

FAQs

Called Regional Assembly 6-28-2025

Why do I need to register for the Called Regional Assembly? Is it free?

There is no charge or registration fee for the Called Regional Assembly; however, your registration will be valuable in planning to welcome everyone to the Assembly. Your registration will help us know how many people to expect.

- Online voting delegates will be emailed the Zoom link allowing them to cast their vote.
- Non-voting online participants will be emailed the YouTube link to watch the event.
- In-person participants (both voting delegates and non-voting) will receive nametags, and assure we have adequate refreshments and seating.

Registration link is available at <https://okdisciples.org/2025-called-regional-assembly>

Why will churches certify their voting representatives for the Called Regional Assembly?

The work of the Regional Church Assembly is vital to the life and ministry of the regional church. The Constitution and By-Laws lists the Regional Church Assembly as one of the decision-making bodies of the Christian Church in Oklahoma. One of the duties specifically assigned to the Regional Church Assembly is the calling of the Regional Church Pastor (also called the Regional Minister).

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Christian Church in Oklahoma lists those who have voting privileges. These include clergy who are in good standing with the Christian Church in Oklahoma and members of the Regional Church Board. Each congregation may also send three voting representatives. Congregations may be allowed more representatives based on participating membership (details found on the Certificate of Voting Delegates form).

Asking congregations to identify and send those representatives underscores the importance of the work of the Regional Assembly and emphasizes congregational participation in that work. Congregational representatives are not assigned a vote on behalf of the congregation, but instead they listen to discussion and each votes their own conscience.

Because congregations in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) manage their own affairs, it is the responsibility of each congregation to identify those who will serve on its behalf as voting representatives. Those names are sent to the regional church office so that a list of voting representatives can be compiled and voting representatives can be correctly identified at the Called Regional Assembly.

When will we know who the new Regional Minister is?

The technically correct answer is: at the conclusion of the business session, because Oklahoma does not have a new Regional Minister until the Regional Assembly says that we do. From the other end, the candidate does not have a call to serve as Oklahoma's Regional Church Pastor until the Regional Assembly says so.

Cont'd on back

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This calls for a balance between protecting the privacy of the candidate and giving those who will cast votes at the Called Regional Assembly the ability to make an informed decision. Details on the release of information about the candidate are currently being worked out by the Regional Minister Search Committee and the Regional Church Executive Committee.

Can one person cast all votes for a congregation?

No. Congregations are given the opportunity to send representatives, not a voting block. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Christian Church in Oklahoma are clear that no proxy votes are allowed. Votes are only counted for (a) those present who are accredited to vote and actually voting, and (b) those participating online who are accredited to vote and actually voting. Accredited voters planning to participate online will receive an email with further information and a Zoom link the day before the Called Regional Assembly.

When I attend the Called Regional Assembly, what can I expect?

A planning team is currently working on the specifics of the Called Regional Assembly. The business session will be framed within a context of worship, and we will close by gathering at the Lord's Table and sharing communion together. A reception will follow the closing worship. Other details will be forthcoming as they become available.

You will find important deadlines plus a basic outline for the day of the Assembly at the bottom of the letter from Stacy Minnick, our Regional Moderator.