

Constitution and Bylaws of the ~~Ohio~~Heartland Conference
United Church of Christ
Preamble

1. Whereas, the United Church of Christ, formed June 25, 1957, by the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and The General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches of the United States in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of the churches composing it, to make more effective their common witness in Christ, and to serve God's Realm in the world, has adopted a constitution on July 4, 1961; and

2. Whereas, the United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of humankind; acknowledges as one in Christ all who share in this confession; looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world; claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers; affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God; and in accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, recognizes two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion; and

3. Whereas, the provisions herein define and regulate the ~~Ohio~~Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ and describe the free and voluntary relationships which local churches, Associations, and ministers sustain within the ~~Ohio~~Heartland Conference and with each other. The pattern of relationships and procedures so described is recommended to local churches, Associations and ministers, to enable them more effectively to accomplish their tasks and the work of the United Church of Christ; and

4. Whereas, the Ohio Conference of Congregational Christian Churches and the four Ohio Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church -- the Northeast Ohio Synod, Northwest Ohio Synod, Southeast Ohio Synod, and Southwest Ohio Synod, hereinafter referred to as the four Ohio Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church -- ~~have-once~~ consolidated to form the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ and which now exist as the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ without a break in their respective historical continuities and traditions;

5. Now, therefore, the following provisions are adopted as the Constitution and Bylaws of the ~~Ohio~~Heartland -Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Article I. Continuation of Existing Conferences and Synods

6. The- Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ, which was formerly known as the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ, unites without break in their respective historical continuities and traditions, and consolidates the ecclesiastical and legal identities of the Ohio Conference of Congregational Christian Churches and the four Ohio Synods of the Evangelical and

44 Reformed Church, to conduct their work and to have all of their powers, duties, and obligations.
45

46 **Article II. Name**

47 7. The name of this Conference shall be the OhioHeartland Conference of the United Church
48 of Christ,-

49 -hereinafter referred to as the OhioHeartland Conference.
50

51 **Article III. Purpose**

52 8. The purpose of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be to strengthen the domestic and global life
53 of the local churches and Associations within its boundaries, to witness in their behalf, and to relate
54 them to the life and work of the United Church of Christ, its Covenanted Ministries, Affiliated
55 and Associated Ministries, and its partner churches and other associates throughout the world.
56

57 9. The OhioHeartland Conference may in its corporate name acquire by purchase, devise, bequest or
58 otherwise and own, hold, invest, reinvest or dispose of property both real and personal for
59 such religious, educational, philanthropic and other related work as the OhioHeartland
60 Conference may undertake and purchase, own, receive, hold, manage, care for, and transfer,
61 rent, lease, mortgage or otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property
62 for the general purposes of the OhioHeartland Conference, receive and hold in trust both
63 real and personal property for churches, boards, institutions and instrumentalities of the
64 United Church of Christ and invest or reinvest the same, and make any contracts for promoting
65 the objects and purposes of the OhioHeartland Conference as stated in this Article III. Any right
66 or interest in respect to past or future devise, bequest, conditional gift, trust or property, or
67 fund restricted to particular uses, when vested in or claimed by such consolidated corporation
68 as a result of the consolidation, shall belong to it as a continuation without interruption of the
69 existence and identity of the constituent organization originally named as takers or beneficiaries.
70

71 10. In general, the OhioHeartland Conference may exercise any and every power which a nonprofit
72 corporation organized under Chapter 1702 of the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the State of Ohio, as
73 the same may be amended, can be authorized to exercise.
74

75 11. The OhioHeartland Conference shall maintain relations with other Christian communions
76 and ecumenical bodies within its boundaries to the end that mutual affirmation,
77 understanding and cooperation may be advanced.
78

79 12. The OhioHeartland Conference may exercise the functions of an Association of the United
80 Church of Christ as described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ as
81 adopted July 4, 1961 and as subsequently amended, when such functions are delegated to it by an
82 Association or where no such Association exists.
83

84 13. The OhioHeartland Conference shall seek to interpret and advance the work of the General
85 Synod in its own operation and in and through its local churches, Associations, and common
86 missions by all possible means consistent with the spirit of Christ.
87

Article IV. Membership

88
 89 14. The geographical area of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be that area which the
 90 Ohio Conference of Congregational Christian Churches and the four Ohio Synods of the
 91 Evangelical and Reformed Church were serving at the time the formation of the Ohio Conference
 92 ~~becomes~~ became effective, or that area as it may be modified with the approval of the General
 93 Synod of the United Church of Christ.

94
 95 15. The OhioHeartland Conference is composed of all local churches holding standing in an
 96 Association of the OhioHeartland Conference, and all ministers holding standing in an Association
 97 of the OhioHeartland Conference.

98
 99 16. The control of the OhioHeartland Conference shall reside in its voting members and may be
 100 exercised directly at any Annual Gathering or other special meeting of the OhioHeartland
 101 Conference or in the interim through and by the OhioHeartland Conference Board of Directors.
 102

Article V. Officers and Board of Directors

103
 104 17. Officers of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be the Conference Minister, the
 105 Moderator, the Vice Moderator, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Conference Minister
 106 shall serve as the chief executive officer of the OhioHeartland Conference. In the event of the
 107 absence or disability of the Conference Minister, the Moderator, or any other officer of the
 108 OhioHeartland Conference, the Board of Directors shall designate another person to fulfill the duties
 109 of the office until that officer has returned or until the next Annual Gathering or special meeting
 110 of the OhioHeartland Conference. The Conference Minister, Moderator, Vice Moderator,
 111 Secretary, and Treasurer shall have the powers and duties which usually pertain to such
 112 offices. Without in any way limiting their other and general powers, the Moderator and the
 113 Secretary are authorized to sign all deeds, mortgages, contracts, and such other written
 114 instruments as shall become necessary or appropriate in protecting and carrying on the
 115 business and property interests of the OhioHeartland Conference.
 116

117 18. The business and affairs of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be managed when the
 118 OhioHeartland Conference is not in session by the Board of Directors which shall have such
 119 powers and duties as are usual and customary to a Board of Directors or a Board of Trustees
 120 under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the State of Ohio and as provided herein, and in the
 121 Constitution and Bylaws of the OhioHeartland Conference. Except as otherwise provided in this
 122 article, all Directors shall have voice and vote. The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows:
 123

A. Board of Directors: Up to twenty-two members

124
 125 1) Ten Association representatives, two nominated and elected by the Conference from
 126 each Association, except in the case of the combined Associations formerly known
 127 as Eastern Ohio Association and Western Reserve Association, which shall have four
 128 representatives. At least one representative from each Association
 129 shall be a member of that Association Council/Official Board. Election or appointment
 130 shall be for two years with staggered terms;

131
 132 2) The four elected officers of the Conference — Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary,

133 Treasurer — and the immediate Past Moderator shall be members of the Board of
 134 Directors. Their terms shall begin at the conclusion of the OhioHeartland Conference
 135 Annual
 136 Gathering following their election, and shall end at the conclusion of the
 137 OhioHeartland
 138 Conference Annual Gathering following the election of their successors.

139
 140 3) The Conference Minister of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be a member of the Board
 141 of
 142 Directors with voice but not vote.

143
 144 4) One Association Minister from each Association or the Association Minister's
 145 representative shall be members of the Board of Directors with voice but not vote.

146
 147 5) One representative, elected by the Ohio Region, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),
 148 with voice and vote.

149
 150 B. The OhioHeartland Conference officers shall be the officers of the Board of Directors.

151
 152 19. The Conference Minister shall be elected by the OhioHeartland Conference delegates at an
 153 Annual Gathering or special meeting. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Search Committee to
 154 secure a candidate for this office. The candidate shall be an ordained minister in good standing in an
 155 Association of the United Church of Christ. The name of one candidate shall be submitted to
 156 the OhioHeartland Conference delegates who shall consider only one candidate at a time and
 157 shall vote by ballot for or against his/her election and the terms of his/her call. If the candidate
 158 is elected, the OhioHeartland Conference shall tender a call. The call shall be for an indefinite
 159 term, and is subject to periodic review and termination in accordance with the provisions of the
 160 call.

161
 162 20. The Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and delegates to the General Synod shall
 163 be elected by the OhioHeartland Conference at an Annual Gathering. Candidates for these
 164 positions shall be members in good standing in a local church in the OhioHeartland
 165 Conference. In case of a vacancy, an election to fill the unexpired term shall be held at the
 166 next ensuing Annual Gathering or special meeting. The term of office and the method of
 167 nominating such officers and delegates shall be specified in the Constitution and Bylaws.

168
 169 21. The Board of Directors of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be empowered to fill all vacancies
 170 which occur on the Board of Directors, the standing committees, or on the Division for
 171 Outdoor Ministries, or among the elected officers, until a successor is elected at the next
 172 Annual Gathering or special meeting.

173
 174 22. The Moderator or Vice Moderator shall preside at meetings of the OhioHeartland Conference
 175 and meetings of the Board of Directors.

176
 177 23. The Moderator and the Vice Moderator shall be elected for a two year term, and shall
 178 not be eligible to succeed themselves. If the Moderator is an ordained minister, the Vice

179 Moderator shall be a lay person. If the Moderator is a lay person, the Vice Moderator shall be an
 180 ordained minister. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for three year terms. The term of an
 181 office shall begin at the conclusion of the annual gathering at which the election is held. The
 182 Conference Minister and Treasurer shall furnish a corporate security bond as required by the
 183 Board of Directors, the premium thereon to be paid by the OhioHeartland Conference.
 184

185 24. Except for the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the non-voting members, a director having served
 186 two full terms shall not be eligible for re-election for one year after the completion of his/her term
 187 of office.

188 25. The Board of Directors shall hold at least two meetings during each year. Special meetings may
 189 be called by the Moderator, or Vice Moderator acting on behalf of the Moderator, or upon petition
 190 of one-third of the members of the Board of Directors or request of two Associations. 50% plus 1
 191 voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
 192

193 26. The Board of Directors may hold meetings by teleconference or other electronic device
 194 following due notice to all members. A roll call must be taken to determine those in attendance and
 195 that a quorum is present. Usual procedures for a Board meeting must be followed.
 196

197 27. An executive session shall be held at each meeting of the Board of Directors. At these
 198 executive sessions non-voting members shall not be present except by invitation.
 199

200 **Article VI. Annual Gathering and Special Meetings**

201 28. The OhioHeartland Conference shall hold one regular Annual Gathering at a time and place
 202 determined by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or
 203 on written request of three Associations of the OhioHeartland Conference. Written notice of any
 204 meeting of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be transmitted to the Associations, local churches,
 205 and ministers by the OhioHeartland Conference Secretary at least 45 days before the meeting.
 206

207 A quorum at any meeting of the OhioHeartland Conference shall consist of voting members from
 208 not less than ten percent of the local churches, including at least one (1) voting delegate from each
 209 Association.
 210

211 29. The voting membership of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be:

- 212 A. Ordained ministers holding standing in its Associations
- 213 B. Commissioned ministers holding standing in its Associations
- 214 C. Licensed ministers who have been granted vote by holding standing in their Associations
- 215 D. Association at-large youth delegates, 24 years and under, five elected by each Association
- 216 E. Officers and Directors of the OhioHeartland Conference
- 217 F. Chairpersons of all OhioHeartland Conference elected or appointed standing committees,
 218 and the
 219 Division for Outdoor Ministries.
- 220 G. Lay delegates elected by and representing the local churches holding standing in its
 221 Associations
- 222 H. Past Moderators of the OhioHeartland Conference with membership in a local church
 223 that holds
 224 standing in an Association of the OhioHeartland Conference.

I. Covenanted Ministry and Executive Council Board members who serve on OhioHeartland Conference Board of Directors

30. Each local church having standing in an Association is represented in OhioHeartland Conference meetings by one lay delegate chosen in such manner as such local church may decide, except that a local church with a reported membership of more than 600 may send two lay delegates. However, any member in good standing in a local church of an Association of the OhioHeartland Conference shall have the privilege of the floor in all meetings of the OhioHeartland Conference.

Article VII. Committees

31. The Ohio-Heartland Conference shall establish standing committees as designated in the Constitution and Bylaws. Additional committees may be appointed as deemed necessary by the Moderator or the Board of Directors.

32. There shall be six standing committees of the Board of Directors:

- Executive Committee
- Finance and Investment Committee
- Personnel and Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee
- Racial/Ethnic Empowerment Committee
- Church Development Committee
- Benevolent Institutions/Agencies Committee

In addition, there shall be such other committees either permanent or temporary as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, deem necessary. The Moderator shall appoint chairperson/ members of each standing committee, except as otherwise provided for within the Constitution and Bylaws.

All standing committee members shall be approved annually by the Board of Directors.

A. Executive Committee

- 1) Is chaired by the Moderator
- 2) Acts for the Board of Directors between meetings of the Board by exercising those powers delegated to it.
- 3) Augments, if necessary, the membership of the standing committees by appointing persons with special qualifications who are not members of the Board of Directors.
- 4) Membership: Six Members
 - The Officers of the Conference
 - The Immediate Past Moderator
 - The Conference Minister

B. Finance and Investment Committee

- 1) Develops a yearly budget for the Conference in consultation with Finance and Budget

- 268 chairs or treasurers of each Association for presentation to the Board of Directors
 269 and approval by the Annual Gathering of the Conference.
 270
- 271 2) Maintains a consultative and evaluative role with all standing
 272 committees, Division for Outdoor Ministries, other committees, and with all other
 273 organizations receiving allocations from the ~~Ohio~~Heartland Conference.
 274 3) Provides hearings for any groups having budgetary requests.
 275 4) Recommends the budgets for each fiscal year and any revisions thereof to the Board
 276 of Directors.
 277 5) Recommends to the Board of Directors the overall investment policy to be followed
 278 with respect to the endowment funds and other holdings specified by the Board of
 279 Directors and owned by the Conference.
 280 6) Recommends to the Board of Directors the engagement of whatever professional
 281 assistance the committee desires to aid it in the management of the funds and other
 282 holdings, and recommends contracts and agreements for investment advisors or fund
 283 managers.
 284 7) Provides the Board of Directors with an annual audit report.
 285 8) Membership: Ten Members
 286 One member of the Board of Directors
 287 Each Association's Finance and Budget Committee chairperson or Treasurer
 288 One member of the Division for Outdoor Ministries
 289 The Conference Treasurer
 290 The Conference Minister, the Business Manager, and the Director of Outdoor
 291 Ministry and/or the Director of Faith Formation are ex-officio members, with voice
 292 but not vote
 293
- 294 C. Personnel and Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee
- 295 1) Develops and reviews job descriptions for professional personnel of the Conference.
 296 2) Monitors the continuing education program for professional staff and support staff.
 297 3) Provides for regular consultation, review and evaluation with staff members.
 298 4) Works with the Conference Minister, as requested, in the employment and
 299 supervision of staff.
 300 5) Consults regularly with the Association Personnel Committees
 301 6) Monitors the progress of the Affirmative Action Plan of the ~~Ohio~~Heartland Conference.
 302 7) Membership: Nine Members
 303 One member of the Board of Directors, who shall be chairperson
 304 The Personnel Committee chairperson from each Association or that person's
 305 designee from the Personnel Committee of that Association, who shall serve for
 306 that term
 307 One member of the Division for Outdoor Ministries
 308 The Chairperson or designee from the Racial/Ethnic Empowerment Committee
 309 The Conference Minister shall serve ex-officio voice without vote
 310
- 311 D. Racial/Ethnic Empowerment Committee
- 312 1) Develops criteria for funding programs that address concerns for persons of color
 313 2) Receives requests for funding and makes recommendations for grants to the Board of

- 314 Directors
- 315 3) Resources the Racial/Ethnic concerns in each Association
- 316 4) Encourages paraprofessional training and/or career development of lay persons of
- 317 color
- 318 5) Encourages diversity and/or anti-racism training for all churches
- 319 6) Membership: Seven Members
- 320 One member of Board of Directors, who shall be chairperson
- 321 One representative from each of the five Associations, with consideration that
- 322 50% of the committee membership be persons of color
- 323 The Conference Minister or designee shall serve ex-officio, voice without vote, on
- 324 the committee
- 325
- 326 E. Church Development Committee
- 327 1) Plans and coordinates church development projects throughout the Conference and
- 328 assists the Church Development Committee in each Association
- 329 a. To initiate new church starts
- 330 b. To provide data and strategy for church renewal
- 331 c. To provide support for churches in transition
- 332 2) Recommends funding grants of projects to the Board of Directors.
- 333 3) Membership: Seven Members
- 334 One member of the Board of Directors, who shall be chairperson
- 335 One representative from the Church Development Committee of each Association
- 336 The Conference Minister, or designee, shall serve ex-officio, with voice but not vote.
- 337
- 338 F. Benevolent Institutions/Agencies Committee
- 339 1) Works with and coordinates the relationships among the benevolent
- 340 institutions/agencies recognized by the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference, which include the
- 341 Health
- 342 and Human Service Agencies related to the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference, United Church of
- 343 Christ
- 344 colleges within the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference, and CUE Seminaries.
- 345
- 346
- 347 2) Develops criteria and/or receives requests for funding and makes recommendations
- 348 for grants to the Board of Directors
- 349
- 350 3) Membership: Varies
- 351 One member of the Board of Directors who shall be chairperson
- 352 One representative from each of the benevolent institutions/agencies
- 353 recognized by the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference, including the Health and Human
- 354 Service
- 355 Agencies related to the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference, United Church of Christ colleges
- 356 within
- 357 the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference, and CUE Seminaries.
- 358 The Conference Minister or designee shall serve as an ex-officio member with
- 359 voice but without vote.

360
 361 33. The Board of Directors may appoint committees, panels, and task forces for specific work on
 362 behalf of our common mission of [OhioHeartland](#) Conference.
 363

364 **Article VIII. Associations**

365 34. The [OhioHeartland](#) Conference recognizes that five Associations were created at or about the
 366 time of formation of the Ohio Conference and within the geographic boundaries of the
 367 [OhioHeartland](#) Conference by consolidation of the twelve Associations of Congregational Christian
 368 Churches in conjunction with the Evangelical and Reformed Church within such boundaries.
 369 The terms "Association" or "an Association of the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference" as used in this
 370 Constitution and Bylaws of the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference, shall mean one of the five Associations
 371 referred to in the preceding sentence, or in the event of reorganization, an Association currently
 372 authorized by the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference as an Association.

373 35. Changes in Association boundaries shall be made by negotiations between the
 374 Associations affected, in consultation with churches involved, and upon approval of the
 375 [OhioHeartland](#) Conference. As many functions as deemed desirable and cost efficient may be
 376 shared among Associations.

377 **Article IX. Local Churches**

378 36. The local churches of the United Church of Christ have, in covenant through their Associations
 379 and the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference, a God given responsibility for the United Church of Christ,
 380 its labors and its extension, even as that Church has, in covenant, a God given responsibility for the
 381 well-being, needs and aspirations of its local churches. In mutual Christian concern and in
 382 dedication to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, the one and the many share in Christian
 383 experience and responsibility for the common good.

384
 385 37. The basic unit of the life and organization of the United Church of Christ is the local church.
 386 The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action.
 387 Nothing in this Constitution and Bylaws of the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference shall destroy or limit the
 388 right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be
 389 construed as giving to the [OhioHeartland](#) Conference now or at any future time, the power to
 390 abridge or impair the autonomy of any local church in the management of its own affairs, including
 391 the right to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education; to retain or
 392 secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own constitution and bylaws; to formulate its own
 393 covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for their
 394 discipline and dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall
 395 determine; to acquire, own, manage and dispose of property and funds; to control its own
 396 benevolence; and to withdraw by its own decision from the United Church of Christ and the
 397 [OhioHeartland](#) Conference at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control of any real or
 398 personal property owned by it.

399
 400 38. Actions by, or decisions or advice emanating from, the General Synod, the [OhioHeartland](#)
 401 Conference or an Association, shall be held in the highest regard by every local church.
 402

403 **Article X. The Division for Outdoor Ministries**

404 39. The *Division* for Outdoor Ministries

405 A. Plans, manages, and coordinates the program for outdoor ministries for the OhioHeartland
 406 Conference

407 B. Oversees the management and development of the sites for outdoor ministries owned by
 408 the OhioHeartland Conference

409 C. Is responsible to the OhioHeartland Conference Board of Directors

410 D. Has representation on the Finance and Investment Committee and the Personnel and
 411 Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee of the Board of Directors

412
 413 E. Membership: Twenty Members

414 Ten members, elected by the OhioHeartland Conference Annual gathering, with each
 415 Association nominating one lay person and one clergy person in alternate years
 416 to serve two-year terms.

417 Five members-at-large elected by the OhioHeartland Conference, at the Annual Gathering,
 418 serving staggered two-year terms.

419 Three members appointed from the Board of Directors.

420 A member having served three consecutive full terms shall not be eligible for re-
 421 election for one year after the completion of her/his term of office.

422 The Minister for Outdoor Ministries or Executive Staff and the Conference Minister
 423 shall serve ex-officio with voice but without vote.

424 425 **Article XI. The Staff**

426 40. The Conference Minister shall serve as chief executive officer of the OhioHeartland
 427 Conference and shall direct and supervise the work of the professional, managerial and support
 428 staff. The Board of Directors may employ professional staff for program and the Division for
 429 Outdoor Ministries as the OhioHeartland Conference may authorize from time to time by
 430 action taken at a meeting thereof.

431 432 **Article XII. Finance**

433 41. The fiscal year for the Conference shall be January 1 to December 31.

434
 435 42. The budget of the OhioHeartland Conference for the following year shall be presented in detail
 436 to the Board of Directors and to the Associations through their councils for study and
 437 discussion; and to the Annual Gathering of this Conference for approval. The budget of the
 438 OhioHeartland Conference shall be transmitted to the respective Associations at such time as
 439 to permit study and discussion by the Associations at their annual meetings prior to the
 440 OhioHeartland Conference Annual Gathering at which the budget is to be approved.

441
 442 43. The OhioHeartland Conference shall be financed, primarily, from a portion of contributions for
 443 Our Church's Wider Mission contributed by the local churches. The procedure for establishing such
 444 portion to be retained is as follows:

445
 446 A. The Finance and Investment Committee consults with the Budget Committee of General Synod
 447 and reaches mutual agreement upon the percentage, or dollar amount, of contributions for Our
 448 Church's Wider Mission to be retained for the support of the ministries within the geographic
 449 area of the OhioHeartland Conference.

450

451 B. The Finance and Investment Committee of the OhioHeartland Conference, in consultation with
452 the Budget

453 and Finance Committee of each Association in the OhioHeartland Conference, reaches mutual
454 agreement

455 upon the percentage, or the dollar amount, of contributions for Our Church's Wider Mission to
456 be retained by the Associations and to be allocated for the OhioHeartland Conference and

457 General Synod

458 budgets.

459

460 44. The OhioHeartland Conference shall receive monthly remittances for Our Church's Wider
461 Mission from the Associations, shall keep complete and accurate records thereof and shall submit
462 quarterly reports to the Associations of the dollar amounts retained for the Conference budget and
463 those forwarded to the Treasurer of the United Church of Christ on the basis of agreed upon
464 percentages or dollar amounts.

465

466

467

Article XIII. Nominations

468 45. There shall be a Nominations Committee of the OhioHeartland Conference. The committee
469 shall nominate those persons to be considered for election by the OhioHeartland Conference
470 Annual Gathering, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws.

471

472 A. For all nominations, commissioned ministers are eligible for service only in the category
473 of lay persons.

474

475 B. For all nominations, licensed ministers are eligible for service only in the category of lay
476 persons.

477

478 C. For all nominations, the OhioHeartland Conference Affirmative Action Plan shall guide the work
479 of

480 the Nominations Committee.

481

482 D. Membership: Seven Members

483 One member from each Association, one to be elected every other year by that
484 Association for a term of two years

485 Two at-large members, one to be elected at each OhioHeartland Conference Annual
486 Gathering

487 for a term of two years. At least one shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

488 The Conference Minister shall serve, ex-officio without vote.

489

490

Article XIV. Delegates and Alternates to the General Synod

491 46. OhioHeartland Conference delegates and alternates to the General Synod shall be chosen
492 in the following manner:

493 A. The number of General Synod delegates representing OhioHeartland Conference is determined
494 by a

495 formula approved by the General Synod and applied to the OhioHeartland Conference. The
 496 Moderator
 497 and the Vice Moderator of the OhioHeartland Conference shall be two of the delegates to
 498 General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

499
 500 B. The remaining number of Conference delegates and alternates shall be allocated by the
 501 Nominations Committee to the Associations within the OhioHeartland Conference on the basis
 502 of
 503 the number of persons who have membership in the local churches within the
 504 Association

505
 506 C. Nominations are to be distributed so as to be representative of authorized ministers,
 507 laymen, laywomen, youth, and racial and ethnic persons as nearly as possible in
 508 agreement with the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

509
 510 D. The Associations shall, under their own procedures, nominate the persons to act as the
 511 OhioHeartland Conference delegates and alternates.

512
 513 E. The OhioHeartland Conference, at an Annual Gathering, shall elect as Conference
 514 delegates and
 515 alternates those persons nominated by the Associations.

516
 517
 518 F. Delegates cease to represent the OhioHeartland Conference if they move their church
 519 membership
 520 or ministerial standing outside the OhioHeartland Conference. However, if delegates
 521 move their
 522 church membership or ministerial standing from one Association to another within the
 523 OhioHeartland Conference, they shall continue to represent the OhioHeartland Conference.

524

525 **Article XV. Parliamentary Authority**

526 47. All proceedings of the OhioHeartland Conference and the Board of Directors, unless otherwise
 527 provided for, are governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. In the
 528 event of the absence or disability of the Conference Minister, the Moderator, or any other
 529 officer of the OhioHeartland Conference, the Board of Directors shall designate another person to
 530 fulfill the duties of the office until that officer has returned or until the next Annual Gathering
 531 or special meeting of the OhioHeartland Conference.

532

533 **Article XVI. Amendments**

534 48. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by:

535 A. The Board of Directors of the OhioHeartland Conference; or

536 B. Not less than five percent of the churches which are members of the OhioHeartland
 537 Conference; or

538 C. Any Association of the OhioHeartland Conference; or

539 D. The OhioHeartland Conference in Annual Gathering.

540
 541 49. Amendments proposed by the OhioHeartland Conference in an Annual Gathering shall be voted
 542 upon at the next OhioHeartland Conference meeting after due notice.

543
 544 50. All amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the OhioHeartland
 545 Conference at least ninety days prior to the OhioHeartland Conference meeting at which they are
 546 to be acted upon. At least sixty days prior to such meeting the Secretary shall transmit such
 547 proposed amendments to the Associations, the local churches and all ordained, commissioned
 548 and licensed ministers for their consideration.

549
 550 51. Adoption of an amendment(s) to this Constitution and Bylaws shall require a two-thirds
 551 affirmative vote of those present and voting in a OhioHeartland Conference meeting and shall take
 552 effect immediately upon adoption.

553

554 **Article XVII. Indemnification**

555 52. Indemnification of Directors and Officers. Except as otherwise provided by applicable state
 556 statutes, not the Directors, not any member, nor any officer of this Corporation shall be liable
 557 personally for any error or judgment or for any act of commission or omission in connection
 558 herewith except in the case of bad faith, willful misconduct or fraud, nor shall they be liable
 559 personally for any debt or obligation of the Corporation of any member thereof, and the Members
 560 shall jointly indemnify each other, the Directors, and the Officers against any liability, loss or
 561 damage, except in the case of bad faith, willful misconduct or fraud, attributable to their respective
 562 services hereunder.

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566 Constitution approved by the 8th Annual Meeting of the Ohio Conference, June 7, 1971. Revised June 7, 1976; Revised June 6,
 567 1977;

568 Revised June 19, 1978; Revised June 19, 1984; Revised June 12, 1989; Revised June 10, 1990; Revised June 9, 2001

569

570 Bylaws approved by the 8th Annual Meeting of the Ohio Conference, June 7, 1971. Revised June 6, 1977; Revised June 19,
 571 1978;

572 Revised June 4, 1979; Revised June 15, 1981; Revised June 13, 1983; Revised June 19, 1984; Revised June 12, 1989; Revised June
 573 11,

574 1991; Revised June 9, 2001

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576 Bylaws and Constitution combined into one document and revised; final draft approved by the Board of Directors on January 11,
 577 2008.

578 Amended document (amendment to Article XII) adopted by the 2008 Annual Gathering on June 9, 2008.

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580 Amended document (amendments to Article V) adopted by the 2014 Annual Gathering on June 14, 2014.

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582 Amended and revised document (amendments and revisions to Articles V, VII, VIII, XIII, XIV, and XVI) adopted by the 2018
 583 Annual Gathering on September 29, 2018.