 The Nominating Committee shall submit its report to the General Synod at least twenty-four  
669 hours before the elections are scheduled to take place, unless the General Synod, by a three-  
670 fourths vote, consents to an earlier election.

671

#### 672 **Credentials Committee**

673 201 The Credentials Committee shall consist of ten delegates to the General Synod, five of whom  
674 shall come from each of the two classes of General Synod delegates. At least three months before  
675 each regular meeting of the General Synod the United Church of Christ Board shall appoint five  
676 members from the latest class of delegates and shall designate one of the ten members of the  
677 Committee as chairperson. Terms of members shall be for four years, beginning with their  
678 appointment and terminating with the appointment of their successors. The Credentials  
679 Committee will review the composition of the Conference and other voting delegations for  
680 compliance with the composition requirements of these Bylaws and is empowered to request  
681 changes in membership to all voting delegations so that said delegations and the Delegation as a  
682 Whole will be in compliance with the provisions of these Bylaws.

683

#### 684 **Budget Committee, Business Committee, and Committee of Disposition**

685 201 The Budget Committee, the Business Committee, and the Committee of Disposition at each  
686 regular and special meeting of the General Synod shall be the United Church of Christ Board or  
687 persons designated by the United Church of Christ Board from its own membership. The role and  
688 scope of the Budget Committee, Business Committee and the Committee of Disposition shall be  
689 determined by the United Church of Christ Board.

690

#### 691 **Officers of the United Church of Christ**

692 203 The General Synod shall call by election, from among the members of the United Church of  
693 Christ, the ~~following Officers of the United Church of Christ who shall also be members of the~~  
694 ~~Collegium of Officers, the Mission Planning Council, the United Church of Christ Board, and~~  
695 ~~General Synod: General Minister and President, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries,~~  
696 ~~Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, and Executive Minister for Wider Church~~  
697 ~~Ministries, the Associate General Ministers,~~ and such other officers of the United Church of  
698 Christ as the General Synod may from time to time determine.

699

700 204 Each Officer of the United Church of Christ serves at the will of the General Synod, and may  
701 be terminated as an Officer of the United Church of Christ by the United Church of Christ Board  
702 acting as the General Synod ad interim in accordance with the United Church of Christ Board's  
703 procedures.

704

705 205 The term of each Officer of the United Church of Christ shall be two regular meetings of the  
706 General Synod, terminating at the opening of the third regular meeting of the General Synod  
707 following such election, not to exceed three terms, and shall commence within ninety days  
708 following call by election by the General Synod. Officers of the United Church of Christ shall  
709 hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified and have assumed the duties of  
710 their office. Officers of the United Church of Christ may be reelected, but not more than twice,  
711 subject to the call by election of the General Synod.

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**General Minister and President**

206 The General Minister and President, who shall have Ordained Ministerial Standing or Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing, is called to ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ upon election by the General Synod.

a) Spiritual Leader of the Church:

The General Minister and President is the spiritual leader and pastor of the Church, charged with the care and nurture of the spiritual life of the Church. The General Minister and President is responsible for the unity and well-being of the Church, and for nurturing its covenantal life and ecumenical and interfaith relationships, and leading the visioning, planning, coordination and implementation of the total mission of the United Church of Christ.

b) Theological Interpreter:

The General Minister and President is the principal leader in interpreting the theological perspectives and values of the United Church of Christ as guided by the General Synod and in consultation with the ~~Collegium~~Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is the chief representative of the United Church of Christ in the public square and at ecumenical, interdenominational and interfaith tables.

c) Convener:

The General Minister and President will convene and preside at the meetings of the ~~Collegium~~Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is responsible for coordinated communication, fund raising and planning in collaboration with the ~~Executive Ministers~~Associate General Ministers. The General Minister and President is a member of the Mission Planning Council.

d) Chief Executive Officer:

The General Minister and President is the Chief Executive Officer of the General Synod and is its principal spokesperson. The General Minister and President oversees the administration of the National Setting offices. The General Minister and President leads and directs the work of the Associate General Ministers and the Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is the executive ultimately responsible for all hiring and termination decisions in the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President may from time to time delegate administrative responsibilities as the needs of the Church and good judgment dictate.

The General Minister and President serves as the corporate President of the United Church of Christ Board, each of the Covenanted Ministries, the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, and all other corporations related to the Covenanted Ministries. The General Minister and President determines the delegation and direction of the work of the Covenanted Ministries to the Associate General Ministers, with the affirmation of the United Church of Christ Board.

The General Minister and President serves as an ex-officio member in all meetings of the Affiliated and Associated Ministries. The General Minister and President shall serve as an ex-officio member, with voice, but not vote, in the meetings of all Commissions, Councils, and Committees of the United Church of Christ, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; except that the General Minister and President shall not participate in the work of the Search Committee for the General Minister and President. The

763 General Minister and President shall be the official representative of the Church in ecumenical,  
764 interdenominational, and interfaith relations. The General Minister and President may appoint a  
765 representative for such occasions as the General Minister and President deems advisable.  
766

767 207 The General Minister and President is accountable to the General Synod and the United  
768 Church of Christ Board, acting as the General Synod ad interim.  
769

770 208 The candidate for the position of General Minister and President is nominated for an initial  
771 term by a search committee of the United Church of Christ, broadly representative of the Church,  
772 and appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. The search committee includes at least one  
773 Conference Minister named by the Council of Conference Ministers and one representative of the  
774 Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the COREM  
775 members on the United Church of Christ Board, each with voice and vote. At least one member  
776 shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully  
777 respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the ~~Collegium of~~  
778 Officers of the United Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the search committee is  
779 confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board before the candidate's name  
780 is placed before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election, and  
781 nominations may not be made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the  
782 General Synod is necessary for election and call. The General Minister and President does not  
783 participate in the work of the search committee choosing a successor. The General Minister and  
784 President is evaluated regularly through a process approved by the United Church of Christ  
785 Board. In the event that the General Minister and President is unable to discharge the  
786 responsibilities of that Office, or if there is a vacancy in that Office, the United Church of Christ  
787 Board shall name ~~one of the Executive Ministers~~ an Associate General Minister to serve as  
788 Acting General Minister and President until the General Minister and President returns to service  
789 or is replaced by a successor elected by the General Synod after a search process.  
790

791 ~~Executive Ministers of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Wider~~  
792 ~~Church Ministries~~ Associate General Ministers

793 209 ~~An Executive Minister~~ Associate General Minister may be a lay person, an authorized  
794 minister, or a person with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing. Each ~~Executive~~  
795 ~~Minister~~ Associate General Minister serves as an appointed member of the United Church of  
796 Christ Board and accordingly as a member of the Board of Directors of each Covenanted  
797 Ministry.  
798

799 210 Each ~~Executive Minister~~ Associate General Minister will be responsible for the work of the  
800 Covenanted Ministries, as delegated and directed by the General Minister and President and  
801 affirmed by the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.  
802

803 211 As led by the General Minister and President, each ~~Executive~~ Associate General Minister  
804 will be involved in the overall functions of the National Setting, including visioning and planning,  
805 communications, development and management of budgets, development and leadership of staff,  
806 and implementation of policies adopted by the General Synod and the United Church of Christ  
807 Board.  
808

809 212 Each ~~Executive~~ Associate General Minister will be accountable to the General Synod  
810 through the United Church of Christ Board. Each ~~Executive~~ Associate General Minister serves at  
811 the will of the United Church of Christ Board and may be terminated by the United Church of  
812 Christ Board, acting as the General Synod ad interim, in accordance with its procedures.  
813



814 213 ~~As an Officer of the Church, each Executive Minister is a member of the Collegium of~~  
815 ~~Officers.~~ Each Associate General Minister is an Officer of the United Church of Christ.  
816

817 214 Each ~~Executive Minister~~Associate General Minister is to be nominated for an initial term by  
818 a search committee of the United Church of Christ broadly representative of the Church,  
819 appointed by and from the United Church of Christ Board. The search committee shall include  
820 the General Minister and President; one Conference Minister, named by the Council of  
821 Conference Ministers; one representative of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be  
822 selected, in the first instance, from the COREM members on the Board of Directors and one  
823 representative of the UCC Disabilities Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the  
824 UCC Disabilities Ministries member on the Board of Directors, each with voice and vote. At least  
825 one member shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is  
826 to be fully respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the  
827 ~~Collegium of Officers~~Officers of the United Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the  
828 search committee is to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board of  
829 Directors before the candidate's name is placed in nomination before the General Synod. Only  
830 one nominee may be presented for election, and nominations may not be made from the floor. An  
831 affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the General Synod is necessary for the call by election.  
832 An ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister does not participate in the work of the search  
833 committee choosing a successor. The ~~Executive Minister~~Associate General Minister is evaluated  
834 regularly by a process approved by the United Church of Christ Board of Directors. The  
835 evaluation process shall include the General Minister and President, with voice and vote. Terms  
836 of office shall begin within ninety days following their election. An ~~Executive~~Associate General  
837 Minister shall hold office until the Associate General Minister's successor has been elected and  
838 qualified and has assumed the duties of the Office.  
839

840 215 In the event that an ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister is unable to discharge the  
841 responsibilities of that position, or if there is a vacancy in the office, the United Church of Christ  
842 Board of Directors, in consultation with the General Minister and President, may appoint an  
843 Acting ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister, who shall be an Acting Officer of the Church,  
844 according to its rules and procedures acting as the General Synod ad interim. An Acting  
845 ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister shall serve until the ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister  
846 returns to service, or is replaced by a successor called by election by the General Synod.  
847

#### 848 **United Church of Christ Board**

849 216 The United Church of Christ Board continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor  
850 bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified in the Constitution of the United Church of  
851 Christ.  
852

853 217 The United Church of Christ Board shall consist of up to 52 members. Thirty-six members  
854 shall serve in at-large positions and up to 16 members shall be appointed members with voice and  
855 vote. The composition of the United Church of Christ Board shall embody the commitment of the  
856 United Church of Christ to be a multicultural and multiracial Church, reflecting the racial and  
857 ethnic diversity of society with a balance of leadership between women and men, open and  
858 accessible to all. All members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting members,  
859 except as legally proscribed and noted below.  
860

861 218 The 36 at-large members, nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee, and  
862 elected by the General Synod as members of the United Church of Christ Board, shall reflect the  
863 following composition at the time of their election:  
864

- 865 • 50% or more shall be persons of color.  
866 • 50% or more shall be women.  
867 • 1/3 shall be authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.  
868 • 1/3 shall be laymen.  
869 • 1/3 shall be laywomen.  
870 • 20% shall be under 30 years of age. To the extent possible, the under 30 years of age members  
871 shall include both youth of high school age and young adults. All such members shall be voting  
872 members except as legally proscribed.  
873 • At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as having a disability.  
874 • At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or  
875 transgender.  
876  
877 a) At-large members shall serve one term of three regular meetings of the General Synod,  
878 which shall commence at the close of the General Synod at which the person is elected  
879 and qualified and shall terminate at the close of the General Synod in which a successor  
880 is elected and qualified. At-large members shall be divided into three classes of 12  
881 members each, with a class of 12 members being elected at each General Synod. No at-  
882 large member who has served more than one-half of a full term shall be nominated to  
883 serve again until at least one regular meeting of the General Synod has elapsed.  
884 Nominations for the at-large positions shall be solicited from all entities and  
885 organizations within the United Church of Christ. There shall not be more than three at-  
886 large members from any one Conference at the time of an individual's election.  
887  
888 b) The General Synod Nominating Committee nominates these persons after submission  
889 of names, according to the procedures established in these Bylaws, and criteria  
890 determined by the Nominating Committee. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure  
891 that the membership of the United Church of Christ Board reflects the diversity to which  
892 the United Church of Christ is committed, the Nominating Committee may ask for  
893 additional names to be submitted.  
894  
895 219 Appointed members of the United Church of Christ Board with voice and vote shall include:  
896  
897 a) The Officers of the United Church of Christ.  
898  
899 b) The Moderator and the Assistant Moderator of the General Synod.  
900  
901 c) One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a term  
902 of two years. Any such member shall be eligible to serve up to two additional terms and  
903 not to exceed three terms.  
904  
905 d) Six principal ministers of Conferences, one to be elected from each Region by the  
906 Council of Conference Ministers for a term of two years, not to exceed two consecutive  
907 terms. If any such member ceases during the member's term of office on the United  
908 Church of Christ Board to be the principal minister of a Conference within the Region  
909 from which said member was elected, a vacancy shall be thereby created to be filled by  
910 election by the Council of Conference Ministers.  
911  
912 e) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc.  
913  
914 f) The Executive of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ  
915

916 g) The Executive of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries  
917  
918 220 Although members of the United Church of Christ Board may be nominated or selected by  
919 particular groups, each member serves on behalf of, and bears responsibility for, the well-being of  
920 the whole Church.  
921  
922 221 The United Church of Christ Board shall elect, from its members who are elected by the  
923 General Synod, a chairperson and a vice-chairperson according to its own Standing Rules.  
924  
925 222 The United Church of Christ Board shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall not  
926 be members of the United Church of Christ Board, and shall have voice but no vote. The  
927 Secretary and the Treasurer may be appointed from staff members at the National Setting, who  
928 shall report to the General Minister and President, who is directly accountable to the United  
929 Church of Christ Board.  
930  
931 223 The Secretary and the Treasurer shall have the customary duties of a corporate secretary and  
932 treasurer to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.  
933

#### 934 **Responsibilities of the United Church of Christ Board**

935 224 The United Church of Christ Board shall act for the General Synod ad interim, and, in  
936 cooperation with the ~~Collegium of~~ [Officers of the United Church of Christ](#), shall provide  
937 coordination and evaluation of the work of the Church and shall carry out such other  
938 responsibilities as may be from time to time delegated to it by the General Synod or as provided  
939 for in these Bylaws or the Constitution.  
940  
941 a) The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible for strategic planning and  
942 policymaking. The Committees of the United Church of Christ Board shall make  
943 recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board for strategic  
944 planning, policymaking, and oversight purposes. The United Church of Christ Board  
945 shall receive recommendations from the Investment and Endowment Committee  
946 regarding the annual draw rate on invested funds that may be used to carry out the  
947 mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries. Recommendations as to the annual draw  
948 rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of  
949 the annual draw rate to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic  
950 donor intended uses of each of the unrestricted endowment funds shall not be modified  
951 by the United Church of Christ Board except upon a two-thirds vote of the members  
952 present of the full Board.  
953  
954 b) The United Church of Christ Board is responsible for policies relating to the mission  
955 of the United Church of Christ in its National Setting. It shall support the on-going work  
956 of the General Synod through its various ministries, planning for and encouraging  
957 cooperation among those ministries, with Local Churches, Associations, and  
958 Conferences, and with other expressions of the Church which contribute to and embody  
959 God's mission in Jesus Christ. It shall support the spiritual and financial health of the  
960 Church, and shall ensure the presence and implementation of policies which contribute to  
961 the health of the Covenanted Ministries in relationship with one another and their  
962 accountability to the General Synod. It shall receive reports from the ~~Collegium of~~  
963 Officers of the United Church of Christ and provide oversight and support for the work of  
964 that body. It shall facilitate the business of the General Synod and assume such other  
965 tasks as may be assigned to it by the General Synod. It shall be a focal point for decision-  
966 making, overall planning and evaluation, and budgeting in the National Setting. It shall

967 receive and report upon divergent points of view and maintain an open channel for the  
968 consideration of minority or dissenting opinion. It shall submit a report of its work to the  
969 General Synod at each regular meeting. In cooperation with the Covenanted, Affiliated,  
970 and Associated Ministries it shall make an annual informational report to the Local  
971 Churches and the Conferences about the total program of the Church in the National  
972 Setting.

973  
974 225 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions, or committees of the General Synod, or in the  
975 membership of the United Church of Christ Board, shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled by  
976 the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim, such actions to be  
977 reported to the next General Synod.

978  
979 226 The United Church of Christ Board shall make such elections, nominations or appointments  
980 as these Bylaws or action of the General Synod may require.

981  
982 227 Acting as the Budget Committee for the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board  
983 shall determine the allocation of funds from denominational support. The United Church of Christ  
984 Board, acting as the Budget Committee, shall also receive and review the past and projected use  
985 of denominational funds allocated to each Covenanted Ministry and recommend the  
986 denominational support threshold amount for the each General Synod regular meeting interval.

987  
988 228 The United Church of Christ Board shall be an incorporated body in order to ensure that it  
989 may effectively and expeditiously perform all legal functions of the General Synod and all of its  
990 other functions as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.  
991 The membership of the Corporation shall consist of those persons described in the Bylaws as  
992 members of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ, who shall be elected or  
993 affirmed in the manner therein provided and who shall have the right to vote only to the extent  
994 granted by the Bylaws. Those members shall also be the Directors of the Corporation. The  
995 Corporation shall have such officers as required by law and as provided in these Bylaws. The  
996 Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of its affairs bylaws and rules not  
997 inconsistent with its Articles of Incorporation nor with the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and  
998 regulations of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

999  
1000 229 The United Church of Christ Board shall serve as the Business Committee of the General  
1001 Synod during its sessions, and as such shall prepare the agenda and schedule for all meetings of  
1002 the General Synod, recommend changes therein during sessions, and appoint committees not  
1003 otherwise provided.

1004  
1005 **Administration of the National Setting Offices**

1006 230 The General Minister and President shall oversee the administration of the National Setting  
1007 offices.

1008  
1009 **Committees of the United Church of Christ Board**

1010 231 The United Church of Christ Board shall have such other Committees as it may deem  
1011 necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter, and each may draw on expertise  
1012 beyond the Board if necessary.

1013  
1014 **Ministry Committees**

1015 232 The United Church of Christ Board shall establish committees relating to the mission and  
1016 ministry of the United Church of Christ (the Ministry Committees). Each Ministry Committee  
1017 shall make recommendations to the United Church of Christ Board regarding ministry priorities

1018 and policy. The Ministry Committees will honor the diversity commitments of the United Church  
1019 of Christ and work in covenant with each other and National Setting staff. To the extent possible  
1020 while still maintaining expertise needed on the Ministry Committees, the composition of each  
1021 Ministry Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to a  
1022 multicultural and multiracial Church, with leadership reflecting race and gender diversity, open  
1023 and accessible to all. To the extent possible while still maintaining expertise needed on the  
1024 Ministry Committees, each United Church of Christ Board member will be assigned to a Ministry  
1025 Committee based on that individual's experience, expertise, personal passion and spiritual calling.  
1026 Individuals also will be considered based on the role that they may serve as members of the  
1027 Common Global Ministries Board, the mission partnership between the United Church of Christ  
1028 and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each Ministry Committee will elect a chairperson  
1029 and a vice-chairperson, subject to the requirement that at least one of these positions must be held  
1030 by a person of color in each Ministry Committee.

1031

1032 **Executive Committee**

1033 233 The Executive Committee shall consist of up to 16 members of the United Church of Christ  
1034 Board, as follows:

1035

1036 a) Chairperson and vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board

1037

1038 b) Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Governance  
1039 Committee, Investment and Endowment Committee, and Development Committee

1040

1041 c) The Officers of the United Church of Christ

1042

1043 d) One Conference Minister

1044

1045 e) Moderator of the General Synod

1046

1047 f) Three additional at-large members, one from each of the three classes

1048

1049 (g) To the extent possible while still maintaining diversity and expertise, the composition  
1050 of the Executive Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of  
1051 Christ to a multicultural and multiracial Church, with membership reflecting age, race,  
1052 and gender diversity, open and accessible to all.

1053

1054 234 The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to ensure that visioning and strategic  
1055 planning be done on behalf of the National Setting of the Church. It will lead the United Church  
1056 of Christ Board in developing and articulating comprehensive and integrated strategies and goals  
1057 for the National Setting. The Executive Committee will facilitate the United Church of Christ  
1058 Board's identification of concerns and ideas related to communications, identity, fundraising,  
1059 fund development, strategic planning, evangelism, and other critical issues for the life of the  
1060 whole Church. The decision-making power and authority of the Executive Committee shall be  
1061 governed by the standing rules of the United Church of Christ Board.

1062

1063 **Finance and Budget Committee**

1064 235 The Finance and Budget Committee shall consist of up to 12 members of the United Church  
1065 of Christ Board, including:

1066

1067 a) Chairperson or vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board

1068

1069 b) Six representatives of the United Church of Christ Board

1070

1071 c) General Minister and President

1072

1073 236 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

1074

1075 a) Reviewing the annual available resources and being responsible for financial planning.

1076

1077 b) Reviewing the proposed Annual Budget recommended by the General Minister and  
1078 President in consultation with key staff and mission partners, such as Common Global  
1079 Ministries.

1080

1081 c) Recommending the Annual Budget to the United Church of Christ Board.

1082

1083 d) Receiving and reviewing regular financial reports.

1084

1085 **Investment and Endowment Committee**

1086 237 The Investment and Endowment Committee shall consist of up to 14 members and shall be  
1087 members of the United Church of Christ Board (except as noted below), including:

1088

1089 a) Six representatives from the United Church of Christ Board

1090

1091 b) The Officers of the United Church of Christ

1092

1093 c) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc., with voice but without vote

1094

1095 d) The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may add up to three  
1096 individuals with legal and/or investment expertise who are not members of the United  
1097 Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.

1098

1099 238 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

1100

1101 a) Assuring that the legacy/historic restrictions on the use of restricted funds and the  
1102 intended use restrictions of the unrestricted funds of each of the historic ministries are  
1103 monitored, accounted for, maintained and reported to the United Church of Christ Board  
1104 annually. The Committee shall monitor and oversee the allocation of both restricted and  
1105 unrestricted funds to ensure that they will be allocated based on donor intent, whenever  
1106 that can be determined and to provide the full Board an overview of all funds in order to  
1107 encourage the most effective collaborative and holistic use of those funds to meet the  
1108 missional needs of the Church.

1109

1110 b) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board investment policies including  
1111 investment screens that reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ to  
1112 corporate social responsibility.

1113

1114 c) Managing the investment of the endowed funds and other assets including real  
1115 property in accordance with investment policies approved by the United Church of Christ  
1116 Board.

1117

1118 d) Monitoring and reporting on the management of invested funds to the United Church  
1119 of Christ Board.

- 1120  
1121 e) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the annual draw rate on invested  
1122 funds that may be used to carry out the mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries.  
1123 Recommendations as to the annual draw rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar  
1124 amounts resulting from the application of the annual draw rate to each of the restricted  
1125 endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the  
1126 unrestricted endowment funds shall be accepted by the United Church of Christ Board  
1127 unless modified by a vote of two-thirds of the members present of the full Board.  
1128  
1129 f) Reviewing, monitoring and recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the  
1130 allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the spending rate  
1131 to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses  
1132 of each of the unrestricted endowment funds.  
1133  
1134 g) Providing Board representation to the Investment Committee of the United Church  
1135 Funds, Inc.  
1136

1137 **Audit Committee**

1138 239 The Audit Committee shall consist of such members as determined by the United Church of  
1139 Christ Board, provided that members of the Board must comprise a majority of the members of  
1140 the Audit Committee. The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may  
1141 include on the Audit Committee individuals with legal and/or financial expertise who are not  
1142 members of the United Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.  
1143 All Committee members shall be voting members.  
1144

1145 240 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- 1146  
1147 a) Retaining the audit firm to perform the annual financial audit.  
1148  
1149 b) Receiving and reviewing the audit report from the auditors and reporting to the United  
1150 Church of Christ Board.  
1151  
1152 (c) Such other duties as assigned by the United Church of Christ Board.  
1153

1154 **Regions**

1155 241 The United Church of Christ Board shall make an appropriate assignment of the several  
1156 Conferences into Regions. The Regions as thus determined shall form the basis for Conference  
1157 representation on national bodies wherever required by the Bylaws.  
1158

1159 **Organization of the United Church of Christ Board**

1160 242 The United Church of Christ Board shall organize itself as it deems necessary to carry out its  
1161 responsibilities and fulfill its mandates.  
1162

1163 **Advisory Commissions**

1164 243 The United Church of Christ Board may provide for special advisory commissions on  
1165 subjects of pervasive interest to the entire Church on which the United Church of Christ Board  
1166 and/or the General Minister and President need policy or substantive advice. Members of such  
1167 commissions and its chairperson shall be appointed by the United Church of Christ Board  
1168 pursuant to its Standing Rules and shall include at least one member of the United Church of  
1169 Christ Board.  
1170

1171 **Common Services**

1172 244 In covenant with the Covenanted Ministries, the United Church of Christ Board, through and  
1173 by the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, shall provide for common  
1174 services, including, but not limited to, common treasury services, accounting services, personnel  
1175 services, logistical services, information services and office support services. It shall also provide  
1176 for a common salary program and shall provide common personnel policies.  
1177

1178 245 Each Covenanted Ministry shall use the aforementioned common services, program and  
1179 policies whenever legally permissible and otherwise appropriate, all as determined by its own  
1180 board of directors.  
1181

1182 246 A nonprofit corporation shall be formed for the purpose of providing the above-described  
1183 common services. The corporation, to be named the Common Services Corporation of the United  
1184 Church of Christ, shall be governed by its articles of incorporation, rules, and bylaws, and the  
1185 Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President  
1186 shall be the principal executive of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of  
1187 Christ. The number of directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of  
1188 Christ shall be up to ten, consisting of:  
1189

- 1190 i. Two representatives of, and selected by, Local Church Ministries;
- 1191
- 1192 ii. Two representatives of, and selected by, Justice and Witness Ministries;
- 1193
- 1194 iii. Two representatives of, and selected by, Wider Church Ministries;
- 1195
- 1196 iv. General Minister and President; and
- 1197
- 1198 v. Key operations, financial services, and human resources personnel as deemed  
1199 necessary by the General Minister and President.  
1200

1201 The directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the  
1202 members of the corporation. The board of directors shall appoint such committees, with such  
1203 responsibilities, as it deems necessary to carry out its work. The corporate officers of the  
1204 Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the following:  
1205

- 1206 (i) General Minister and President, who as President of this corporation shall be  
1207 accountable to the board of directors;  
1208
- 1209 (ii) A Secretary, who shall be appointed by and report to the General Minister and  
1210 President;  
1211
- 1212 (iii) A Treasurer, who shall be appointed by and report to the General Minister and  
1213 President.  
1214

1215 247 Policy decisions related to the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ  
1216 shall be the responsibility of the board of directors of the Common Services Corporation of the  
1217 United Church of Christ.  
1218

1219 **ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION**

1220 248 The work of the United Church of Christ shall be carried out by the United Church of Christ  
1221 Board, the Covenanted, Affiliated, Associated Ministries, Councils, and other such bodies as may



1222 from time to time be created by, or related to, the General Synod or the United Church of Christ  
1223 Board.

1224

## 1225 **COVENANTED MINISTRIES**

1226 249 The Covenanted Ministries are Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and  
1227 Wider Church Ministries.

1228

1229 250 The General Minister and President oversees the programmatic work of the Covenanted  
1230 Ministries, which shall be carried out in accordance with the policies, planning, and broad  
1231 oversight of the United Church of Christ Board as provided in these Bylaws.

1232

## 1233 **LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES**

### 1234 **Purpose and Mission**

1235 251 The purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support the  
1236 Local Churches of the United Church of Christ in the fulfillment of God's mission. It continues  
1237 the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified  
1238 in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation.  
1239 The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Local Church Ministries  
1240 shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. The United Church of  
1241 Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff  
1242 assigned by the General Minister and President. Local Church Ministries shall retain  
1243 responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have  
1244 sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

1245

1246 252 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries, the United Church of  
1247 Christ Board shall encourage Local Churches to shape their life and mission in partnership with  
1248 one another, with other expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical and interfaith  
1249 communities. The United Church of Christ Board will work to promote the vocation of all  
1250 members, leadership of laity and clergy, and facilitate a system of ecclesiastical call. The United  
1251 Church of Christ Board will nurture stewards, and will coordinate and promote denomination-  
1252 wide mission funding. The United Church of Christ Board will work with Local Churches in  
1253 striving for the vitality of Local Churches as inclusive and accessible communities of mission,  
1254 evangelism, church development, education, unity, worship, nurture, and justice so that the good  
1255 news of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed in word and deed.

1256

1257 253 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1258 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church.

1259

### 1260 **Governance and Leadership**

1261 254 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries shall be  
1262 incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the United  
1263 Church of Christ Board. ~~Its executive officer shall be an Executive Minister, who is also an~~  
1264 ~~Officer of the Church, called by election of the General Synod.~~ It shall act pursuant to the  
1265 provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own  
1266 articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of  
1267 Directors of Local Church Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of  
1268 directors, and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including  
1269 the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the Constitution of the United  
1270 Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing  
1271 unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It  
1272 is responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes

1273 its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its  
1274 mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its  
1275 office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other  
1276 appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and  
1277 those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task  
1278 groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.  
1279

1280 255 Members of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole  
1281 Church.  
1282

## 1283 **JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

### 1284 **Purpose and Mission**

1285 256 The purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be to enable and encourage  
1286 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of  
1287 Christ to engage in God’s mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice,  
1288 and peace. It continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other  
1289 ministries, as specified in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its  
1290 articles of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of  
1291 Justice and Witness Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of  
1292 Christ Board. The United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be  
1293 coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the General Minister and President. Justice and  
1294 Witness Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received,  
1295 maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal  
1296 of its legacies or other property.  
1297

1298 257 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries, the United Church  
1299 of Christ Board shall encourage the Church in all of its expressions to speak prophetically on  
1300 matters of justice, power, and public policy. The United Church of Christ Board shall assist the  
1301 Church in all of its expressions to confront expressions of injustice and alienation in the Church  
1302 and in the society. The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for the Church’s  
1303 ministry of service on behalf of those who are poor, the forgotten and the oppressed, and for those  
1304 marginalized by stigma and discrimination because of their sexual orientation or their disabilities,  
1305 including mental illness. The United Church of Christ Board may provide public witness on  
1306 behalf of the justice and witness policies of the General Synod.  
1307

1308 258 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1309 Churches, Associations, Conferences, national expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical  
1310 and interfaith groups, and community organizations.  
1311

### 1312 **Governance and Leadership**

1313 259 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
1314 shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the  
1315 United Church of Christ Board. ~~Its executive officer shall be an Executive Minister, who is also~~  
1316 ~~an Officer of the Church, called by election of the General Synod.~~ It shall act pursuant to the  
1317 provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own  
1318 articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of  
1319 Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries performs the functions normally associated with  
1320 boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates,  
1321 including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the Constitution of the  
1322 United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and  
1323 managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all

1324 sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and  
1325 establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to  
1326 carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and  
1327 site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or  
1328 other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements  
1329 and those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form  
1330 task groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its  
1331 mission.

1332  
1333 260 Members of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries serve on behalf of the  
1334 whole Church.

1335  
1336 **WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES**

1337 **Purpose and Mission**

1338 261 The purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support  
1339 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of  
1340 Christ to participate in the global, multiracial, multicultural church, accessible to all, and to  
1341 support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. It continues the work  
1342 of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies and continues other ministries, as specified in the  
1343 Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation. The  
1344 program, administrative, and financial development functions of Wider Church Ministries shall  
1345 be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. The United Church of  
1346 Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff  
1347 assigned by the General Minister and President. Wider Church Ministries shall retain  
1348 responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have  
1349 sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

1350  
1351 262 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of  
1352 Christ Board shall strengthen relationships with partner churches and oversee participation in the  
1353 Common Global Ministries Board in joint venture with the Christian Church (Disciples of  
1354 Christ). The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for institutional ministries in  
1355 health care, education, disaster relief, and social services in the United States and internationally.  
1356 It shall also coordinate volunteer ministries in all expressions of the Church. In cooperation with  
1357 partner churches it shall promote interfaith dialogue and global education and advocacy issues.  
1358 Through the Common Global Ministries Board, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee  
1359 the sending and receiving of missionaries.

1360  
1361 263 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1362 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church and of the  
1363 ecumenical and interfaith bodies.

1364  
1365 264 **Governance and Leadership** Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ,  
1366 Wider Church Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised  
1367 of the members of the United Church of Christ Board. ~~Its executive officer shall be an Executive~~  
1368 ~~Minister, who is also an Officer of the Church, called by election of the General Synod.~~ It shall  
1369 act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of  
1370 Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors.  
1371 The Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries performs the functions normally associated  
1372 with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and  
1373 mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the  
1374 Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose of

1375 holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds, and  
1376 funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation and required  
1377 corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for  
1378 organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and  
1379 for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority  
1380 to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its  
1381 own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The  
1382 Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the Church  
1383 necessary for implementing its mission.

1384  
1385 265 Members of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole  
1386 Church.

1387  
1388 **COLLEGIUM OF OFFICERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1389 266 The ~~Collegium of~~ Officers of the United Church of Christ, defined in Article IV of the  
1390 Constitution of the United Church of Christ, supports and consults with the United Church of  
1391 Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries in carrying out their work in a spirit of coordination  
1392 and cooperation. The General Minister and President is the presiding Officer. Led by the General  
1393 Minister and President, the Officers of the United Church of Christ are responsible for providing  
1394 leadership for the mission programming in the United Church of Christ and for the proper  
1395 implementation of General Synod actions. ~~Composed of the Officers of the~~  
1396 ~~United Church of Christ meeting as peers, the Collegium of Officers provides a setting for mutual~~  
1397 ~~accountability, mutual reporting, and for assessing the on-going programs of the United Church~~  
1398 ~~of Christ.~~ The ~~Collegium of~~ Officers of the United Church of Christ coordinates research, long-  
1399 range planning, ~~and~~ program evaluation, and report on the ongoing programs of the United  
1400 Church of Christ.

1401  
1402 267 The ~~Collegium of~~ Officers of the United Church of Christ ~~is~~ are convened by the General  
1403 Minister and President as the presiding officer and consults with the United Church of Christ  
1404 Board and the General Synod. ~~It~~ They shall consult regularly with the leaders of the Affiliated  
1405 and Associated Ministries of the United Church of Christ. They meet regularly with the Cabinet  
1406 of the Council of Conference Ministers.

1407  
1408 **MISSION PLANNING COUNCIL**

1409 268 The Mission Planning Council provides a multi-missional setting which brings together the  
1410 Officers of the United Church of Christ, and principal staff of the United Church of Christ Board  
1411 and the Covenanted, Associated, and Affiliated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, for  
1412 planning coordinated ministries and for visioning and exploring new perspectives over a wide  
1413 range of mission, theological, ecumenical, spiritual, stewardship, financial, justice,  
1414 communications, gender, disability, and racial issues and concerns. The Mission Planning  
1415 Council is responsible for the coordination and correlation of mission and purpose and for  
1416 maintaining mutual trust, mutual accountability, and the wise use of leadership and talents. It is  
1417 designed to encourage cooperation and sharing of talents among the Ministries. The Mission  
1418 Planning Council may invite others to participate, including representatives of Conferences and  
1419 partner churches, as it deems appropriate. The General Minister and President coordinates the  
1420 tasks, meetings, agendas, and follow-up actions of the Mission Planning Council.

1421  
1422 **AFFILIATED MINISTRY**

1423 269 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, The Pension Boards—United  
1424 Church of Christ is an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ and serves the Church  
1425 and its United Church of Christ Board and Covenanted Ministries as a separate corporation.

1426  
1427 270 The purpose of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ is to make available  
1428 ministerial welfare activities and a system of employee benefit programs designed to assist  
1429 authorized ministers and lay workers in achieving financial security during working and  
1430 retirement years.  
1431  
1432 271 The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ continues as a nonprofit membership  
1433 corporation which determines its own governance and leadership. The Pension Boards—United  
1434 Church of Christ will have membership on the United Church of Christ Board.  
1435  
1436 **ASSOCIATED MINISTRY**  
1437 272 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, the United Church Funds, Inc., is  
1438 an Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ, and  
1439 serves the Church, the United Church of Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries as a  
1440 separate corporation related to the United Church of Christ Board.  
1441  
1442 273 The purpose of the United Church Funds, Inc. is to provide a means by which individuals and  
1443 organizations of the Church may further exercise their stewardship of resources for the sake of  
1444 strengthening the mission of the Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United Church of  
1445 Christ.  
1446  
1447 274 The United Church Funds, Inc. will work cooperatively with the United Church of Christ  
1448 Board to facilitate comprehensive financial planning and development; and will continue its  
1449 relationship with The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ. It shall have membership on the  
1450 United Church of Christ Board.  
1451  
1452 275 The corporate membership of the United Church Funds, Inc. shall consist of 15 persons  
1453 nominated and elected by the United Church of Christ Board for terms of six years, one-third to  
1454 be elected each biennium and to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified.  
1455 The General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and the chairperson of the  
1456 United Church of Christ Board shall be appointed members. At least two of the members elected  
1457 each biennium shall not be members of the United Church Funds, Inc. at the time of their  
1458 election. The United Church of Christ Board may remove a member of the United Church Funds,  
1459 Inc. and shall fill vacancies for unexpired terms.  
1460  
1461 **Other Provisions**  
1462 276 No person shall serve in more than one General Synod elected position simultaneously.  
1463 Further, no employee of a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry shall serve as a voting  
1464 member of the United Church of Christ Board, except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws.  
1465  
1466 277 All members of the United Church of Christ Board, with the exception of the representatives  
1467 from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), shall be members of the United Church of Christ.  
1468  
1469 **ARTICLE V. INDEMNIFICATION**  
1470 278 Any Officer of the United Church of Christ, or any member, including officers and directors,  
1471 of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board or the Councils, Commissions, and  
1472 Committees of the General Synod may, to the full extent allowed by law, be indemnified by the  
1473 United Church of Christ Board against all judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement of,  
1474 and against all reasonable expenses, including attorney’s fees, actually and necessarily, incurred  
1475 in defense of any lawsuit, proceeding or prosecution (including appeal thereof) wherein such  
1476 person is made a party by reason of being such officer or member to the extent such person is not

1477 otherwise indemnified by another entity. This provision shall also extend to any lawsuit,  
1478 proceeding, or prosecution in which such officer or member is made a party in such person's  
1479 capacity as an officer or member of another organization in which the person serves at the request  
1480 of any of the above entities or bodies.

1481  
1482 279 In all other lawsuits, proceedings, or prosecutions, indemnity shall not be made unless the  
1483 officer or member acted in good faith and for a purpose which the person reasonably believed to  
1484 be in the best interests of the Entity or body of which the person is an officer or member and in  
1485 criminal actions or proceedings only upon the additional requirement that the person had no  
1486 reasonable cause to believe that the operative conduct or inaction was unlawful.

1487  
1488 280 These indemnity provisions shall also operate for the benefit of anyone duly serving in a  
1489 representative capacity for such member or officer.

1490  
1491 281 The United Church of Christ Board is authorized to purchase insurance providing  
1492 indemnification pursuant to the provisions of the preceding. Any such contract of insurance may  
1493 afford coverage for matters as to which the United Church of Christ Board may not give  
1494 indemnity.

1495

#### 1496 **ARTICLE VI. OTHER BODIES**

1497 The following groups are identified as related in covenant to the United Church of Christ, through  
1498 a primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board.

1499

#### 1500 **COUNCILS**

##### 1501 **Council for American Indian Ministry**

1502 282 Created by the Eighth General Synod in 1971 (71-GS-77) and given its present mandate by  
1503 the Sixteenth General Synod in 1987 (87-GS-58), the Council for American Indian Ministry  
1504 (CAIM) is a national body with primary responsibility for providing Christian ministry and  
1505 witness in American Indian settings, and is a resource to the whole United Church of Christ in  
1506 understanding and supporting American Indian churches and communities. The Council for  
1507 American Indian Ministry supports and gives general direction to the American Indian members  
1508 and congregations of the United Church of Christ, advocating with them, through CAIM's  
1509 Recognized Unit of Ministry, to embody their own cultures and values and to be vital parts of the  
1510 United Church of Christ and the Conferences in which they are located. The Council for  
1511 American Indian Ministry encourages and supports the identification, enlistment, and support of  
1512 American Indian candidates for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Working with  
1513 American Indian people throughout the United Church of Christ, the Council seeks to develop  
1514 broad bases of visibility, nurture and support for American Indian people, communities, and  
1515 churches. The Sixteenth General Synod vote calls for CAIM to be accountable to the General  
1516 Synod through the United Church of Christ Board and to be funded from one-third of the net  
1517 income of the neighbors in need offering.

1518

##### 1519 **Council for Higher Education**

1520 283 The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall be composed of the academies, colleges, and  
1521 theological schools that indicate their desire to be recognized as related to the United Church of  
1522 Christ and that are accepted by the Council as conforming to its standards; and of  
1523 representative(s) from the United Church of Christ Board. For purposes of business and policy  
1524 making, member academies, colleges, and theological schools shall be represented by each  
1525 institution's executive head or other key officer as designated by each institution's executive  
1526 head. The Council shall organize with its own chairperson, secretary, and any other officers  
1527 needed to carry on its work. All officers shall be executive heads of their institutions. The Council

1528 shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church of Christ Board;  
1529 this provision not precluding the Council's right to direct access to the General Synod concerning  
1530 any matters in which it may feel that its interests in program or budget require the exercise of  
1531 such access. [An Associate General Minister appointed by the General Minister and President](#)  
1532 shall be an advisory member of the Council with voice but without vote. The Council shall be  
1533 organized in two sub-sections: College and Academy Section, and Seminary Section. The  
1534 Council for Higher Education shall advance and interpret higher education in the United Church  
1535 of Christ, including the cultivation of closer relationships between the educational institutions and  
1536 the Church, the expression of the connection between faith and knowledge in those institutions,  
1537 and, in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board, the promotion of education as an  
1538 integral part of the Church's mission.

1539  
1540 **Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries**

1541 284 Created by the Fourteenth General Synod (83-GS-43) the Council for Racial and Ethnic  
1542 Ministries (COREM) provides a place where racial and ethnic groups can develop their common  
1543 agenda, collaborate with appropriate program and mission bodies of the United Church of Christ  
1544 so that resources for racial and ethnic ministries will be effective and relevant, discern appropriate  
1545 ways by which the many and varied gifts of racial and ethnic groups may be made available to the  
1546 Church, and advocate for racial and ethnic concerns within the United Church of Christ. It is  
1547 composed of two representatives each from the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministry  
1548 (PAAM), the Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM), the Council for American Indian Ministry  
1549 (CAIM), United Black Christians (UBC), Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice  
1550 (MRSEJ), and United Samoan Ministries (USM) who are accountable to the groups that send  
1551 them. COREM is accountable to the United Church of Christ Board.

1552  
1553 **Council for Theological Education**

1554 285 The Council for Theological Education (CTE) shall be responsible for fostering mutual  
1555 accountability between the United Church of Christ and the Seminaries of the United Church of  
1556 Christ, for periodic reviews of the criteria for being designated as a Seminary of the United  
1557 Church of Christ, and for the general well-being of the relationship between the seminaries and  
1558 the United Church of Christ. The Council will exercise care for the Seminaries, explore ways by  
1559 which theological education contributes to the leadership needs of the Church, foster cooperation  
1560 among the Seminaries, and facilitate communication and appropriate engagement between the  
1561 Seminaries of the United Church of Christ and Historically Related Seminaries and with other  
1562 seminaries which provide theological education for persons preparing for authorized ministry in  
1563 the United Church of Christ. Seminaries of the United Church of Christ retain full membership  
1564 and responsibility in the Council for Higher Education and its seminary section. The Council will  
1565 provide comment to the United Church of Christ Board whenever the United Church of Christ  
1566 Board prepares to recommend a seminary for recognition as a Seminary of the United Church of  
1567 Christ. The Council shall be composed of the President and one additional representative from  
1568 each of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ, a representative from one of the  
1569 Historically Related Seminaries, two representatives from the Council of Conference Ministers  
1570 elected by that Council, two conference staff persons who relate to a Committee on Ministry  
1571 and/or work with the search and call process from a conference not otherwise represented on the  
1572 Council, four persons who serve on a Committee on Ministry, the General Minister and President,  
1573 and ~~the Executive Minister from Local Church Ministries~~ [an Associate General Minister](#)  
1574 [appointed by the General Minister and President](#). The General Minister and President will assign  
1575 staff members as necessary to support the programmatic work of the Council. An intentional  
1576 effort will be made to ensure that those who have been historically under-represented be present  
1577 in the membership of the Council. The Council shall meet annually and shall elect its own  
1578 officers each biennium.

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**Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

286 The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYIAM) shall serve to advocate, support programs, and be a resource for youth and young adult ministries throughout the United Church of Christ and shall report to the United Church of Christ Board and to the General Synod on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society. It shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in all aspects of the life of the Church. It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and the General Synod). The Council shall organize itself as needed in order to carry out its work and shall have direct access to the United Church of Christ Board and the General Synod in areas of program and budget. The Council’s composition shall reflect the United Church of Christ’s commitment to having a diversity of perspectives in church governance.

**Council of Conference Ministers**

287 The Council of Conference Ministers (CCM) shall be composed of the Conference Ministers of the several Conferences. The General Minister and President shall be a member ex-officio, without vote, of the Council and its Cabinet. It shall select a chairperson and such other officers and committees as it shall deem necessary. It shall elect from its members those who are to serve on the United Church of Christ Board and in other representative positions, distributing those positions among the Regions. It shall maintain a close relationship with the Officers of the United Church of Christ, the United Church of Christ Board, and national units the Covenanted Ministries, the Affiliated Ministry, and the Associated Ministry with respect to matters affecting the life of the Church.

**Historical Council**

288 The Historical Council (HC) shall be composed of 12 members, three elected by each of the Historical Societies, Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed, and six at large appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. One-third shall be named each biennium for a term of six years, to serve until their respective successors are named and qualified, and not to exceed two terms. The United Church of Christ Board will name from these 12 members the chairperson. The Council shall meet at the call of the General Minister and President or the chairperson. It shall act in an advisory capacity to the General Minister and President and the United Church of Christ Board in overseeing the archives of the United Church of Christ and of the two Historical Societies, in expressing interest and concern for all archival collections related to the several heritages of the denomination, in recommending the amount to be allocated in the contributions budget for the Historical Societies, and in reminding the United Church of Christ of its traditions. The Council shall receive financial support through the United Church of Christ Board and staff support as assigned by the General Minister and President.

**Council for Health and Human Service Ministries**

289 The Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM) was recognized by the Fifteenth General Synod as an organization composed of institutions and programs in health and welfare related to the United Church of Christ and accepted by the CHHSM as conforming to its standards. The CHHSM is organized with its own Directorate and Officers. The purposes and functions of the CHHSM shall include: 1) The support and nurture for its member institutions and programs in fulfillment of their ministries as part of the mission of the United Church of Christ; 2) Representation of the ministries of its member institutions and programs to the General Synod and United Church of Christ Board in the conduct of the mission of the United Church of Christ



1630 in health and welfare; 3) Cooperation with the Conferences and the United Church of Christ  
1631 Board in the process of Conference recognition of health and human service ministries,  
1632 monitoring the authorization to seek funds within Conferences, and approval of requests to  
1633 conduct capital campaigns; 4) Provision, annually, to the United Church of Christ Board, the  
1634 names of those member institutions and programs which conform to the standards set by  
1635 CHHSM; 5) Cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board in collecting information on  
1636 institutions and programs in health and welfare to be listed in the *United Church of Christ*  
1637 *Yearbook*; and 6) Participation in secular, ecumenical, and inter-faith networks in the field of  
1638 health and welfare.

1639

#### **SELF-CREATED GROUPS**

##### **Council for Hispanic Ministries**

1642 290 The Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM) is an autonomous body working cooperatively  
1643 with Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, Regions and other Ministries of the United  
1644 Church of Christ. It offers a perspective that honors the context and culture of its members while  
1645 encouraging inter-cultural, inter-faith, and international dialogue among all constituencies. The  
1646 Council shall promote its mission within the United Church of Christ and work with the Church  
1647 to monitor boards and ministries that deal with concerns and issues important to  
1648 Hispanics/Latinos/Latinas in the USA, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and other nations of the Caribbean  
1649 and Central and South America.

1650

##### **Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice**

1652 291 Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ) is a group which brings together  
1653 clergy who advocate on behalf of African Americans in church and society, providing a caucus of  
1654 ministers for fellowship, for sharing mutual concerns, and for actions regarding the agenda of the  
1655 black constituency within the United Church of Christ. MRSEJ challenges, monitors, initiates,  
1656 and supports the cause of African American involvement to the fullest possible measure in the  
1657 life of the United Church of Christ.

1658

##### **UCC Disabilities Ministries**

1660 292 The UCC Disabilities Ministries (UCCDM) strives for the full inclusion of persons with  
1661 disabilities in the life and mission of the Church. The UCCDM encourages all settings of the  
1662 United Church of Christ to be open, inclusive, affirming, and accessible in their buildings,  
1663 worship, education, fellowship, and service so that they may proclaim God's word to and with all  
1664 persons, including those with disabilities. It seeks to enable all members of the United Church of  
1665 Christ to affirm the theological/biblical affirmations of the wholeness of all people, and to  
1666 recognize the ministry to and with persons with disabilities as a part of the ministry of all the  
1667 baptized. The UCCDM Board of Directors includes persons with disabilities, members of  
1668 families of persons with disabilities, experts on disabilities, and other persons from the United  
1669 Church of Christ who support the purposes of the UCCDM and reflect the diversity of the United  
1670 Church of Christ.

1671

##### **Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries**

1673 293 Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM), organized in 1974 and recognized  
1674 by the Tenth General Synod, advocates for the presence, participation and contributions of  
1675 PAAM in the life of the United Church of Christ and serves its constituent members and  
1676 churches, initiating and supporting their life, and working for greater representation in wider  
1677 church settings. It seeks to strengthen Local Churches, to nurture and develop lay and clergy  
1678 leadership for the church, and to address issues of justice. As an advocate group for the rights of  
1679 people, PAAM is involved in issues of the rights of Pacific Islander and Asian people in the

1680 United States and in the United Church of Christ and works in the areas of rights for women and  
1681 children, the poor on welfare, institutional racism, and political prisoners.

1682

1683 **United Black Christians**

1684 294 United Black Christians (UBC) is a special interest group which represents over 50,000  
1685 African-American members of the United Church of Christ. It stands in the affirmation that each  
1686 person has gifts to offer to the Church, and that each is entitled to full rights and privileges as  
1687 children of God. UBC dedicates itself to providing voice for all African-American members of  
1688 the United Church of Christ, seeking to witness to, and preserve the history and legacy of the  
1689 African-American people and churches. UBC is an active advocate for liberation and social  
1690 justice at home and abroad.

1691

1692 **The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ**

1693 295 The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ (The Coalition) is  
1694 composed of members and friends of the United Church of Christ who affirm the good news that  
1695 all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions are loved and  
1696 empowered by God. The Coalition actively works to combat prejudice and seeks justice for, and  
1697 the full inclusion and involvement of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians in all  
1698 expressions of the United Church of Christ. In its leadership and outreach, The Coalition is  
1699 committed to ending exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and  
1700 expression, race, age, size, class and/or ableness. It promotes mutual ministries of pastoral care,  
1701 education, and advocacy within the United Church of Christ and society as a whole; encourages  
1702 Local Churches, Associations and Conferences to become “Open and Affirming” (ONA); and  
1703 organizes within Conferences to make resources of The Coalition available to all.

1704

1705 **United Samoan Ministries**

1706 296 United Samoan Ministries was organized in 2010 and recognized by the Twenty Ninth  
1707 General Synod in Long Beach, California, in 2013. USM conducted its reorganization process  
1708 between 2011 and 2014. USM is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan  
1709 congregations in the United Church of Christ to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual  
1710 support, and communications to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. USM also seeks but is not  
1711 limited to: strengthening channels of communication among Samoan congregations in the United  
1712 Church of Christ (UCC) and their respective ministries; exchanging of information and building  
1713 communication about the UCC in all its settings including local congregations, Associations,  
1714 Conferences, National Ministries and Global Partners; establishing a setting for collective  
1715 decision-making that will fulfill the USM Mission Statement and strengthen the covenantal  
1716 relationships among Samoan congregations within the UCC; providing a setting to develop and  
1717 enhance the leadership and cultural identities among Samoan congregations in order to empower  
1718 them in the UCC; and recognizing and celebrating the unique insights and contributions of  
1719 Samoans throughout the life of the UCC. USM encourage all Samoans of all ages to affirm their  
1720 unique ethnic and cultural identities while embracing the Still Speaking God and find joy,  
1721 spiritually “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

1722

1723 **Relationships**

1724 297 Unless otherwise designated in these Bylaws, each of the aforementioned bodies shall have a  
1725 primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board which shall serve as its primary  
1726 linkage to the national expressions of the United Church of Christ, to which it shall report  
1727 annually. This primary relationship shall be defined by the United Church of Christ Board in  
1728 consultation with the respective group. The designated relationship shall be reviewed each  
1729 biennium by the appropriate partners, and may be changed upon the mutual consent of those

1730 partners, and so declared by vote of the United Church of Christ Board. The General Minister and  
1731 President shall be responsible for initiating said review.

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1734 In effect July 3, 2017 (tracked changes awaiting ratification by the Conferences pursuant to United Church of Christ Constitution para.  
1735 75)

1736