

**BYLAWS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN OKLAHOMA**

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**CONSTITUTION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN OKLAHOMA**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

- A. The name of this body shall be The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma, Inc. The body is incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma and is the legal successor to The Oklahoma Association of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).
- B. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma, hereinafter referred to as the "Regional Church," is an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, hereinafter referred to as the "General Church."

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Regional Church:

- A. To extend the ministry of Christ through mission, witness, and service among the people and social structures of the Region.
- B. To establish, receive, and nurture congregations in the Region, providing help, counsel, and pastoral care to members, ministers, and congregations.
- C. To assist the three manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ~ Congregational, Regional, and General ~ in relating to each other in the functioning of the whole Church.
- D. To witness to the oneness of the church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other denominations and religious associations.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION**

- A. The membership of the Regional Church shall consist of congregations within the Region which are listed in the latest Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and members of such congregations.

Congregations which follow the procedures for listing after the publication of the latest Year Book and Directory and are recorded in the Year Book and Directory office shall also be included in the membership of the Regional Church, as shall members of such congregations.

- B. The Regional Church shall determine procedures of recognition whereby other persons and groups in the Region who support the purposes of the Christian Church (Disciples of

Christ) may participate in Regional and General ministry.

ARTICLE IV RELATIONSHIPS

- A. The Regional Church shall, in pursuit of its purpose, share its ministry and mission in relationship with others. These relationships include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. The General Church
 2. Phillips Theological Seminary
 3. Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.
 4. "Associated Groups" organized among members of the Regional Church for ministry as is appropriate to the spirit and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), (i.e., Fellowship Groups and Non-Profit Ministries).
 - a. Christian Church Commission of Oklahoma
 - b. Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma
 5. Ecumenical bodies in the Region:
 - a. Oklahoma Conference of Churches
 - b. The Interfaith Alliance
- B. The Regional Church shall, in its Bylaws, define the representatives through whom relationships shall be officially maintained with each body named in Section A of this Article and shall make provision for the granting of recognition to other bodies.

Neither the existence of an officially maintained relationship nor the granting of relationship shall create the assumption of legal responsibilities. These relationships are defined herein for the sole purpose of expressing a shared vision of ministry and mission.

ARTICLE V ORGANIZATION

- A. The major decision-making bodies of the Regional Church shall be:
1. A Regional Assembly.
 2. A Regional Board.

3. A Regional Executive Committee.
- B. The work and program of the Regional Church shall, with the assistance of an employed Regional Staff, be accomplished through leadership from within the Region.
- C. Within the Region, geographical areas, established by the Regional Church and known as "Areas," shall function as integral parts of the Regional Church relating the congregations within their boundaries to each other and to the Regional manifestation of the church.
- D. Clusters of congregations, based upon proximity, common concerns, shared objectives, or other pertinent considerations, may be formed, or dissolved by congregations, Areas, or the Regional Church with the approval of the Regional Staff.
- E. Dissolution Clause: In the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma, Incorporated, and after payment of just debts and liabilities, all remaining assets shall be distributed to an organization or organizations which qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as the Regional Church Board shall determine.

ARTICLE VI CONGREGATIONS

- A. Recognition
 1. Recognized congregations in the Regional Church shall be those listed in the latest Year Book and Directory.
 2. Congregations which follow the procedures for listing after the publication of the latest Year Book and Directory and are recorded in the Year Book and Directory office shall also be recognized congregations.
 3. Other congregations desiring recognition in the Regional Church shall follow established procedures for Year Book and Directory listing as specified in *The Design* and shall comply with guidelines for the recognition of churches as established by the Regional Board.
 4. Congregations desiring to withdraw from recognition in the Regional Church shall follow established procedures for deletion from Year Book and Directory listing as specified in *The Design*.
 5. Withdrawal of recognition - The power to withdraw recognition of a congregation shall rest with the Oklahoma Regional Church Board at the recommendation of the Regional Church Minister and the Regional Church Executive Committee (As defined in Article III of the Bylaws)

B. Covenantal Relationships

As manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), congregations share in a covenantal relationship with one another and with the Regional and General manifestations of the Church. It is recognized that this covenantal relationship is free and voluntary.

C. Rights [adapted from *The Design*]

Congregations shall have the specific right:

1. To manage their affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
2. To adopt or retain their names and charters or constitutions and bylaws.
3. To determine in faithfulness to the Gospel their practice with respect to the basis of membership.
4. To own, control, and encumber their property.
5. To organize for carrying out the mission and witness of the Church.
6. To establish their budgets and financial policies.
7. To call and dismiss their ministers. Congregations are strongly encouraged to call Commissioned or Ordained Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ pastors in good standing.
8. To send voting representatives to Area, Regional, and General Assemblies.

It is understood that congregations shall enjoy and exercise all other rights consonant with the spirit and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

D. Responsibilities [adapted from *The Design*]

Congregations are encouraged to demonstrate their concern for mission and witness of the whole church by accepting the responsibility:

1. To proclaim the Gospel and administer baptism and the Lord's Supper.
2. To provide for the spiritual nurture of their members.
3. To grow in understanding that the church is a universal fellowship, transcending all barriers within the human family.
4. To sustain their ministers in faithfulness and honor and, in matters pertaining to relationships with them, to seek counsel from the Regional Church Minister.
5. To be faithful in Christian stewardship, striving to share proportionately in providing

the resources for the total life, work, and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

6. To choose voting representatives to Area, Regional, and General Assemblies.
7. To witness to the oneness of the church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other churches of the community and with present and ecumenical structures.

Congregations may further demonstrate their concern by voluntarily assuming other responsibilities appropriate to the spirit and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any Biennial Regional Church Assembly by a three-fourths affirmative vote of those persons present who are accredited to vote and voting, provided that the proposed amendment:

- A. Has been reviewed by the Constitution Committee and the Regional Church Board.
- B. Changes will be published on the Region's website and be sent by electronic mail and regular mail to recognized congregations and their ministers with 30 days' notice.
- C. Has been submitted to the Regional Church Assembly with the recommendation of the Regional Church Board that the amendments be approved, disapproved, or referred to a designated body for investigation or study.

ARTICLE VIII ENACTMENT AND REPEAL

- A. This Constitution shall be in effect immediately following the Biennial Regional Church Assembly at which it has received a three-fourths affirmative vote of those persons present and eligible to vote.
- B. All articles and provisions of any previous Constitution are hereby repealed upon the effective date of this Constitution.

Regional Church Minister

Date

Secretary of the Oklahoma Regional Church

Regional Church Moderator

Approved at Regional Church Assembly 4/28/18
New Covenant Christian Church, Oklahoma City

**BYLAWS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN OKLAHOMA**

**ARTICLE I
REGIONAL CHURCH ASSEMBLY**

A. Membership

All members of the Regional Church who register for the Biennial Regional Church Assembly shall have all privileges of the Assembly except that voting eligibility shall be limited to:

1. Voting representatives from the congregations, representation to be based upon participating membership as reported in the latest Year Book and Directory.
 - a. Each congregation shall be entitled to three lay voting representatives plus one additional lay voting representative for each three hundred members or major fraction thereof over the first three hundred.
 - b. Each congregation, in selecting its representatives, shall seek to maintain a balance of lay men, lay women, and youth.
2. Ordained and commissioned ministers in the Regional Church whose ministerial standing is certified by the Regional Church.
3. Persons who hold one of the following positions:
 - a. The President of Phillips Theological Seminary.
 - b. The President of Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.
4. Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma (DRCO) Representative.

Voting members of the Regional Church Board who are not otherwise voting representatives to the Biennial Regional Church Assembly.

Members of the Regional Church Staff who are not otherwise voting representatives to the Biennial Regional Church Assembly.

B. Meetings

1. The Regional Church Assembly shall normally meet every second year, alternately with the Biennial General Assembly, at a time and place approved at the preceding Biennial Regional Church Assembly, upon recommendation of the Regional Church Executive Committee through the Recommendations and Credentials Committee.
2. Under extraordinary circumstances, a special meeting of the Regional Church

Assembly may be called by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Regional Church Board and will be published on the Region's website and sent by electronic mail and regular mail to recognized congregations and their ministers with 30 days' notice.

3. A simple majority of those persons present, who are accredited to vote and actually voting, at any meeting shall be sufficient to adopt a properly presented motion or business item, except that, as otherwise provided:
 - a. A three-fourths majority shall be required to amend the Constitution (see Article VII of the Constitution).
 - b. A two-thirds majority shall be required to call, re-elect, or dismiss the Regional Church Minister (see Article V, Section B of these Bylaws).

4. Under extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Regional Church Board upon recommendation by the Regional Church Executive Committee, the Assembly may meet electronically, by any means such that all members participating are able to contemporaneously hear and participate in the proceedings, instead of at the time and place approved at the preceding Biennial Regional Church Assembly.

C. Powers

1. To establish priorities and practices of the Regional Church.
2. To provide Assembly programs for worship, education, fellowship, and the transaction of business for the Regional Church.
3. To elect the following:
 - a. Officers of the Regional Church: Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Vice Moderator, Personnel Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - b. Four Members-At-Large to the Regional Church Board.
 - c. Voting representatives to the General Assembly, in accordance with *The Design*.
 - d. Oklahoma member of the General Board, in accordance with *The Design*.
4. To receive reports from:
 - a. Regional Church Minister
 - b. Phillips Theological Seminary
 - c. Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma, Inc.

- d. Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.
 - e. Oklahoma Conference of Churches
 - f. Other bodies within or related to the Regional Church wishing to report to the Regional Church Assembly
5. To grant recognition to bodies requesting relationship with the Regional Church, upon recommendation of the Regional Church Board.
 6. To call, or dismiss the Regional Church Minister, upon recommendation of the Regional Church Board.
 7. To amend the Constitution of the Regional Church.

ARTICLE II REGIONAL CHURCH BOARD

A. Membership

Voting members:

1. Elected officers of the Regional Church, as defined in Article IV, Section A of these Bylaws (6).
2. Officer-at-Large (appointed).
3. Moderators of each Area (5).
4. Chairperson of each Commission (6).
5. Four Members-At-Large elected by the Regional Church Assembly (4).
6. One representative from each Fellowship Group (3) Oklahoma Disciples Men, Oklahoma Disciples Women, and Regional Youth Council.

Non-voting members:

1. Regional Church Minister or designee.

B. Term of Office

1. A term of office on the Regional Church Board shall be two years beginning at the end of the Regional Church Assembly.

2. Regulations governing terms:
 - a. Officers and at-large board members shall serve one, two-year term and then shall not be eligible to serve again in the same position until two years have elapsed. Exceptions can be made with the approval of the Regional Board under extreme circumstances.
 - b. No person shall serve more than eight consecutive years on the Regional Church Board except the Regional Church Minister or designee, except with the approval of the Regional Church Board for extreme circumstances.
- C. Vacancies among the Regional Church Board members shall be filled by the Regional Church Executive Committee in consultation with the Regional Church Minister.
- D. Meetings
 1. The Regional Church Board shall meet quarterly or as often as deemed necessary.
 2. Special meetings may be called by the Regional Church Executive Committee.
 3. A simple majority of Board members present, who are eligible to vote and actually voting, at any meeting shall be sufficient to adopt a properly presented motion or resolution, except that, as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a two-thirds majority shall be required:
 - a. To call a special Regional Church Assembly (see Article I, Section B-2).
 - b. To recommend to the Regional Church Assembly the call, re-election, or dismissal of the Regional Church Minister (see Article V, Section B-1).
 - c. To amend the Bylaws (see Article X).
 4. Members of the Regional Church Board are encouraged to be present in person whenever possible; however, an electronic presence is acceptable via phone or video chat when it is not possible to be at the meeting in person.
- E. Powers
 1. To manage the business and affairs of the Regional Church.
 2. To establish procedures for implementing priorities determined by the Regional Church Assembly and to establish policies for the Regional Church.
 3. To maintain the *Guidelines for Acceptance of an Existing Church into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma* on file at the Oklahoma Disciples Center.
 4. To determine the number of Areas and their shared ministries.

5. To call special meetings of the Regional Church Assembly.
6. To recommend to the Regional Church Assembly the granting of recognition to bodies requesting relationship with the Regional Church including non-traditional ministries.
7. To recommend to the Regional Church Assembly the call, re-election, or dismissal of the Regional Church Minister, upon recommendation of the Regional Church Executive Committee.
8. To call or dismiss members of the Regional Church Pastoral Staff upon recommendation of the Regional Church Executive Committee.
9. To recommend to the Regional Church Assembly the approval, disapproval, or referral or proposed amendments to the Constitution.
10. To amend the Bylaws of the Regional Church.
11. To withdraw formal recognition of a congregation, as a recognized congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

**ARTICLE III
REGIONAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A. Membership

Elected officers

Regional Church Minister or designee (without vote)

Officer-at-Large

B. Powers

1. The Regional Church Executive Committee shall be authorized to transact business on behalf of the Regional Church between meetings of the Regional Church Board. Actions taken shall normally be within established policies of the Regional Church Board and shall be subject to review by the Board at its next meeting.
 - a. To appoint chairs of commissions in consultation with Regional Church Staff.
 - b. To authorize additional committees and task forces to meet needs as they arise.
2. To fill vacancies among the Regional Church Board members as specified in Article II, Section C of these Bylaws.

3. To receive and act upon requests and reports of commissions.
4. To review annually the report of the Personnel Committee concerning relationships and salaries of all employed personnel and benefits.
5. To review audits and budget requests and to make recommendations concerning them to the Regional Church Board.
6. To recommend to the Regional Church Board the call, or dismissal of the Regional Church Minister and or a member of the Regional Church Ministerial Staff.

C. Credentialing and recommendations for Regional Church Assembly

1. Powers

- a. To receive, review, evaluate, and edit properly submitted business items as specified in the "Special Rules of Procedure for the Regional Church Assembly." Editing shall be for clarity and conciseness and may include the combining of two or more business items with similar intent and the drawing of a substitute business item, provided that the substituted or amended business item is accompanied by the original business item(s) when presented to the Regional Church Assembly for consideration.
- b. To rule on the validity of emergency business items submitted after the sixty-day deadline and to deal with them accordingly.
- c. To certify that voting representatives to the Biennial Regional Church Assembly have been properly accredited.
- d. To certify, at the Assembly, the number of voting members registered and present to determine the number required to constitute a quorum (see Article I, Section B3 of these Bylaws).

2. Procedures

- a. To be considered properly submitted, business items:
- b. Must be received by the Regional Church at least sixty days before the opening of the Biennial Regional Church Assembly, except in the case of valid emergency business items, which must be submitted at least twenty-four hours before the closing business session of the Assembly.
- c. Must come from one of the following sources:
 - 1) Recognized congregations in the Regional Church by congregational or board action.

- 2) At least 15 members of the Regional Church or responsible groups within recognized congregations, with the business item approved in writing by at least one recognized congregation in the Regional Church.
 - 3) Areas by action of their Assemblies or Boards.
 - 4) The Regional Church Executive Committee, Regional Church Board, Regional Church Commissions, or other such bodies within or related to the Regional Church.
 - 5) Units or auxiliary organizations of the General Church.
- d. All business items (other than emergency business items) to come before the Regional Church Assembly shall be published on the Regional website, e-mailed, or mailed to all congregations at least thirty days before the opening of the Assembly.
 - e. Business items reported to the Regional Church Assembly may be approved, disapproved, referred to a designated body, or recommended back to the Executive Committee. No business item shall be amended on the floor of the Assembly.

ARTICLE IV REGIONAL CHURCH OFFICERS

A. Membership

Moderator
Moderator-Elect
Vice Moderator
Secretary
Treasurer
Personnel Chair
Officer-at-Large (appointed)

B. Election and Term of Officers

1. All officers, except the Officer-at-Large shall be elected by the Regional Church Assembly. The officer-at-Large shall be appointed by the Moderator with the approval of the Regional Church Executive Committee.
2. Elected officers shall serve a term of two years, beginning at the end of the Regional Church Assembly. No officer shall be eligible to serve again in the same office until two years have elapsed, except at the approval of the Regional Church Board for extreme circumstances.

C. Vacancies

Vacancies among elected officers shall be filled by the Regional Church Executive Committee, in consultation with Regional Church Ministers.

D. Powers

1. Moderator

- a. Shall preside at all business sessions of the Regional Church Assembly, the Regional Church Board, and the Regional Church Executive Committee.
 - b. Annually, the Moderator, with the Executive Committee shall facilitate a review of the mission and vision of the Church.
 - c. Appoint officer at large – in consultation with the Regional Church Minister.
 - d. Shall, in consultation with the Moderator-Elect, appoint a Recommendations and Credentials Committee to serve the Biennial Regional Church Assembly.
 - e. Shall perform other duties usually associated with the office, including consultation with the Regional Church Minister.
2. In the absence of the Moderator, the Moderator-Elect and Vice Moderator, in consecutive order, shall preside in the Moderator's place.
 3. The Vice Moderator shall serve as Chairperson of the Biennial Regional Church Assembly Task Force.
 4. The Moderator Elect shall serve as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee with the Executive Committee and the Recommendations and Credentials Committee.
 5. The Vice Moderator shall share in presiding over the sessions of the Biennial Regional Church Assembly and shall, by agreement, perform during the term of office such other duties as the Moderator may request.
 6. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the business meetings of the Regional Church Assembly, the Regional Church Board, and the Regional Church Executive Committee.
 7. The Treasurer shall work with OGNP Treasury, and the Regional Church Finance Committee.

**ARTICLE V
REGIONAL CHURCH STAFF**

A. Membership

1. Regional Church Minister
2. Associate Regional Church Minister(s)
3. Support staff

B. Call, Re-election, and Dismissal

1. The Regional Church Minister shall be called, or dismissed by the Regional Church Assembly, upon recommendation of the Regional Church Executive Committee through the Regional Church Board. In the nomination, call, or dismissal of the Regional Church Minister, a two-thirds affirmative vote of those persons present, who are eligible to vote and voting, shall be required in the Regional Church Executive Committee, Regional Church Board, and the Regional Church Assembly, respectively.
2. Other Associate Regional Church Ministers shall be called or dismissed by the Regional Church Board, upon recommendation of the Regional Church Executive Committee.
3. The Regional Church Minister has the authority to hire, supervise and terminate Support Staff as needed in consultation with the Personnel Committee.
 - a. The governing employment practices of the Regional Church can be found on file at the Regional Office.

C. Vacancies

1. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Regional Church Minister, the Regional Church Executive Committee may elect to choose an Interim Regional Minister to fill the vacancy until a Regional Church Minister is called.
2. Other vacancies among Regional Church Pastoral Staff members shall be filled as indicated in Section B2 of this Article.

D. Powers

1. The Regional Church Minister
 - a. Shall exercise ministries of oversight, pastoral care, and nurture among congregations and ministers of the Regional Church, assisting them with program-resourcing, mission interpretation, and procedures of Search and Call.

- b. Shall fulfill responsibilities with the General Church and shall, in ways appropriate to the office, represent the Regional Church in ecumenical circles.
 - c. Shall, as ~~chief executive officer~~ **President** of the Regional Church, serve as its legally authorized agent in financial, business, and legal transactions.
 - d. Shall employ personnel as necessary for the operation of the Regional Church.
2. The Associate Regional Church Minister(s), under the direction of the Regional Church Minister, share in program-resourcing and in the spiritual, pastoral, and administrative care of the Regional Church.
 3. In case of the illness or incapacity of the Regional Church Minister, following consultation with the Regional Church Executive Committee, an Associate Regional Church Minister shall assume the powers of that office.

ARTICLE VI COMMISSIONS

A. Purpose

The purpose of Commissions is to facilitate, strengthen, and engage the life of the Regional Church.

B. Organization

1. There shall be ~~six~~ **seven** commissions:

- a. Commission on Clergy
- b. Commission on Laity
- c. Commission on Faith in Action
- d. Commission on Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries
- e. Commission on Evangelism
- f. Commission on Worship and Spiritual Growth

g. Commission on Refugee & Immigration Ministries

2. The Regional Church Executive Committee shall, within established policy of the Regional Church Board, have the authority to appoint the chair of each Commission in consultation with Regional Church Staff. A Regional Church Staff person will be assigned to each Commission.

C. The Commissions

1. Commission on Clergy

- a. To grant or revoke standing to ministers in concert with the *Policies and Criteria of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada* and the *Policies and Criteria of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma* as determined by the Regional Church.
- b. To provide help, counsel, and pastoral care in such matters as ordination and commissioning.
- c. To encourage enlistment of candidates for the ministry and to be supportive of candidates in preparation for the ministry.
- d. To be concerned for such matters as continuing education, emergency financial assistance, personal and professional crises, etc., and to assist the Regional Church Pastoral Staff, as requested, in pastoral care.

2. Commission on Laity

- a. To provide educational and training events, Christian education resourcing for congregations, and to encourage networking to share ministries and resources.
- b. To provide opportunities for development of leadership skills.
- c. To provide resources that assist in developing a responsive program structure in the congregation, including mission identification and strategic planning.
- d. A representative from Oklahoma Disciples Women and Oklahoma Disciples Men will serve on the Commission to coordinate programming, provide resources, and facilitate communication and participation in the mission of the Regional Church.

3. Commission on Faith in Action

- a. To take the initiative in developing new forms of ministry in mission, witness, and service.
- b. To increase sensitivity to the needs of the world and to assist individuals and congregations in identifying and serving such needs.

- c. To educate persons and congregations concerning stewardship and outreach.
 - d. To cooperate, as appropriate, with similar bodies in other denominations in fulfilling the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ.
4. Commission on Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries
- a. To design "faith based, faith exploring" camps and conferences, and other events for children, youth, and young adults.
 - b. To select, negotiate, and schedule the use of adequate, safe facilities.
 - c. To select, train, and support qualified directors.
 - d. To offer training for experienced and potential counselors.
 - e. To select and secure appropriate curricula.
 - f. To oversee and evaluate all events for children, youth, and young adults sponsored or co-sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma.
 - g. To secure promotional materials and publicity for all events sponsored by or related to the Commission on Children, Youth, and Young Adults Ministries.
 - h. To welcome a representative, usually the President, of the Regional Church Youth Council as a full voting member of the Commission to coordinate programming, provide resources, and facilitate communication and participation in the mission of the Regional Church.
5. Commission on Evangelism
- a. To help individuals and congregations develop appropriate and successful methods of evangelism through training and program opportunities.
 - b. To provide initiative and direction for Regional Church-wide evangelism efforts.
 - c. Establishment of new congregations.
6. Commission on Worship and Spiritual Growth
- a. To plan opportunities for the churches of the Regional Church to come together for worship and fellowship, including the Biennial Regional Church Assembly.
 - b. To provide opportunities, through resources and programs, for personal and

congregational growth and enrichment in the areas of worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

- c. To help all members of the Regional Church better understand the history, traditions, and foci of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

7. Commission on Refugee and Immigration Ministries

- a. To provide learning opportunities for church leaders and congregations ways to faithfully respond to refugees and immigration issues.
- b. To provide initiative and direction for Regional efforts around refugee and immigration issues.
- c. To resource and work alongside organizations in the denomination who share this witness

**ARTICLE VII
REGIONAL CHURCH ADMINISTRATION**

A. Administrative Committees

1. Finance Committee

a. Membership

- 1) Chairperson - Treasurer of Regional Church
- 2) Two persons appointed by Treasurer and Regional Church Minister
- 3) Regional Church Moderator (without vote)
- 4) Regional Church Minister (without vote)

b. Powers

- 1) To receive and review budget requests from:
 - a. Personnel Committee (for pastoral and office staff salaries and benefits)
 - b. Commissions, committees, Regional Church campsites, and Regional Church fellowships (for program funding and scholarships)

c. Areas

- d. Related ecumenical bodies in the Regional Church (see Article IV, Section A5 of the Constitution)
 - 2) To prepare the annual budget of the Regional Church and to present it to the Regional Executive Committee and the Regional Church Board for approval.
 - 3) Review Regional Church financial statements at least quarterly.
 - 4) To propose to the Regional Executive Committee any budget adjustments throughout the year as required by actual income.
2. Personnel Committee
- 1) Membership
 - a. Chairperson, Personnel
 - b. As many members as needed but a maximum of 5.
 - c. Regional Church Moderator (without vote).
 - d. Regional Church Minister (without vote).
 - 2) Powers
 - a. To serve as a pastoral-relations committee to pastoral and office staff.
 - b. To review, annually, the latest *Employee Policies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma* on file at the Oklahoma Disciples Center.
 - c. To make recommendations to the Finance Committee concerning salaries and benefits for pastoral and office staff members.
3. Nominating Committee
- a. Membership
 - 1) Moderator Elect
 - 2) One representative from each Area, chosen by the Area
 - 3) Regional Church Staff representative (without vote)
 - b. Powers

- 1) To nominate one person for each position to be filled by vote of the Regional Church Assembly.
- 2) To gather names and recommend to the Regional Executive Committee persons to serve on commissions.
- 3) To present to the Regional Church Assembly, for confirmation, the appointments made by bodies within the Regional structure, in accordance with their own bylaws, and to select members of the Regional Church to serve on their boards.
- 4) In their work, the Nominating Committee shall strive to attain balanced representation within the Regional Church, by geography, gender and ethnicity.

c. Procedures

- 1) The Committee shall make one nomination for each position to be filled.
- 2) Emailed or mailed to all congregations at least thirty days before the opening of the Biennial Regional Church Assembly.
- 3) Additional nomination can be made from the floor of the Regional Church Assembly during the business session. This nomination would require a motion and a second.
- 4) Election shall be by ballot when two or more persons have been nominated for the same position, unless one person receives most of all votes cast, the two names receiving the highest number of votes shall be presented for a final vote.

B. Commissions (See Article VI of these Bylaws)

C. Establishment of other Committees, commissions, sub-commissions, and task forces.

1. The Regional Church Executive Committee shall have the authority to establish additional committees and commissions to fulfill the purposes of the Regional Church.
2. Task Forces may be established by the Regional Church Executive Committee, a commission, or a committee. Task forces shall assume responsibility for special projects, programs, or concerns which are not of an ongoing nature.

D. Chairpersons of committees, commissions, sub-commissions, and task forces.

1. Appointment

- a. Chairpersons of committees shall be appointed by the Regional Church Executive Committee, except for those chaired by Moderators of the Regional Church.
- b. Chairpersons of commissions and sub-commissions shall be selected by the commissions in consultation with Regional Church Staff. Appointments shall be made by the Regional Church Executive Committee.
- c. Task force chairs shall be appointed by the body creating the task force and shall be a member of the appointing body.

2. Term of office

Chairpersons of all committees, commissions, and sub-commissions shall be appointed for a term of two years. They may serve only two terms and then shall not be eligible to serve again in the same position until two years have elapsed, except for committees chaired by Regional Church Moderator. Terms shall begin after Regional Church Assembly.

3. Vacancies

- a. Vacancies among chairpersons of all committees shall be filled by the Regional Church Executive Committee.
- b. Vacancies among chairpersons of commissions shall be selected by the commission in consultation with Regional Church Staff and affirmed by the Regional Church Executive Committee.
- c. Vacancies among sub-commission chairs shall be filled by the commission creating the sub-commission.
- d. Vacancies among task force chairs shall be filled by the entity creating the task force.

4. Chairpersons of all commissions shall serve as members of the Regional Church Board.

D. Members of committees, commissions, sub-commissions, and task forces.

- 1. Commissions shall have a maximum of fifteen members.
- 2. Appointments
 - a. The Regional Church Nominating Committee shall gather names of persons with skills and/or interest in serving on Regional Church

committees and commissions from congregations, Area Moderators, and Regional Church Staff. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of possible committee and commission members for consideration by the Regional Church Executive Committee.

- b. Unless otherwise specified, the Regional Church Executive Committee shall make all committee and commission member appointments in consultation with chairpersons and Regional Church Staff.
- c. Members of sub-commissions shall be appointed by the respective commission in consultation with Regional Church Staff.
- d. Members of task forces shall be appointed by the entity creating the task force in consultation with Regional Church Staff. One third of each committee, commission, and sub-commission shall be appointed each year.

3. Term of Office

- a. Members of all committees, commissions, and sub-commissions shall serve for one three-year term and then shall not be eligible to serve again in the same position until two years have elapsed. When a member of a commission becomes chairperson, the member may serve a three-year term as chairperson in addition to years served as a member, and then shall not be eligible to serve again in the same position until two years have elapsed. Terms shall begin after Regional Church Assembly.
- b. Persons serving on the Nominating Committee, the Recommendations and Credentials Committee, and the Regional Church Assembly Planning Sub-commission shall serve a two-year term.

ARTICLE VIII REGIONAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS

- A. Membership
 - 1. Oklahoma Disciples Men
 - 2. Oklahoma Disciples Women
 - 3. Oklahoma Christian Regional Youth Fellowship

C. Powers

It shall be the duty of each:

- a. To develop its own organizational structure.
- b. To elect officers in accordance with its bylaws or rules of procedure.

- c. To act as a program-planning body in church life and work for which it exists.
- d. To coordinate and schedule its work and program with those of the Regional Church organization.
- e. To promote and implement at Regional Church, area, and local levels the purpose of the fellowship as set forth in its bylaws or rules of procedure.

ARTICLE IX AREAS

A. Purpose

An Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma has been designated by the Regional Church Board as an entity that enables congregations and Regional Church to accomplish ministry and mission through fellowship, mutual support, and cooperative effort.

B. Powers

It shall be the duty of each Area to:

1. Meet at least annually in an Area gathering for fellowship, education, and worship and to:
2. Elect officers to serve the specific needs of the area including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Moderator
 - b. Moderator-Elect
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer

Officers normally serve for two years, with the Moderator-Elect assuming the office of Moderator for an additional two years. The Moderator represents the Area on the Regional Church.

C. Select two representatives to each of the following:

- a. Regional Church Nominating Committee
- b. Develop additional organizational structure in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Regional Church, i.e. Area Cabinet or Board.
- c. Encourage participation in the Regional Church. Provide names to the Regional Church Nominating Committee through the Area Representative of qualified persons interested in serving on the Regional Church Board and/or other Regional Church bodies such as commissions, committees, and task forces.
- d. Accomplish ministry and mission priorities developed by the Regional Church Board.

**ARTICLE X
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

Parliamentary procedure in business sessions of the Regional Church shall be governed by the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* except when there is a conflict with these Bylaws, and then the Bylaws shall take precedence.

**ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Regional Church Board by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the board members present, who are accredited to vote and voting, provided that the amendment:

1. Has been reviewed by the Constitution and Bylaws Task Force.
2. Has been presented at a previous regular meeting of the Board with the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Task Force that the amendment be approved, disapproved, or referred to a designated body for investigation or study.
3. Has been submitted in writing to members of the Board but can only be voted on in the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

**ARTICLE XII
ENACTMENT AND REPEAL**

- A. These Bylaws shall be in effect immediately following the July 6, 2020 Regional Board Meeting.
- B. All articles and provisions of any previous Bylaws are hereby repealed upon the effective date of these Bylaws.

Regional Church Minister

Date

Secretary of the Oklahoma Regional Church

Regional Church Moderator

Approved September 3, 1995
Amended April 1, 1998
Amended September 16, 2000
Amended September 21, 2002

Amended April 23, 2010
Amended 2014
Amended 2015
Amended 2018

Amended July 6, 2020