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2
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 ~~e~~Ordained, ~~e~~Commissioned and ~~L~~icensed 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.

14
15 **ARTICLE I. THE MINISTRY**
16 **Members in Discernment**

17 101 A member of a United Church of Christ ~~L~~ocal ~~C~~ehurch 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 ~~L~~ocal ~~C~~ehurch, to enter a ~~c~~ovenant of
20 ~~d~~Discernment 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 ~~L~~ocal ~~C~~ehurch in a covenant of discernment. The goal
24 of 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 ~~L~~ocal ~~C~~ehurch 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 ~~his or~~
41 ~~her~~ the 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
58 of Christ and ~~status-recognition~~ as an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church
59 (Disciples of Christ).

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 **Ordained Ministerial Standing**

65
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 Cehurch ministry has standing in the Association in
70 which the Local Church served has standing. An Ordained Minister engaged in other than Local
71 Cehurch ministry has standing in the Association where ~~his or her~~ the Ordained Minister's Local
72 Church 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, ~~is entitled~~ may apply to have Ordained
76 Ministerial Standing in the Association of ~~his or her~~ 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 ~~his or her~~ the Ordained Minister's Association for Lease of Aabsence. The
80 Association may grant such Lease of Aabsence for one year at a time. Except in special cases
81 such Lease of Aabsence 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 ~~his or her~~ the Ordained Minister's choice.
85 Membership in a Local Church must be maintained.

86
87 114 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ serving a ~~Local-c~~ Church not affiliated
88 with the United Church of Christ or the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or serving a local
89 church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) without Ordained Ministerial Partner
90 Standing retains Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ so long as ~~his~~
91 ~~or her~~ the Ordained Minister's Association approves.

92
93 115 The church membership of an authorized minister serving in Local Cehurch ministry shall
94 be in the Local Church served. The church membership of an authorized minister serving in a
95 setting other than Local Cehurch Ministry, or of an authorized minister without fixed residence
96 shall be in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ in the Association where ~~he or she~~ the
97 authorized minister holds or seeks authorized ministerial standing.

98 **Ordained Ministers from ~~Other Denominations~~ the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

99
100 116 An ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ~~person has~~ may hold
101 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a

102 United Church of Christ calling body or serving in a ministry capacity directly relating to the
103 United Church of 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 When an Ordained Ministerial Partner accepts a call to a Local Church, the~~
116 ~~Partner and the Local Church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of~~
117 ~~installation.~~

118
119 ~~120 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in an Association shall hold~~
120 ~~membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.~~

121
122 121 An ordained minister from the ~~person~~ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds
123 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in an Association shall maintain ordained ministerial
124 standing within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Region in which the United Church of
125 Christ calling body is located.

126
127 ~~122 A person who has ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ, and~~
128 ~~who accepts a call in another Association, shall apply for a transfer of ordained ministerial partner~~
129 ~~standing to the new Association.~~ In the United Church of Christ, Ordained Ministerial Partner
130 Standing is granted by the Association where the ordained minister from the Christian Church
131 (Disciples of Christ) is called to serve and is for the period of call for which it is granted. If a
132 new consecutive call to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in
133 the United Church of Christ is extended, then Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may be
134 transferred across Associations pursuant to the process for transferring standing.

135
136 [New ¶] Ordained ministers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ holding Ordained
137 Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ are expected to maintain
138 requirements for ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

139
140 123 Primary oversight of an ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
141 holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is with the United Church of Christ. In the event
142 of a fitness review, ~~When a disciplinary review is instituted in relation to a person holding~~
143 ~~ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ,~~ the Region of the Christian
144 Church (Disciples of Christ) in which the person's ordained ministerial standing is maintained
145 shall be informed and invited to participate in the procedures.

146
147 United Church of Christ Ordained Ministers Serving in the Christian Church (Disciples of
148 Christ)

149 124 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ- ~~person~~ who holds Ordained
150 Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

151

152 (a) shall maintain Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ.
153 Ordained Ministerial Standing shall be held in the Association in which local
154 church membership is held:-

155
156 (b) ~~125 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian~~
157 ~~Church (Disciples of Christ)~~ shall hold local church membership in a local
158 church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

159
160 (c) ~~126 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian~~
161 ~~Church (Disciples of Christ)~~ shall relate to the Christian Church (Disciples of
162 Christ) for ~~his or her~~the Ordained Minister's primary support and accountability
163 in ordained ministry.

164
165 ~~127 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples~~
166 ~~of Christ) is subject to periodic review by the Association in which ordained ministerial standing~~
167 ~~is maintained.~~Ordained Ministers from the United Church of Christ holding Ordained Ministerial
168 Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are expected to maintain
169 requirements for ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

170
171 128 Primary oversight of an Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ holding
172 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is with the
173 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). ~~When~~ In the event of a disciplinary procedure, ~~is~~
174 ~~instituted by a Region in relation to a person holding ordained ministerial partner standing in the~~
175 ~~Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),~~ the United Church of Christ Association in which
176 standing is held shall be informed and invited to participate in the procedures. The Association
177 may accept the procedures and outcome of the Region or utilize its own procedures to determine
178 the person's ongoing standing in the United Church of Christ.

179
180 129 When a person no longer has Ordained Ministerial Standing in either the United Church
181 of Christ or Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that person is no longer an Ordained
182 Ministerial Partner and no longer has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing ~~is nullified~~.

183
184
185 Ordained Ministers from Denominations Other than the Christian Church (Disciples of
186 Christ)

187 130 An ordained minister of ~~another~~ denomination other than the Christian Church (Disciples of
188 Christ) who desires to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ applies for
189 Privilege of Call to the Association within whose bounds ~~he or she~~the minister resides.

190
191 131 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the applicant as to ~~his or her~~the
192 applicant's abilities, reasons for desiring to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of
193 Christ, educational and theological attainments, knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of
194 the United Church of Christ, and Christian faith and experience. If the applicant is found to be
195 qualified, the Association grants Privilege of Call, thereby ~~commending said applicant for~~
196 ~~placement~~declaring said applicant eligible to seek a call in the United Church of Christ. Privilege
197 of Call shall be granted for a period of one year and may be renewed. After accepting a call, the
198 ~~o~~Ordained minister applies for Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of
199 Christ to the Association of which the Local Church of membership ~~body extending the call~~ is a
200 part.

201

202 ~~132 A certificate granting Privilege of Call is issued bearing the signatures of the proper officer of~~
203 ~~the Association and the General Minister and President.~~

204
205 133 An ordained minister of another denomination other than the Christian
206 Church (Disciples of Christ) who wishes to retain ordained ministerial standing in that
207 denomination and who has become pastor of a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, or
208 serves in a Covenanted, Affiliated or Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ, or has
209 become pastor of a yoked charge or a federated church one part of which is affiliated with the
210 United Church of Christ, or has been called to an ecumenical ministry one constituent of which is
211 the United Church of Christ, may apply to the Association for dual ordained ministerial standing
212 which is limited to duration of that pastorate or that responsibility, and during that period may
213 have all the rights and privileges of such membership.

214
215 **Commissioned Ministers**

216 134 A Member in Discernment seeking initial recognition and authorization as a Commissioned
217 Minister applies with ~~his or her~~[the Member in Discernment's](#) Local Church to the Association of
218 which that church is a member.

219
220 135 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with
221 respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected and preparation to meet the
222 responsibilities of the office to be filled, and make its recommendation of fitness to the
223 Association. If upon acceptance of the recommendation or upon further examination and decision
224 by the Association itself, the applicant is found to be qualified, commissioning thereby is
225 authorized.

226
227 ~~136 A certificate designating the applicant as Commissioned Minister is issued bearing the~~
228 ~~signatures of proper officers of the Association and the General Minister and President.~~

229
230 137 ~~A~~ Commissioned Ministers ~~is~~ [are](#) listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from
231 Licensed Ministers on the rolls of the Association, ~~which has commissioned him or her.~~

232
233 138 A Commissioned Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another and who
234 continues in the specific church-related ministry, applies for a transfer of the commission to the
235 new Association.

236
237 139 A Commissioned Minister seeking to be commissioned for a new or different church-related
238 ministry applies to the Association for commissioning for the new ministry.

239
240 140 A Commissioned Minister who ceases to function in the specific church-related ministry to
241 which ~~he or she~~[the minister](#) was commissioned resigns the commission or applies to the
242 Association for [L](#)leave of [A](#)absence. [L](#)Leave of [A](#)absence is granted for one year at a time, but
243 not more than three consecutive years.

244
245 141 A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be
246 recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church of
247 Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly
248 reviewed.

249
250 **Licensed Ministers**

251 142 A Member in Discernment seeking recognition and authorization as a Licensed Minister
252 applies with ~~his or her~~ the Member in Discernment's Local Church to the Association of which
253 that church is a member.

254
255 143 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with
256 respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected, preparation to meet the
257 responsibilities of the office, educational and theological attainments, and knowledge of the
258 history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If the applicant is found to be
259 qualified, a license is granted by the Association for not more than one year to serve in a
260 designated Local Church or within that Association. Following a review by the Committee on
261 Ministry, the license may be renewed annually for two more years after which the Association
262 may grant the license for a time determined to be appropriate.

263
264 144 At the request of the Local Church which the person serves, the Association may grant the
265 Licensed Minister the right to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church for this Local
266 Church.

267
268 145 ~~A~~ Licensed Ministers ~~is~~ are listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from
269 Commissioned Ministers on the rolls of the Association. ~~which has licensed him or her.~~

270
271 146 A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized by
272 the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting
273 membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

274
275 **Calling, Installing and Terminating a Pastor**

276 147 It is the responsibility of a committee of the Local Church to seek a candidate for a vacancy
277 in the office of pastor.

278
279 148 In filling a vacancy or in securing pastoral services during the period of a vacancy, the
280 committee of the Local Church, through its Conference Minister, obtains counsel and access to
281 the services of the "Search and Call" process of the United Church of Christ.

282
283 149 The committee of a Local Church requests the Conference Minister to secure relevant
284 information about any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister
285 whom it wishes to consider or who requests to be considered for the vacancy.

286
287 150 Any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister may confer with
288 the Conference Minister concerning a pastoral vacancy. At the Ordained Minister's request or at
289 the request of the Ordained Ministerial Partner, ~~his or her~~ that person's name shall be submitted by
290 the Conference Minister for consideration by the committee of any Local Church where there is a
291 pastoral vacancy.

292
293 151 All vacancies within the Conference shall be reported promptly to the designated
294 administrative office in the ~~office of the General Minister and President by the Conference~~
295 Minister National Setting of the Church.

296
297 152 The ~~c~~Committee of the Local Church presents to the Local Cehurch the name of a candidate
298 it recommends to fill the vacancy. The Local Church determines whether or not it wishes to call
299 the person recommended.

300

301 153 In the call [agreement](#) the terms of the pastoral relationship are stated, including the agreement
302 of the Local Church to participate in the pension fund on the pastor’s behalf. The pastor, the
303 Local Church, Association Committee on Ministry, and the Conference Minister should each
304 receive a copy of the call [agreement](#). The Conference Minister shall inform the designated
305 administrative office in the ~~office of the General Minister and President~~[National Setting of the](#)
306 [Church](#) when the call has been accepted.
307

308 154 When an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister accepts a call to a Local Church, the
309 Minister and the [Local Church](#) join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of
310 installation or recognition.
311

312 155 Report of the service of installation or recognition is signed by the proper officer of the
313 Association and by the Conference Minister, and is ~~forwarded~~[reported](#) to the designated
314 administrative office in the ~~office of the General Minister and President~~[National Setting of the](#)
315 [Church](#).
316

317 156 When a pastor or a Local Church decides to terminate the pastoral relationship, notice of the
318 decision is sent to the Conference Minister and the Association. The Association takes action
319 appropriate to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. The Conference Minister promptly
320 informs the designated administrative office in the ~~office of the General Minister and President of~~
321 ~~these actions~~[National Setting of the Church](#).
322

323 **Ministerial Accountability**

324 157 All authorized ministers of the United Church of Christ are active partners in a covenant of
325 mutual accountability with their Association of standing, their Local Church, and, in the case of
326 those serving in settings other than a [Local Church](#), with their calling body. Such a covenant
327 includes, but is not limited to, mutual support and care, continued discernment of call, and
328 lifelong learning.
329

330 158 All authorizations for [Ordained Ministerial Standing](#), for [Ordained Ministerial](#)
331 [Partner Standing](#), and for commissioned and licensed ministry granted by an Association are
332 subject to oversight by that Association, including periodic consultation and review.
333

334 159 The ~~discipline~~[ecclesiastical oversight](#) of Ordained Ministers, persons with [Ordained](#)
335 [Ministerial Partner Standing](#), Commissioned Ministers, and Licensed Ministers is the
336 responsibility of the Association in which their current ecclesiastical authorization is held.
337

338 **ARTICLE II. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

339 **Associations**

340 160 An Association elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary
341 for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the Conference and
342 the General Synod.
343

344 161 An Association determines its own method for securing financial support.
345

346 162 An Association is concerned with the welfare of all Local Churches within its boundaries.
347

348 163 An Association seeks ways and means to assist Local Churches when they are undergoing
349 unusual difficulties requiring help beyond their own resources.
350

351 164 An Association offers encouragement, guidance, and assistance in the organization of new
 352 Local Churches.
 353
 354 165 An Association, with the counsel of the Conference, receives Local Churches into the United
 355 Church of Christ.
 356
 357 166 An Association covenants with members of the United Church of Christ within that
 358 Association as together they discern God’s call to authorized ministry and prepare for ordination,
 359 commissioning or licensing.
 360
 361 167 An Association ordains, commissions, and licenses qualified candidates; grants standing as a
 362 covenantal relationship with Ordained Ministers, Licensed Ministers, Commissioned
 363 Ministers, and persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing; certifies to, transfers,
 364 and terminates Ordained Ministerial Standing, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing,
 365 commissioned ministerial standing and licenses; installs Ordained Ministers and persons with
 366 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing; covenants with Licensed Ministers,
 367 Commissioned Ministers, and the Local Churches to which they are called; grants Privilege
 368 of C-eall and Leaves of Absence; reviews and ~~disciplines ecclesiastically oversees~~ Ordained,
 369 Commissioned, and Licensed Ministers and persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner
 370 Standing; and verifies that an Ordained Ministerial Partner has demonstrated knowledge of, and
 371 appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ.
 372

373 168 An Association receives and acts upon business referred to it by its Local Churches, its
 374 Conference, the General Synod, and other bodies.
 375

376 169 An Association may petition and overture its Conference or the General Synod.
 377

378 **Conferences**

379 170 A Conference elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary
 380 for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the General Synod.
 381

382 171 A Conference employs such salaried personnel as its program may require.
 383

384 172 A Conference receives and acts upon business, requests, counsel, and references from Local
 385 Churches, Associations, the General Synod, and other bodies.
 386

387 173 A Conference provides names to the General Synod Nominating Committee as requested.
 388

389 174 A Conference may petition and overture the General Synod.
 390

391 175 A Conference chooses delegates and alternate delegates to the General Synod in accordance
 392 with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and these Bylaws.
 393

394 176 A Conference receives from the Local Churches contributions for ~~Our Church’s Wider~~
 395 Missiondenominational support and keeps detailed records of the same.
 396

397 177 A Conference consults on a regular basis with the General Minister and President, or ~~his or~~
 398 herthe General Minister and President’s designee, acting on behalf of the General Synod, to reach
 399 mutual agreement upon the percentage, or the dollar amount, of the undesignated gifts for ~~Our~~
 400 Church’s Wider Missiondenominational support to be retained for its own support.
 401

402 178 Upon the basis of the agreed upon percentage, or dollar amount, the Conference each month
403 retains the amount necessary for its own support and forwards the balance to the treasury office of
404 the ~~N~~ational ~~S~~etting.
405

406 179 A Conference, in the interest of the Local Churches, discharges those duties and provides
407 those services which will strengthen the witness of the United Church of Christ, such as:
408

409 a) Coordinating the work and witness of the Local Churches and Associations;
410

411 b) Rendering counsel to Local Churches and ministers in situations calling for help beyond their
412 own resources;
413

414 c) Rendering an advisory service to Local Churches and to ministers with reference to pastoral
415 ~~placement~~search;
416

417 d) Establishing and maintaining Conference offices, Conference centers, institutions, and other
418 agencies needful to its growth and welfare;
419

420 e) Sponsoring in-service training for ministers; and
421

422 f) Conducting conferences, retreats, clinics, and workshops.
423

424 180 A Conference maintains ecumenical and interfaith relations within its boundaries with other
425 ~~Christian~~-fellowships to the end that mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.
426

427 **ARTICLE III. THE GENERAL SYNOD**

428 **Meetings of the General Synod**

429 181 Regular meetings of the General Synod shall be held biennially.
430

431 182 Special meetings of the General Synod may be called by resolution of the General Synod, by
432 the United Church of Christ Board, or upon receipt of a petition from at least ~~seven~~-twenty
433 percent of the Conferences. A special meeting so petitioned shall be convened not earlier than
434 ~~sixty days~~three months nor later than ~~one hundred and twenty days~~four months after the petition
435 is received by the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. The petition
436 and the call for a special meeting shall contain a statement of the purpose of the meeting. In any
437 special meeting only such business may be transacted as is specified in the call.
438

439 183 The time and place of all meetings of the General Synod shall be determined by the United
440 Church of Christ Board unless otherwise directed by the General Synod.
441

442 184 The call for any meeting of the General Synod shall be signed by the General Minister and
443 President of the United Church of Christ. Such call shall be issued at least six months prior to a
444 regular meeting and at least ~~forty-five days~~three months prior to a special meeting of the General
445 Synod. All calls shall be sent to the Conferences and the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated
446 Ministries, and notice of these calls shall be transmitted to the Local Churches by the
447 Conferences.
448

449 185 All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by
450 the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as amended.
451

452 186 Expenses of General Synod delegates, including travel expenses for meetings of the General
453 Synod, shall be the responsibility of the sending groups, except expenses of Conference voting
454 delegates as negotiated with the Conferences shall be borne by the General Synod.
455

456 **Membership of the General Synod**

457 187 The membership of the General Synod shall consist of voting delegates and associate
458 delegates. Visitors shall be welcome.
459

460 **Voting Delegates**

461 188 Voting delegates shall consist of Conference delegates, all members of the United Church of
462 Christ Board, and delegates named by the Historically Underrepresented Groups, ~~and the Officers~~
463 ~~of the United Church of Christ~~, as these are hereinafter defined. All voting delegates shall be
464 members of a Local Church of the United Church of Christ. Each voting delegate to the General
465 Synod shall be entitled to a single vote at the General Synod.
466

467 **Conference Delegates**

468 189 The number of Conference delegates shall be allocated to each Conference by the United
469 Church of Christ Board on the basis of the number of persons who have membership in the Local
470 Churches of the Conference. There shall not, however, be fewer than three delegates allocated to
471 any Conference. The total number of Conference delegates in any biennium shall not be fewer
472 than 675 nor more than 725. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be chosen by each
473 Conference from among its authorized ministers in full standing and persons with Ordained
474 Ministerial Partner Standing and the members of its Local Churches. Conferences may
475 initiate and consider nominations from the Associations. From each Conference, except in
476 Conferences having three delegates, (a) lay persons shall constitute at least fifty percent of the
477 delegates and (b) the delegation shall reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to
478 affirmative action; it shall be representative of racial and ethnic persons (Blacks, Hispanics,
479 American Indians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders), women and youth and young adults
480 (at least twenty percent of each delegation shall be under 30 years of age at the time of the
481 commencing of their terms, and where possible, be represented equally by (1) youth, persons of
482 high school age; and (2) young adults, persons graduated from high school or over 19 years of
483 age). In Conferences with three delegates the above requirements for representation are
484 recommended but shall not be mandatory. Despite any lack of exact compliance with these
485 requirements, actions of a General Synod which is constituted in substantial compliance with
486 these representation requirements, as determined by the United Church of Christ Board, shall be
487 valid.
488

489 190 The term of Conference delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired terms, shall begin
490 at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall
491 continue for a period of four years, terminating at the opening of the third regular meeting of the
492 General Synod following such election; provided, however, that each Conference delegation shall
493 be divided into two classes with terms expiring in alternate bienniums. When the number in one
494 class from a given Conference exceeds the number in the other class by more than one, the
495 Conference shall at the earliest possible opportunity make use of a two-year term for one delegate
496 or fill any delegate vacancy that may occur in such a way as to equalize the two classes. No
497 delegate who has served a ~~second consecutive four-year~~full term shall again be elected until after
498 at least two years have elapsed. Delegates shall be members of all regular and special meetings of
499 the General Synod which are held during their term of office unless they have become separated
500 from the Conference which elected them.
501

502 **United Church of Christ Board Delegates**

503 191 The members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting delegates at the General
504 Synod, and their term shall be concurrent with their terms as members of the United Church of
505 Christ Board.

506

507 **Historically Underrepresented Groups Delegates**

508 192 There shall be thirty-~~two~~-~~six~~ (362) Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, four (4)
509 from each of the Historically Underrepresented Groups: Council for American Indian Ministry;
510 Council for Hispanic Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific
511 Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black Christians; UCC Disabilities Ministries;
512 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; the United Samoan Ministries; and the Open and
513 Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. The term of Historically Underrepresented
514 Groups delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired terms, shall begin at the opening of the
515 next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall continue for a period
516 of four years, terminating at the opening of the third regular meeting of the General Synod
517 following such election. No delegate who has served a ~~second consecutive four-year~~ full term
518 shall again be elected until after at least two years have elapsed.

519

520 ~~193 Officers of the Church The General Minister and President, Executive Minister for Local~~
521 ~~Church Ministries, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, and Executive Minister~~
522 ~~for Wider Church Ministries shall be voting delegates at the General Synod.~~

523

524 **Associate Delegates**

525 194 Unless otherwise serving as a voting delegate to
526 the General Synod, the chairperson of the governing body and the principal minister(s) or
527 executive(s) of each Conference; the chairperson of each Task Force created by the General
528 Synod not otherwise represented on the United Church of Christ Board; the chairperson of each
529 General Synod standing committee; a representative of the Christian Churches (Disciples of
530 Christ); and one representative of each of the seminaries of the United Church of Christ not
531 otherwise represented, chosen by the seminary, shall be Associate Delegates, with voice but
532 without vote.

533

534 **Ecumenical Delegates**

535 195 In each biennium the United Church of Christ Board may invite a representative from each of
536 its U.S. full communion partners as an associate delegate to the General Synod of the United
537 Church of Christ. In addition, the United Church of Christ Board may invite a representative from
538 up to three ~~(3)~~ other partner churches in the United States. These representatives shall be
539 accorded the same privileges as Associate Delegates. ~~Board and lodging for the Ecumenical~~
540 ~~Delegates shall be borne by the General Synod or through other appropriate financial means.~~

541

542 **Moderators of the General Synod**

543 196 The Moderator shall be elected by the General Synod. The office of Moderator shall be filled
544 alternately by lay persons and authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial
545 Partner Standing. The Moderator shall take office upon the adjournment of the regular meeting
546 at which ~~he or she~~ the Moderator is elected and shall hold office through the next regular meeting
547 or until a successor has been qualified and installed.

548

549 197 The Moderator shall preside at the sessions of the General Synod.

550

551 198 There shall be elected an Assistant Moderator of the General Synod to assist the Moderator in
552 presiding at sessions of the General Synod. The Assistant Moderator shall take office upon
553 adjournment of the regular meeting at which ~~he or she~~ the Assistant Moderator was elected and

554 shall hold office through the next regular meeting. The Assistant Moderator will be eligible for
555 nomination and election to the position of Moderator, upon completion of the term of Assistant
556 Moderator.

557

558 199 The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall include an authorized minister or a person with
559 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson, and shall reflect the diversity to
560 which the United Church of Christ is committed.

561

562 **Committees of the General Synod**

563 200 The General Synod shall have such Committees as it may deem necessary, including but not
564 limited to those named hereafter.

565

566 201 **Nominating Committee** The Nominating Committee shall consist of 16 members elected by
567 the General Synod as follows:

568

569 a) Ten members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the Conferences, as
570 follows: At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the United
571 Church of Christ Board shall invite each Conference not currently represented on the Nominating
572 Committee to submit the name of an authorized minister or a person with Ordained Ministerial
573 Partner Standing and the name of a layperson for possible membership on the Nominating
574 Committee as an at-large member. The United Church of Christ Board shall submit these names;
575 to the General Synod. Not more than one of the at-large members of the Nominating Committee
576 shall be from any one Conference. Notwithstanding this requirement, if a member of the
577 Nominating Committee moves to a Conference from which there is another member of the
578 Committee currently serving, the member moving to the Conference currently served by another
579 member shall continue to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee until the end of the
580 biennium. The position on the Nominating Committee held by the member who moved becomes
581 vacant at the end of the biennium during which the above change in Conference occurs.

582

583 b) Four members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the following groups: the
584 Council for American Indian Ministry; the Council for Hispanic Ministries; Ministers for Racial,
585 Social and Economic Justice; Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black
586 Christians; United Samoan Ministries, the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of
587 Christ; UCC Disabilities Ministries; and the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. At
588 least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ
589 Board shall invite each of the ~~eight-five~~ groups not currently represented on the Nominating
590 Committee to submit the names of an authorized minister or a person with Ordained
591 Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson for possible membership on the Nominating
592 Committee. The United Church of Christ Board shall submit to the General Synod for election the
593 number of names needed to maintain four members from these groups on the Nominating
594 Committee. Two members will be an authorized minister or a person with Ordained
595 Ministerial Partner Standing and two members will be laypersons. The Conference
596 affiliations of the representatives from these groups will not affect the determination of the
597 Conference affiliation of the at-large members elected in accordance with paragraph 201a.

598

599 c) Two members will be ~~elected~~ appointed from among the members of the United Church of
600 Christ Board.

601

602 d) The diversity of the Nominating Committee shall reflect the diversity requirements for ~~of~~ the
603 United Church of Christ Board, as set forth in ~~paragraph 223~~ these bylaws.

604

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

611
612 202 The Nominating Committee of [the](#) General Synod, prior to the call for nominations, reviews
613 the ~~make-up~~[composition](#) of the continuing membership of the United Church of Christ Board and
614 determines the needed nominations. In its call for suggestions of names, the Nominating
615 Committee will indicate the criteria consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws which will be
616 used for filling positions on the United Church of Christ Board. Each Conference or group to be
617 represented shall provide at least two names for each of the positions.

618
619 203 The Nominating Committee shall make all nominations for election by the General Synod for
620 which the Constitution and Bylaws do not otherwise provide. The Nominating Committee shall
621 consider, but not be limited to, such attributes as candidates' leadership, a wide range of life
622 experience and background including socio-economic, cultural competency, financial knowledge,
623 fund raising experience, community building skills, commitment to justice, and understanding of
624 good governance. The Nominating Committee shall maintain records of suggested nominees and
625 their qualifications.

626
627 204 The Nominating Committee is responsible for ensuring that the membership of the United
628 Church of Christ Board embodies the commitment of the United Church of Christ to diversity and
629 balance, both in its overall composition and in its internal segments. In order to achieve this end,
630 the Nominating Committee may, if necessary, approach any group submitting and/or
631 recommending names with the request that they assist in that task by presenting additional names.

632
633 205 When selecting candidates for offices, the Nominating Committee shall consider all names
634 submitted.

635
636 206 The Nominating Committee shall submit its report to the General Synod at least twenty-four
637 hours before the elections are scheduled to take place, unless the General Synod, by a three-
638 fourths vote, consents to an earlier election.

639
640 **Credentials Committee**

641 207 The Credentials Committee shall consist of ten delegates to the General Synod, five of whom
642 shall come from each of the two classes of General Synod delegates. At least three months before
643 each regular meeting of the General Synod the United Church of Christ Board shall appoint five
644 members from the latest class of delegates and shall designate one of the ten members of the
645 Committee as chairperson. Terms of members shall be for four years, beginning with their
646 appointment and terminating with the appointment of their successors. The Credentials
647 Committee will review the composition of the Conference ~~and other voting d~~Delegations for
648 compliance with the composition requirements of ~~paragraph 189~~[these Bylaws](#) and is empowered
649 to request changes in membership to ~~Conference-all voting d~~Delegations so that said delegations
650 and the Delegation as a Whole will be in compliance with the provisions of ~~paragraph 189~~[these](#)
651 [Bylaws](#).

652
653 **Budget Committee, Business Committee, and Committee of [Disposition](#)**

654 208 The Budget Committee, the Business Committee, and the Committee of ~~Reference~~
655 [Disposition](#) at each regular and special meeting of the General Synod shall be the United Church

656 of Christ Board or persons designated by the United Church of Christ Board from its own
657 membership. The role and scope of the Budget Committee, Business Committee and the
658 Committee of ~~Reference-Disposition~~ shall be determined by the United Church of Christ Board
659 ~~under authority of paragraphs 227-232.~~

660
661 **Officers of the United Church of Christ and of the General Synod**

662 209 The General Synod shall call by election, from among the members of the United Church of
663 Christ, the ~~following Officers of the United Church of Christ who shall also be members of the~~
664 ~~Collegium of Officers, the Mission Planning Council, the United Church of Christ Board, and~~
665 ~~General Synod: General Minister and President, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries,~~
666 ~~Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, and Executive Minister for Wider Church~~
667 ~~Ministries, the Associate General Ministers, and such other officers of the United Church of~~
668 ~~Christ as the General Synod may from time to time determine.~~

669
670 210 ~~Every~~ Each Officer of the United Church of Christ serves at the will of the General Synod,
671 and may be terminated as an Officer of the United Church of Christ by the United Church of
672 Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim in accordance with the United Church of
673 Christ Board's procedures. ~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an Officer of the United Church of~~
674 ~~Christ is also the Executive Minister of a Covenanted Ministry, the United Church of Christ~~
675 ~~Board acting as the General Synod ad interim may terminate such Executive Minister as an~~
676 ~~Officer of the Church, only after consultation with the Board of Directors of such Covenanted~~
677 ~~Ministry. Responsibility for the termination of an Executive Minister as executive officer of a~~
678 ~~Covenanted Ministry rests with the Board of Directors of that Covenanted Ministry.~~

679
680 211 The term of each Officer of the United Church of Christ shall be ~~four years~~ two regular
681 meetings of the General Synod, terminating at the opening of the third regular meeting of the
682 General Synod following such election, not to exceed three terms, and shall commence within
683 ninety days following call by election by the General Synod. Officers of the United Church of
684 Christ shall hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified and have assumed
685 the duties of their office. Officers of the United Church of Christ may be reelected, but not more
686 than twice, ~~in accordance with the rules and procedures of their respective Covenanted Ministries,~~
687 subject to the call by election of the General Synod.

688
689 **General Minister and President**

690 212 The General Minister and President, who shall ~~be an~~ have Ordained Ministerial Standing or
691 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing ~~of the United Church of Christ or a person with ordained~~
692 ~~ministerial partner standing~~, is called to ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ
693 upon election by the General Synod.

694
695 a) Spiritual Leader of the Church:

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

701
702 b) Theological Interpreter:

703 The General Minister and President is the principal leader in interpreting the theological
704 perspectives and values of the United Church of Christ as guided by the General Synod and in
705 consultation with the ~~Collegium~~ Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister

706 and President is the chief representative of the United Church of Christ in the public square and at
707 ecumenical, interdenominational and interfaith tables.

708

709 c) Convener:

710 The General Minister and President will convene and preside at the meetings of the

711 ~~Collegium~~ Officers of the United Church of Christ. She or he The General Minister and President

712 is responsible for coordinated communication, fund raising and planning in collaboration with the

713 ~~Executive Ministers~~ Associate General Ministers. She or he The General Minister and President is

714 a member of the Mission Planning Council.

715

716 d) Chief Executive Officer:

717 The General Minister and President is the Chief Executive Officer of the General Synod and is its

718 principal spokesperson. The General Minister and President oversees the administration of the

719 National Setting offices. The General Minister and President leads and directs the work of the

720 Associate General Ministers and the Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General

721 Minister and President is the executive ultimately responsible for all hiring and termination

722 decisions in the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and

723 President may from time to time delegate administrative responsibilities as the needs of the

724 Church and good judgment dictate.

725

726 The General Minister and President serves as the corporate President of the United Church of

727 Christ Board, each of the Covenanted Ministries, the Common Services Corporation of the

728 United Church of Christ, and all other corporations related to the Covenanted Ministries. ~~The~~

729 ~~General Minister and President oversees the administration of the national setting offices. The~~

730 General Minister and President determines the delegation and direction of the work of the

731 Covenanted Ministries to the Associate General Ministers, with the affirmation of the United

732 Church of Christ Board.

733

734 ~~The General Minister and President serves as an ex-officio member of the United Church of~~

735 ~~Christ Board and accordingly as a member of the Board of Directors of each Covenanted~~

736 ~~Ministry.~~ The General Minister and President serves as an ex-officio member in all meetings of

737 the Affiliated and Associated Ministries. The General Minister and President shall serve as an ex-

738 officio member, with voice, but not vote, in the meetings of all Commissions, Councils, and

739 Committees of the United Church of Christ, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and

740 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; except that ~~he or she~~ the General Minister and President

741 shall not participate in the work of the Search Committee for the General Minister and President.

742 The General Minister and President shall be the official representative of the Church in

743 ecumenical, interdenominational, and interfaith relations. The General Minister and President

744 may appoint a representative for such occasions as ~~he or she~~ the General Minister and President

745 deems advisable.

746

747 213 The General Minister and President is accountable to the General Synod and the United

748 Church of Christ Board, acting as the General Synod ad interim.

749

750 214 The candidate for the position of General Minister and President is nominated for an initial

751 term by a search committee of the United Church of Christ, broadly representative of the Church,

752 and appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. The search committee includes ~~one~~

753 ~~Executive Minister of a Covenanted Ministry selected by the Collegium of Officers;~~ at least one

754 Conference Minister named by the Council of Conference Ministers; and one representative of

755 the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the COREM

756 members on the United Church of Christ Board, each with voice and vote. At least one member

757 shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully
758 respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the ~~Collegium of~~
759 Officers of the United Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the search committee is
760 confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board before ~~his or her~~the
761 candidate's name is placed before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for
762 election, and nominations may not be made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty
763 percent of the General Synod is necessary for election and call. The General Minister and
764 President does not participate in the work of the search committee choosing a successor. ~~She or~~
765 ~~he~~The General Minister and President is evaluated regularly through a process approved by the
766 United Church of Christ Board. ~~The evaluation process includes an Executive Minister of a~~
767 ~~Covenanted Ministry on a rotating basis.~~In the event that the General Minister and President is
768 unable to discharge the responsibilities of that Office, or if there is a vacancy in that Office, the
769 United Church of Christ Board shall name ~~one of the Executive Ministers~~ an Associate General
770 Minister to serve as Acting General Minister and President until the General Minister and
771 President returns to service or is replaced by a successor elected by the General Synod after a
772 search process.

773
774 ~~Executive Ministers of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Wider~~
775 ~~Church Ministries~~Associate General Ministers
776 215 ~~Each~~ An Executive MinisterAssociate General Minister is the principal minister and chief
777 executive officer of one of the Covenanted Ministries and is responsible for guiding and leading
778 that Ministry's activities under the direction of its Board of Directors and as may be prescribed in
779 the articles of incorporation, rules, and bylaws of that Covenanted Ministry. The Executive
780 Minister may be a lay person, an authorized minister, or a person with Ordained Ministerial
781 Partner Standing. Each ~~Executive Minister~~Associate General Minister serves as an ~~ex-~~
782 ~~officio~~appointed member of the United Church of Christ Board and accordingly as a member of
783 the Board of Directors of each Covenanted Ministry.

784
785 216 Each ~~Executive Minister~~Associate General Minister will be responsible for the work of the
786 Covenanted Ministries, as delegated and directed by the General Minister and President and
787 affirmed by the United Church of Christ Board of Directors. ~~will oversee the programmatic work~~
788 ~~of a Covenanted Ministry, which shall be carried out in accordance with the policies, planning,~~
789 ~~and broad oversight of the United Church of Christ Board as provided in these Bylaws.~~

790
791 [New ¶] ~~With~~ As led by the General Minister and President, each ~~Executive~~Associate General
792 Minister will be involved in the overall functions of the National Setting, including visioning
793 and planning, communications, development and management of budgets, development and
794 leadership of staff, and implementation of policies adopted by the General Synod and the United
795 Church of Christ Board.

796
797 217 Each ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister will be accountable to the General Synod
798 through the United Church of Christ Board. Each ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister serves at
799 the will of the ~~Board of Directors of the Covenanted Ministry to which she or he is accountable~~
800 ~~and~~United Church of Christ Board and may be terminated ~~as an Executive Minister~~ by the
801 United Church of Christ Board, acting as the General Synod ad interim, ~~that body~~ in accordance
802 with its procedures. ~~after consultation with the United Church of Christ Board, acting as General~~
803 ~~Synod ad interim.~~

804
805 218 ~~As an Officer of the Church, each Executive Minister is a member of the Collegium of~~
806 ~~Officers and the Mission Planning Council~~Each Associate General Minister is an Officer of the
807 United Church of Christ.

808
809 219 Each ~~Executive Minister~~Associate General Minister is to be nominated for an initial term by
810 a search committee of the United Church of Christ broadly representative of the Church,
811 appointed by and from the ~~Board of Directors of the Covenanted Ministry to which she or he is~~
812 ~~accountable~~United Church of Christ Board. The search committee shall include the General
813 Minister and President; one Conference Minister, named by the Council of Conference Ministers;
814 ~~and~~ one representative of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first
815 instance, from the COREM members on the Board of Directors; and one representative of the
816 UCC Disabilities Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the UCC Disabilities
817 Ministries member on the Board of Directors, each with voice and vote. At least one member
818 shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully
819 respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the ~~Collegium of~~
820 ~~Officers~~Officers of the United Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the search committee is
821 to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the ~~appropriate~~United Church of Christ Board of
822 Directors before ~~his or her~~the candidate's name is placed in nomination before the General
823 Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election, and nominations may not be made from
824 the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the General Synod is necessary for the
825 call by election. An ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister does not participate in the work of the
826 search committee choosing a successor. The ~~Executive Minister~~Associate General Minister is
827 evaluated regularly by a process approved by the ~~appropriate~~United Church of Christ Board of
828 Directors. The evaluation process shall include the General Minister and President, with voice
829 and vote. Terms of office shall begin within ninety days following their election. An ~~Executive~~
830 Associate General Minister shall hold office until ~~her or his~~the Associate General Minister's
831 successor has been elected and qualified and has assumed the duties of the Office.

832
833 220 In the event that an ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister is unable to discharge the
834 responsibilities of that position, or if there is a vacancy in the office, the United Church of Christ
835 Board of Directors ~~of that Covenanted Ministry~~, in consultation with the General Minister and
836 President, ~~shall~~may appoint an Acting ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister, who shall be an
837 Acting Officer of the Church, according to ~~the its~~ rules and procedures acting as the General
838 Synod ad interim. ~~of each Covenanted Ministry. Said Board of Directors shall recommend its~~
839 ~~Acting Executive Minister to the United Church of Christ Board acting as General Synod ad~~
840 ~~interim for appointment as an Acting Officer of the Church.~~ An Acting ~~Executive~~Associate
841 General Minister shall serve until the ~~Executive~~Associate General Minister returns to service, or
842 is replaced by a successor called by election by the General Synod.

843 844 **United Church of Christ Board**

845 221 The United Church of Christ Board continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor
846 bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified in ~~paragraph 57 of~~ the Constitution of the
847 United Church of Christ ~~and as described in its articles of incorporation~~.

848
849 222 The United Church of Christ Board shall consist of up to fifty-two (52) members ~~elected by~~
850 ~~the General Synod~~. Thirty-six ~~(36)~~ members shall serve in at-large positions and up to sixteen
851 ~~(16)~~ members shall be ~~ex-officio~~appointed members with voice and vote. The composition of the
852 United Church of Christ Board shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to
853 be a multicultural and multiracial Church, reflecting the racial and ethnic diversity of society with
854 a balance of leadership between women and men, open and accessible to all. All members of the
855 United Church of Christ Board shall be voting members, except as legally proscribed and noted
856 below.
857

858 223 The ~~thirty-six~~³⁶ at-large members, nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee,
859 and elected by the General Synod as members of the United Church of Christ Board, shall reflect
860 the following composition at the time of their election:

- 861
- 862 • ~~Fifty percent (50%)~~ or more shall be persons of color.
 - 863 • ~~Fifty percent (50%)~~ or more shall be women.
 - 864 • ~~One third (1/3)~~ shall be authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner
865 Standing.
 - 866 • ~~One third (1/3)~~ shall be laymen.
 - 867 • ~~One third (1/3)~~ shall be laywomen.
 - 868 • ~~Twenty percent (20%)~~ shall be under ~~thirty (30)~~ years of age ~~at the time of election~~.
- 869 To the extent possible, the under 30 years of age members shall include both youth of high school
870 age and young adults. All such members shall be voting members except as legally proscribed.
- 871 • At least one ~~(+)~~ member shall be a person who self-identifies as having a disability.
 - 872 • At least one ~~(+)~~ member shall be a person who self-identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or
873 transgender.
- 874

875 a) At-large members shall serve one term of ~~six years~~three regular meetings of the General
876 Synod, which shall commence at the close of the General Synod at which the person is elected
877 and qualified and shall terminate at the close of the General Synod in which a successor is elected
878 and qualified. At-large members shall be divided into three classes of ~~twelve~~12 members each,
879 with a class of ~~twelve~~12 members being elected at each General Synod. No at-large member who
880 has served more than one-half of a full term shall be nominated to serve again until at least ~~two~~
881 ~~years have~~one regular meeting of the General Synod has elapsed. Nominations for the at-large
882 positions shall be solicited from all entities and organizations within the United Church of Christ.
883 There shall not be more than three at-large members from any one Conference at the time of an
884 individual's election.

885

~~b) In the initial election of at-large members by the Twenty-ninth General Synod, twelve (12) at-
886 large members shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, to include two (2) members to be
887 elected from among the last serving members prior to the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the
888 Executive Council and each of the Boards of Directors of Office of General Ministries, Local
889 Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, and Justice and Witness Ministries, and two (2)
890 members to be elected from among the Historically Under-Represented Groups. Twelve (12) at-
891 large members shall be elected for one term of four (4) years, and twelve (12) at-large members
892 shall be elected for one term of six (6) years.~~

893

894

895 c) The General Synod Nominating Committee nominates these persons after submission of
896 names, according to the procedures established in ~~¶202-206 of~~ these Bylaws, and criteria
897 determined by the Nominating Committee. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure that the
898 membership of the United Church of Christ Board reflects the diversity to which the United
899 Church of Christ is committed, the Nominating Committee may ask for additional names to be
900 submitted.

901

902 224 ~~Ex-Officio~~Appointed members of the United Church of Christ Board with voice and vote;
903 ~~affirmed by vote of the General Synod~~, shall include:

- 904
- 905 a) The Officers of the United Church of Christ.
 - 906
 - 907 b) The Moderator and the Assistant Moderator of the General Synod.
 - 908

909 c) One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a term of two
910 years. Any such member shall be eligible to serve up to two additional terms and not to exceed
911 three terms.
912

913 d) Six ~~(6)~~ principal ministers of Conferences, one to be elected from each Region by the Council
914 of Conference Ministers for a term of two years, not to exceed two consecutive terms. If any such
915 member ceases during ~~his or her~~ the member's term of office on the United Church of Christ
916 Board to be the principal minister of a Conference within the Region from which said member
917 was elected, a vacancy shall be thereby created to be filled by election by the Council of
918 Conference Ministers.
919

920 e) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc.
921

922 f) The Executive of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ
923

924 g) The Executive of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries
925

926 225 Although members of the United Church of Christ Board may be nominated or selected by
927 particular groups, each member serves on behalf of, and bears responsibility for, the well-being of
928 the whole Church.
929

930 226 The United Church of Christ Board shall elect, from its members who are elected by the
931 General Synod, a chairperson and a vice-chairperson according to its own Standing Rules.
932

933 [New ¶] The United Church of Christ Board shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall
934 not be members of the United Church of Christ Board, and shall have voice but no vote. The
935 Secretary and the Treasurer may be appointed from staff members at the National Setting, who
936 shall report to the General Minister and President, who is directly accountable to the United
937 Church of Christ Board.
938

939 [New ¶] The Secretary and the Treasurer shall have the customary duties of a corporate secretary
940 and treasurer to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.
941

942 **Responsibilities of the United Church of Christ Board**

943 227 The United Church of Christ Board shall act for the General Synod ad interim, and, in
944 cooperation with the ~~Collegium of~~ Officers of the United Church of Christ, shall provide
945 coordination and evaluation of the work of the Church and shall carry out such other
946 responsibilities as may be from time to time delegated to it by the General Synod or as provided
947 for in these Bylaws or the Constitution.
948

949 a) The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible for strategic planning and
950 policymaking. The ~~Ministry Committees and the~~ Committees of the United Church of Christ
951 Board shall make recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board for
952 strategic planning, policymaking, and oversight purposes. ~~Under the leadership of the Executive~~
953 ~~Ministers, the United Church of Christ Board's Ministry Committees shall make~~
954 ~~recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board regarding the~~
955 ~~programmatic work of the Covenanted Ministries. As provided in paragraph 243e, T~~ the United
956 Church of Christ Board shall receive recommendations from the Investment and Endowment
957 Committee regarding the annual draw rate on invested funds that may be used to carry out the
958 mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries. Recommendations as to the annual draw rate and
959 as to the allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the annual draw

960 rate to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of
961 each of the unrestricted endowment funds shall not be modified by the United Church of Christ
962 Board ~~except~~ upon a two-thirds vote of the members present of the full Board.

963
964 b) The United Church of Christ Board is responsible for policies relating to the mission of the
965 United Church of Christ in its ~~N~~national ~~S~~setting. It shall support the on-going work of the
966 General Synod through its various ministries, planning for and encouraging cooperation among
967 those ministries, with Local Churches, Associations, and Conferences, and with other expressions
968 of the Church which contribute to and embody God's mission in Jesus Christ. It shall support the
969 spiritual and financial health of the Church, and shall ensure the presence and implementation of
970 policies which contribute to the health of the Covenanted Ministries in relationship with one
971 another and their accountability to the General Synod. It shall receive reports from the ~~Collegium~~
972 ~~of Officers of the United Church of Christ~~ and provide oversight and support for the work of that
973 body. It shall facilitate the business of the General Synod and assume such other tasks as may be
974 assigned to it by the General Synod. It shall be a focal point for decision-making, overall planning
975 and evaluation, and budgeting in the ~~N~~national ~~S~~setting. It shall receive and report upon divergent
976 points of view and maintain an open channel for the consideration of minority or dissenting
977 opinion. It shall submit a report of its work to the General Synod at each regular meeting. In
978 cooperation with the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries it shall make an annual
979 informational report to the Local Churches and the Conferences about the total program of the
980 Church in the ~~N~~national ~~S~~setting.

981
982 228 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions, or committees of the General Synod, or in the
983 membership of the United Church of Christ Board, shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled by
984 the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim, such actions to be
985 reported to the next General Synod.

986
987 229 The United Church of Christ Board shall make such elections, nominations or appointments
988 as these Bylaws or action of the General Synod may require.

989
990 230 Acting as the Budget Committee for the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board
991 shall determine the allocation of funds from ~~Our Church's Wider Mission~~denominational support.
992 The United Church of Christ Board, acting as the Budget Committee, shall also receive and
993 review the past and projected use of ~~OCWM~~denominational funds allocated to each Covenanted
994 Ministry and recommend the ~~OCWM~~denominational support threshold amount for the
995 ~~biennium~~each General Synod regular meeting interval.

996
997 231 The United Church of Christ Board shall be an incorporated body in order to ensure that it
998 may effectively and expeditiously perform all legal functions of the General Synod and all of its
999 other functions as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.
1000 The membership of the Corporation shall consist of those persons described in ~~paragraphs 222-~~
1001 ~~224 of~~ the Bylaws as members of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ, who
1002 shall be elected or affirmed in the manner therein provided and who shall have the right to vote
1003 only to the extent granted by ~~such paragraphs~~the Bylaws. Those members shall also be the
1004 Directors of the Corporation. The Corporation shall have such officers as required by law and as
1005 provided in these Bylaws. The Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of
1006 its affairs bylaws and rules not inconsistent with its Articles of Incorporation nor with the
1007 Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and regulations of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

1008
1009 232 The United Church of Christ Board shall serve as the Business Committee ~~and Committee of~~
1010 ~~Reference~~ of the General Synod during its sessions, and as such shall prepare the agenda and

1011 schedule for all meetings of the General Synod, recommend changes therein during sessions, and
1012 appoint committees not otherwise provided.

1013
1014 **Administration of the National Setting Offices**

1015 233 The General Minister and President shall oversee the administration of the National Setting
1016 offices. ~~The General Minister and President is responsible for selecting a Chief Administrative~~
1017 ~~Officer and a Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Collegium. Both the Chief~~
1018 ~~Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer shall report directly to the General~~
1019 ~~Minister and President, who is accountable to the United Church of Christ Board.~~

1020
1021 ~~234 The Chief Administrative Officer will have day-to-day responsibility for the overall~~
1022 ~~administrative work of the national setting offices. The Chief Administrative Officer shall serve~~
1023 ~~as the corporate Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board, each of the Covenanted~~
1024 ~~Ministries, the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, and all other~~
1025 ~~corporations within the national setting.~~

1026
1027 ~~235 The Chief Financial Officer will oversee the financial functions of the national setting~~
1028 ~~offices. The Chief Financial Officer shall serve as the corporate Treasurer of the United Church~~
1029 ~~of Christ Board, each of the Covenanted Ministries, the Common Services Corporation of the~~
1030 ~~United Church of Christ, and all other corporations related to the Covenanted Ministries.~~

1031
1032 ~~The customary responsibilities and functions of a corporate secretary and treasurer of the General~~
1033 ~~Synod of the United Church of Christ shall be assigned to the Chief Administrative Officer and~~
1034 ~~the Chief Financial Officer, respectively.~~

1035
1036
1037 **Committees of the United Church of Christ Board**

1038 237 The United Church of Christ Board shall have such other Committees as it may deem
1039 necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter, and each may draw on expertise
1040 beyond the Board if necessary.

1041
1042 **Ministry Committees**

1043 236 The United Church of Christ Board ~~membership shall divide itself into three Ministry~~
1044 ~~Committees: Local Church, Justice and Witness, and Wider Church~~ establish committees relating
1045 to the mission and ministry of the United Church of Christ (the Ministry Committees). Each
1046 Ministry Committee shall make recommendations to ~~the members of~~ the United Church of Christ
1047 Board regarding ~~the program functions of the Covenanted Ministry for which it is named~~ ministry
1048 priorities and policy. The Ministry Committees will honor the diversity ~~of~~ commitments of the
1049 United Church of Christ and work in covenant with each other and National Setting staff. To the
1050 extent possible while still maintaining expertise needed on the Ministry Committees, the
1051 composition of each Ministry Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of
1052 Christ to a multicultural and multiracial Church, with leadership reflecting race and gender
1053 diversity, open and accessible to all. To the extent possible while still maintaining expertise
1054 needed on the Ministry Committees ~~diversity and expertise needed on the Ministry Committees,~~
1055 each United Church of Christ Board member will be assigned to a Ministry Committee based on
1056 that individual's experience, expertise, personal passion and spiritual calling. ~~For the Wider~~
1057 ~~Church Ministry Committee, i~~ Individuals also will be considered based on the role that they may
1058 serve as members of the Common Global Ministries Board, the mission partnership between the
1059 United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). ~~The composition of each~~
1060 ~~Ministry Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to a~~
1061 ~~multicultural and multiracial Church, with a balance of leadership between women and men, open~~

1062 ~~and accessible to all.~~ Each Ministry Committee will elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson,
1063 subject to the requirement that at least one of these positions must be held by a person of color in
1064 each Ministry Committee.

1065
1066 **~~Committees of the United Church of Christ Board~~**

1067 ~~237 The United Church of Christ Board shall have such other Committees as it may deem~~
1068 ~~necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter, and each may draw on expertise~~
1069 ~~beyond the Board if necessary.~~

1070
1071 **Executive Committee**

1072 238 The Executive Committee shall consist of ~~twelve (12)~~up to 16 members of the United Church
1073 of Christ Board, as follows:

- 1074
1075 a) Chairperson and vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board
1076
1077 b) ~~One representative from each of the three Ministry Committees of the United Church of Christ~~
1078 ~~Board~~Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Governance
1079 Committee, Investment and Endowment Committee, and Development Committee
1080
1081 c) The Officers of the United Church of Christ
1082
1083 d) One Conference Minister
1084
1085 e) ~~One member of the Finance and Budget Committee~~Moderator of the General Synod
1086
1087 f) ~~One additional member~~Three additional at-large members, one from each of the three classes

1088
1089 [New sub¶] To the extent possible while still maintaining diversity and expertise, the composition
1090 of the Executive Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to a
1091 multicultural and multiracial Church, with membership reflecting age, race, and gender diversity,
1092 open and accessible to all.

1093
1094 239 The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to ensure that visioning and strategic
1095 planning be done on behalf of the National Setting of the Church. It will lead the United
1096 Church of Christ Board in developing and articulating comprehensive and integrated strategies
1097 and goals for the National Setting. The Executive Committee will facilitate the United Church
1098 of Christ Board's identification of concerns and ideas related to communications, identity,
1099 fundraising, fund development, strategic planning, evangelism, and other critical issues for the
1100 life of the whole Church. The decision-making power and authority of the Executive Committee
1101 shall be governed by the standing rules of the United Church of Christ Board.

1102
1103 **Finance and Budget Committee**

1104 240 The Finance and Budget Committee shall consist of up to ~~twelve (12)~~ members of the United
1105 Church of Christ Board, including:

- 1106
1107 a) Chairperson or vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board
1108
1109 b) ~~Two~~Six representatives ~~with financial expertise from each of the Ministry Committees~~ of the
1110 United Church of Christ Board
1111
1112 c) General Minister and President

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241 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- a) Reviewing the annual available resources and being responsible for financial planning.
- b) Reviewing the proposed Annual Budget recommended by the Collegium General Minister and President in consultation with ~~the Chief Financial Officer and other~~ key staff and mission partners, such as Common Global Ministries.
- c) Recommending the Annual Budget to the United Church of Christ Board.
- d) Receiving and reviewing regular financial reports.

Investment and Endowment Committee

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

- a) ~~Two-Six~~ representatives from ~~each of the three Ministry Committees of~~ the United Church of Christ Board
- b) The Officers of the United Church of Christ
- c) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc., with voice but without vote
- d) The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may add up to three individuals with legal and/or investment expertise who are not members of the United Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.

243 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- a) Assuring that the legacy/historic restrictions on the use of restricted funds and the intended use restrictions of the unrestricted funds of each of the historic ministries are monitored, accounted for, maintained and reported to the United Church of Christ Board annually. The Committee shall monitor and oversee the allocation of both restricted and unrestricted funds to ensure that they will be allocated based on donor intent, whenever that can be determined and to provide the full Board an overview of all funds in order to encourage the most effective collaborative and holistic use of those funds to meet the missional needs of the Church.
 - b) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board investment policies including investment screens that reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ to corporate social responsibility.
 - c) Managing the investment of the endowed funds and other assets including real property in accordance with investment policies approved by the United Church of Christ Board.
 - d) Monitoring and reporting on the management of invested funds to the United Church of Christ Board.
 - e) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the annual draw rate on invested funds that may be used to carry out the mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries.
- Recommendations as to the annual draw rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar amounts

1164 resulting from the application of the annual draw rate to each of the restricted endowment funds
1165 and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the unrestricted endowment funds shall
1166 be accepted by the United Church of Christ Board unless modified by a vote of two-thirds of the
1167 members present of the full Board.

1168
1169 f) Reviewing, monitoring and recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the allocation
1170 of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the spending rate to each of the
1171 restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the
1172 unrestricted endowment funds.

1173
1174 g) Providing Board representation to the Investment Committee of the United Church Funds, Inc.
1175

1176 **Audit Committee**

1177 244 The Audit Committee shall consist of such members as determined by the United Church of
1178 Christ Board, provided that members of the Board must comprise a majority of the members of
1179 the Audit Committee. The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may
1180 include on the Audit Committee individuals with legal and/or financial expertise who are not
1181 members of the United Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.
1182 All Committee members shall be voting members.

1183
1184 245 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

1185
1186 a) ~~Selecting~~ Retaining the audit firm to perform the annual financial audit.

1187
1188 b) Receiving and reviewing the audit report from the auditors and reporting to the United Church
1189 of Christ Board.

1190
1191 (c) Such other duties as assigned by the United Church of Christ Board.

1192 1193 **Regions**

1194 246 The United Church of Christ Board shall make an appropriate assignment of the several
1195 Conferences into Regions. The Regions as thus determined shall form the basis for Conference
1196 representation on national bodies wherever required by the Bylaws.

1197 1198 **Organization of the United Church of Christ Board**

1199 247 The United Church of Christ Board shall organize itself as it deems necessary to carry out its
1200 responsibilities and fulfill its mandates.

1201 1202 **Advisory Commissions**

1203 248 The United Church of Christ Board may provide for special advisory commissions on
1204 subjects of pervasive interest to the entire Church on which the United Church of Christ Board
1205 and/or the General Minister and President need policy or substantive advice. Members of such
1206 commissions and its chairperson shall be appointed by the United Church of Christ Board
1207 pursuant to its Standing Rules and shall include at least one member of the United Church of
1208 Christ Board. ~~The chairperson shall be designated by the chairperson of the United Church of~~
1209 ~~Christ Board.~~

1210 1211 **Common Services**

1212 249 In covenant with the Covenanted Ministries, the United Church of Christ Board, through and
1213 by the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, shall provide for common
1214 services, including, but not limited to, common treasury services, accounting services, personnel

1215 services, logistical services, information services and office support services. It shall also provide
1216 for a common salary program and shall provide common personnel policies.

1217
1218 250 Each Covenanted Ministry shall use the aforementioned common services, program and
1219 policies whenever legally permissible and otherwise appropriate, all as determined by its own
1220 ~~b~~Board of ~~d~~Directors.

1221
1222 251 A nonprofit corporation shall be formed for the purpose of providing the above-described
1223 common services. The corporation, to be named the Common Services Corporation of the United
1224 Church of Christ, shall be governed by its articles of incorporation, rules, and bylaws, and the
1225 Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President
1226 shall be the principal executive ~~and the Chief Administrative Officer shall be the operational~~
1227 ~~executive~~ of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ. The number of
1228 directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be ~~nine~~ up to
1229 ten, consisting of:

- 1230
1231 i. Two representatives of, and selected by, Local Church Ministries;
1232
1233 ii. Two representatives of, and selected by, Justice and Witness Ministries;
1234
1235 iii. Two representatives of, and selected by, Wider Church Ministries;
1236
1237 iv. General Minister and President; and
1238
1239 v. ~~Chief Administrative Officer; and~~
1240
1241 ~~vi. Chief Financial Officer~~ Key operations, financial services, and human resources
1242 personnel as deemed necessary by the General Minister and President.
1243

1244 The directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the
1245 members of the corporation. The ~~b~~Board of ~~d~~Directors shall appoint such committees, with such
1246 responsibilities, as it deems necessary to carry out its work. The corporate officers of the
1247 Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the following:

- 1248
1249 (i) General Minister and President, who as President of this corporation shall be accountable to
1250 the ~~b~~Board of ~~d~~Directors;
1251
1252 (ii) ~~Chief Administrative Officer, who as~~ A Secretary, who shall be appointed by and ~~of this~~
1253 ~~corporation shall~~ report to the General Minister and President;
1254
1255 (iii) ~~Chief Financial Officer, who as~~ A Treasurer, who shall be appointed by and ~~of this~~
1256 ~~corporation shall~~ report to the General Minister and President.
1257

1258 252 Policy decisions related to the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ
1259 shall be the responsibility of the ~~b~~Board of ~~d~~Directors of the Common Services Corporation of
1260 the United Church of Christ.

1261
1262 **ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION**

1263 253 The work of the United Church of Christ ~~and its General Synod~~ shall be carried out by the
1264 United Church of Christ Board, the Covenanted, Affiliated, Associated Ministries, Councils, and

1265 other such bodies as may from time to time be created by, or related to, the General Synod or the
1266 United Church of Christ Board.

1267

1268 COVENANTED MINISTRIES

1269 254 The Covenanted Ministries are Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and
1270 Wider Church Ministries.

1271

1272 [New ¶] The General Minister and President oversees the programmatic work of the Covenanted
1273 Ministries, which shall be carried out in accordance with the policies, planning, and broad
1274 oversight of the United Church of Christ Board as provided in these Bylaws.

1275

1276 LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

1277 Purpose and Mission

1278 255 The purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support the
1279 Local Churches of the United Church of Christ in the fulfillment of God’s mission. It continues
1280 the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified
1281 in ~~paragraph 65 of~~ the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles
1282 of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Local
1283 Church Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board.
1284 ~~Through its Local Church Ministry Committee working with the Executive Minister and its~~
1285 ~~Committees,~~ The United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be
1286 coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the Collegium General Minister and President.
1287 Local Church Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received,
1288 maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal
1289 of its legacies or other property.

1290

1291 256 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries, the United Church of
1292 Christ Board shall encourage Local Cehurches to shape their life and mission in partnership with
1293 one another, with other expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical and interfaith
1294 communities. The United Church of Christ Board will work to promote the vocation of all
1295 members, leadership of laity and clergy, and facilitate a system of ~~placement~~ecclesiastical call.
1296 The United Church of Christ Board will nurture stewards, and will coordinate and promote
1297 denomination-wide mission funding. The United Church of Christ Board will work with Local
1298 Cehurches in striving for the vitality of Local Cehurches as inclusive and accessible communities
1299 of mission, evangelism, church development, education, unity, worship, nurture, and justice so
1300 that the good news of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed in word and deed.

1301

1302 257 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local
1303 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church.

1304

1305 Governance and Leadership

1306 258 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries shall be
1307 incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the United
1308 Church of Christ Board. ~~Its executive officer shall be an Executive Minister, who is also an~~
1309 ~~Officer of the Church, called by election of the General Synod.~~ It shall act pursuant to the
1310 provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own
1311 articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of
1312 Directors of Local Church Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of
1313 directors, and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including
1314 the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to ~~paragraph 60 of~~ the Constitution of
1315 the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving,

1316 and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it
1317 from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate
1318 documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its
1319 ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining
1320 the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units,
1321 ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad
1322 policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of
1323 Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for
1324 implementing its mission.

1325
1326 259 Members of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole
1327 Church.

1328

1329 **JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

1330 **Purpose and Mission**

1331 260 The purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be to enable and encourage
1332 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of
1333 Christ to engage in God's mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice,
1334 and peace. It continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other
1335 ministries, as specified in ~~paragraph 66 of~~ the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as
1336 described in its articles of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development
1337 functions of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United
1338 Church of Christ Board. ~~Through its Justice and Witness Ministry Committee working with the~~
1339 ~~Executive Minister and its Committees, t~~The United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these
1340 functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the ~~Co~~llegiumGeneral
1341 Minister and President. Justice and Witness Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies
1342 and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any
1343 use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

1344
1345 261 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries, the United Church
1346 of Christ Board shall encourage the Church in all of its expressions to speak prophetically on
1347 matters of justice, power, and public policy. The United Church of Christ Board shall assist the
1348 Church in all of its expressions to confront ~~racism, sexism, ageism, classism, and other~~
1349 expressions of injustice and alienation in the Church and in the society. The United Church of
1350 Christ Board shall provide support for the Church's ministry of service on behalf of those who are
1351 poor, the forgotten and the oppressed, and for those marginalized by stigma and discrimination
1352 because of their sexual orientation or their disabilities, including mental illness. The United
1353 Church of Christ Board may provide public witness on behalf of the justice and witness policies
1354 of the General Synod.

1355
1356 262 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local
1357 Churches, Associations, Conferences, national expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical
1358 and interfaith groups, and community organizations.

1359

1360 **Governance and Leadership**

1361 263 Pursuant to ~~paragraphs 58–63 of~~ the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Justice and
1362 Witness Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the
1363 members of the United Church of Christ Board. ~~Its executive officer shall be an Executive~~
1364 ~~Minister, who is also an Officer of the Church, called by election of the General Synod.~~ It shall
1365 act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of
1366 Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors.

1367 The Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries performs the functions normally
1368 associated with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes
1369 and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to ~~paragraph~~
1370 ~~60 of~~ the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose
1371 of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds, and
1372 funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation and required
1373 corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for
1374 organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and
1375 for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority
1376 to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its
1377 own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The
1378 Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the Church
1379 necessary for implementing its mission.

1380
1381 264 Members of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries serve on behalf of the
1382 whole Church.

1383 1384 **WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES**

1385 **Purpose and Mission**

1386 265 The purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support
1387 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of
1388 Christ to participate in the global, multiracial, multicultural church, accessible to all, and to
1389 support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. It continues the work
1390 of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies and continues other ministries, as specified in
1391 ~~paragraph 67 of~~ the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of
1392 incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Wider
1393 Church Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board.
1394 ~~Through its Wider Church Ministry Committee working with the Executive Minister and its~~
1395 ~~Committees,~~ The United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be
1396 coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the ~~Collegium~~ General Minister and President.
1397 Wider Church Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received,
1398 maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal
1399 of its legacies or other property.

1400
1401 266 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of
1402 Christ Board shall strengthen relationships with partner churches and oversee participation in the
1403 Common Global Ministries Board in joint venture with the Christian Church (Disciples of
1404 Christ). The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for institutional ministries in
1405 health care, education, disaster relief, and social services in the United States and internationally.
1406 It shall also coordinate volunteer ministries in all expressions of the Church. In cooperation with
1407 partner churches it shall promote interfaith dialogue and global education and advocacy issues.
1408 Through the Common Global Ministries Board, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee
1409 the sending and receiving of missionaries.

1410
1411 267 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local
1412 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church and of the
1413 ecumenical and interfaith bodies.

1414
1415 268 **Governance and Leadership** Pursuant to ~~paragraphs 58–63 of~~ the Constitution of the
1416 United Church of Christ, Wider Church Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board
1417 of Directors comprised of the members of the United Church of Christ Board. ~~Its executive~~

1418 ~~officer shall be an Executive Minister, who is also an Officer of the Church, called by election of~~
1419 ~~the General Synod.~~ It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and
1420 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the
1421 rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries performs the
1422 functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to
1423 carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations.
1424 Pursuant to ~~paragraph 60 of~~ the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate
1425 status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated
1426 allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of
1427 incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has
1428 responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing
1429 necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of
1430 Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak
1431 and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the
1432 United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of
1433 groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.

1434
1435 269 Members of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole
1436 Church.

1437 1438 **COLLEGIUM OF OFFICERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1439 270 The ~~Collegium of~~ Officers of the United Church of Christ, defined in Article IV of the
1440 Constitution of the United Church of Christ, supports and consults with the United Church of
1441 Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries in carrying out their work in a spirit of coordination
1442 and cooperation. The General Minister and President is the presiding Officer. Led by the General
1443 Minister and President, the Officers of the United Church of Christ are ~~It is~~ responsible for
1444 providing leadership for the mission programming in the United Church of Christ and for the
1445 proper implementation of General Synod actions. ~~Composed of the Officers of the~~
1446 ~~United Church of Christ meeting as peers, the Collegium of Officers provides a setting for mutual~~
1447 ~~accountability, mutual reporting, and for assessing the on-going programs of the United Church~~
1448 ~~of Christ.~~ The Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ coordinates research, long-
1449 range planning, ~~and~~ program evaluation, and report on the ongoing programs of the United
1450 Church of Christ. ~~It meets regularly with the Cabinet of the Council of Conference Ministers.~~

1451
1452 271 The ~~Collegium of~~ Officers of the United Church of Christ ~~is~~ are convened by the General
1453 Minister and President as the presiding officer and consults with the United Church of Christ
1454 Board and the General Synod. ~~It~~ They shall consult regularly with the leaders of the Affiliated
1455 and Associated Ministries of the United Church of Christ. They meet regularly with the Cabinet
1456 of the Council of Conference Ministers.

1457 1458 **MISSION PLANNING COUNCIL**

1459 272 The Mission Planning Council provides a multi-missional setting which brings together the
1460 Officers of the United Church of Christ, and principal staff of the United Church of Christ Board
1461 and the Covenanted, Associated, and Affiliated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, for
1462 planning coordinated ministries and for visioning and exploring new perspectives over a wide
1463 range of mission, theological, ecumenical, spiritual, stewardship, financial, justice,
1464 communications, gender, disability, and racial issues and concerns. The Mission Planning
1465 Council is responsible for the coordination and correlation of mission and purpose and for
1466 maintaining mutual trust, mutual accountability, and the wise use of leadership and talents. It is
1467 designed to encourage cooperation and sharing of talents among the Ministries. The Mission
1468 Planning Council may invite others to participate, including representatives of Conferences and

1469 partner churches, as it deems appropriate. The ~~Collegium of Officers~~ General Minister and
1470 President coordinates the tasks, meetings, agendas, and follow-up actions of the Mission Planning
1471 Council.

1472

1473 **AFFILIATED MINISTRY**

1474 273 Pursuant to ~~paragraph 68, 70 and 71 of~~ the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, The
1475 Pension Boards—United Church of Christ is an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of
1476 Christ and serves the Church and its United Church of Christ Board and Covenanted Ministries as
1477 a separate corporation.

1478

1479 274 The purpose of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ is to make available
1480 ministerial welfare activities and a system of employee benefit programs designed to assist
1481 authorized ministers and lay workers in achieving financial security during working and
1482 retirement years.

1483

1484 275 The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ continues as a nonprofit membership
1485 corporation which determines its own governance and leadership. The Pension Boards—United
1486 Church of Christ will have membership on the United Church of Christ Board.

1487

1488 **ASSOCIATED MINISTRY**

1489 276 Pursuant to ~~paragraph 69, 72 and 73 of~~ the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, the
1490 United Church Funds, Inc., is an Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board of the
1491 United Church of Christ, and serves the Church, the United Church of Christ Board and the
1492 Covenanted Ministries as a separate corporation related to the United Church of Christ Board.

1493

1494 277 The purpose of the United Church Funds, Inc. is to provide a means by which individuals and
1495 organizations of the Church may further exercise their stewardship of resources for the sake of
1496 strengthening the mission of the Church as set forth in ~~paragraph 72 of~~ the Constitution of the
1497 United Church of Christ.

1498

1499 278 The United Church Funds, Inc. will work cooperatively with the United Church of Christ
1500 Board to facilitate comprehensive financial planning and development; and will continue its
1501 relationship with The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ. It shall have membership on the
1502 United Church of Christ Board.

1503

1504 279 The corporate membership of the United Church Funds, Inc. shall consist of ~~fifteen~~ 15
1505 persons nominated and elected by the United Church of Christ Board ~~of the United Church of~~
1506 ~~Christ~~ for terms of six years, one-third to be elected each biennium and to serve until their
1507 respective successors are elected and qualified. The General Minister and President of the United
1508 Church of Christ and the chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board ~~of the United Church~~
1509 ~~of Christ~~ shall be ex-officio appointed members ~~with vote~~. At least two of the members elected
1510 each biennium shall not be members of ~~t~~ The United Church Funds, Inc. at the time of their
1511 election. The United Church of Christ Board ~~of the United Church of Christ~~ may remove a
1512 member of the United Church Funds, Inc. and shall fill vacancies for unexpired terms.

1513

1514 **Other Provisions**

1515 280 No person shall serve in more than one General Synod elected position simultaneously.
1516 Further, no employee of a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry shall serve as a voting
1517 member of the United Church of Christ Board, except ~~in an ex-officio capacity, or~~ as otherwise
1518 set forth in these Bylaws.

1519

1520 281 All members of the United Church of Christ Board, with the exception of the representatives
1521 from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), shall be members of the United Church of Christ.
1522

1523 **ARTICLE V. INDEMNIFICATION**

1524 282 Any Officer of the United Church of Christ, or any member, including officers and directors,
1525 of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board or the Councils, Commissions, and
1526 Committees of the General Synod may, to the full extent allowed by law, be indemnified by the
1527 United Church of Christ Board against all judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement of,
1528 and against all reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily, incurred
1529 in defense of any lawsuit, proceeding or prosecution (including appeal thereof) wherein such
1530 person is made a party by reason of being such officer or member to the extent such person is not
1531 otherwise indemnified by another entity. This provision shall also extend to any lawsuit,
1532 proceeding, or prosecution in which such officer or member is made a party in such person's
1533 capacity as an officer or member of another organization in which the person serves at the request
1534 of any of the above entities or bodies.
1535

1536 283 In all other lawsuits, proceedings, or prosecutions, indemnity shall not be made unless the
1537 officer or member acted in good faith and for a purpose which the person reasonably believed to
1538 be in the best interests of the Entity or body of which ~~he or she~~the person is an officer or member
1539 and in criminal actions or proceedings only upon the additional requirement that the person had
1540 no reasonable cause to believe that the operative conduct or inaction was unlawful.
1541

1542 284 These indemnity provisions shall also operate for the benefit of anyone duly serving in a
1543 representative capacity for such member or officer.
1544

1545 285 The United Church of Christ Board is authorized to purchase insurance providing
1546 indemnification pursuant to the provisions of the preceding. Any such contract of insurance may
1547 afford coverage for matters as to which the United Church of Christ Board may not give
1548 indemnity.
1549

1550 **ARTICLE VI. OTHER BODIES**

1551 The following groups are identified as related in covenant to the United Church of Christ, through
1552 a primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board.
1553

1554 **COUNCILS**

1555 **Council for American Indian Ministry**

1556 286 Created by the Eighth General Synod in 1971 (71-GS-77) and given its present mandate by
1557 the Sixteenth General Synod in 1987 (87-GS-58), the Council for American Indian Ministry
1558 (CAIM) is a national body with primary responsibility for providing Christian ministry and
1559 witness in American Indian settings, and is a resource to the whole United Church of Christ in
1560 understanding and supporting American Indian churches and communities. The Council for
1561 American Indian Ministry supports and gives general direction to the American Indian members
1562 and congregations of the United Church of Christ, advocating with them, through CAIM's
1563 Recognized Unit of Ministry, to embody their own cultures and values and to be vital parts of the
1564 United Church of Christ and the Conferences in which they are located. The Council for
1565 American Indian Ministry encourages and supports the identification, enlistment, and support of
1566 American Indian candidates for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Working with
1567 American Indian people throughout the United Church of Christ, the Council seeks to develop
1568 broad bases of visibility, nurture and support for American Indian people, communities, and
1569 churches. The Sixteenth General Synod vote calls for CAIM to be accountable to the General

1570 Synod through the United Church of Christ Board and to be funded from one-third of the net
1571 income of the neighbors in need offering.

1572

1573 **Council for Higher Education**

1574 287 The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall be composed of the academies, colleges, and
1575 theological schools that indicate their desire to be recognized as related to the United Church of
1576 Christ and that are accepted by the Council as conforming to its standards; and of
1577 representative(s) from the United Church of Christ Board. For purposes of business and policy
1578 making, member academies, colleges, and theological schools shall be represented by each
1579 institution's executive head or other key officer as designated by each institution's executive
1580 head. The Council shall organize with its own chairperson, secretary, and any other officers
1581 needed to carry on its work. All officers shall be executive heads of their institutions. The Council
1582 shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church of Christ Board;
1583 this provision not precluding the Council's right to direct access to the General Synod concerning
1584 any matters in which it may feel that its interests in program or budget require the exercise of
1585 such access. [An Associate General Minister appointed by the General Minister and President](#)
1586 shall be an advisory member of the Council with voice but without vote. The Council shall be
1587 organized in two sub-sections: College and Academy Section, and Seminary Section. The
1588 Council for Higher Education shall advance and interpret higher education in the United Church
1589 of Christ, including the cultivation of closer relationships between the educational institutions and
1590 the Church, the expression of the connection between faith and knowledge in those institutions,
1591 and, in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board, the promotion of education as an
1592 integral part of the Church's mission.

1593

1594 **Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries**

1595 288 Created by the Fourteenth General Synod (83-GS-43) the Council for Racial and Ethnic
1596 Ministries (COREM) provides a place where racial and ethnic groups can develop their common
1597 agenda, collaborate with appropriate program and mission bodies of the United Church of Christ
1598 so that resources for racial and ethnic ministries will be effective and relevant, discern appropriate
1599 ways by which the many and varied gifts of racial and ethnic groups may be made available to the
1600 Church, and advocate for racial and ethnic concerns within the United Church of Christ. It is
1601 composed of two representatives each from the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministry
1602 (PAAM), the Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM), the Council for American Indian Ministry
1603 (CAIM), United Black Christians (UBC), Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice
1604 (MRSEJ), and United Samoan Ministries (USM) who are accountable to the groups that send
1605 them. COREM is accountable to the United Church of Christ Board ~~of the United Church of~~
1606 ~~Christ.~~

1607

1608 **Council for Theological Education**

1609 289 The Council for Theological Education (CTE) shall be responsible for fostering mutual
1610 accountability between the United Church of Christ and the Seminaries of the United Church of
1611 Christ, for periodic reviews of the criteria for being designated as a Seminary of the United
1612 Church of Christ, and for the general well-being of the relationship between the seminaries and
1613 the United Church of Christ. The Council will exercise care for the Seminaries, explore ways by
1614 which theological education contributes to the leadership needs of the Church, foster cooperation
1615 among the Seminaries, and facilitate communication and appropriate engagement between the
1616 Seminaries of the United Church of Christ and Historically Related Seminaries and with other
1617 seminaries which provide theological education for persons preparing for authorized ministry in
1618 the United Church of Christ. Seminaries of the United Church of Christ retain full membership
1619 and responsibility in the Council for Higher Education and its seminary section. The Council will
1620 provide comment to the United Church of Christ Board whenever the United Church of Christ

1621 Board prepares to recommend a seminary for recognition as a Seminary of the United Church of
1622 Christ. The Council shall be composed of the President and one additional representative from
1623 each of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ, a representative from one of the
1624 Historically Related Seminaries, two representatives from the Council of Conference Ministers
1625 elected by that Council, two conference staff persons who relate to a Committee on Ministry
1626 and/or work with the search and call process from a conference not otherwise represented on the
1627 Council, four persons who serve on a Committee on Ministry, the General Minister and President,
1628 and ~~the Executive Minister from Local Church Ministries~~ an Associate General Minister
1629 appointed by the General Minister and President. The ~~Collegium~~ General Minister and President
1630 will assign staff members as necessary to support the programmatic work of the Council. An
1631 intentional effort will be made to ensure that those who have been historically under-represented
1632 be present in the membership of the Council. The Council shall meet annually and shall elect its
1633 own officers each biennium.

1634
1635 **Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

1636 290 The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM) shall serve to advocate,
1637 support programs, and be a resource for youth and young adult ministries throughout the United
1638 Church of Christ and shall report to the United Church of Christ Board and to the General Synod
1639 on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society.
1640 It shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in
1641 all aspects of the life of the Church. It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young
1642 adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource
1643 regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not
1644 limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and the
1645 General Synod). The Council shall organize itself as needed in order to carry out its work and
1646 shall have direct access to the United Church of Christ Board and the General Synod in areas of
1647 program and budget. The Council's composition shall reflect the United Church of Christ's
1648 commitment to having a diversity of perspectives in church governance.

1649
1650 **Council of Conference Ministers**

1651 291 The Council of Conference Ministers (CCM) shall be composed of the Conference Ministers
1652 of the several Conferences. The General Minister and President shall be a member ex-officio,
1653 without vote, of the Council and its Cabinet. It shall select a chairperson and such other officers
1654 and committees as it shall deem necessary. It shall elect from its members those who are to serve
1655 on the United Church of Christ Board and in other representative positions, distributing those
1656 positions among the Regions. It shall maintain a close relationship with the Officers of the United
1657 Church of Christ, the United Church of Christ Board, and national units the Covenanted
1658 Ministries, the Affiliated Ministry, and the Associated Ministry with respect to matters affecting
1659 the life of the Church.

1660
1661 **Historical Council**

1662 292 The Historical Council (HC) shall be composed of ~~twelve~~ 12 members, three elected by each
1663 of the Historical Societies, Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed, and six at
1664 large appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. One-third shall be named each biennium
1665 for a term of six years, to serve until their respective successors are named and qualified, and not
1666 to exceed two terms. The United Church of Christ Board will name from these ~~twelve~~ 12
1667 members the chairperson. The Council shall meet at the call of the General Minister and President
1668 or the chairperson. It shall act in an advisory capacity to the General Minister and President and
1669 the United Church of Christ Board in overseeing the archives of the United Church of Christ and
1670 of the two Historical Societies, in expressing interest and concern for all archival collections
1671 related to the several heritages of the denomination, in recommending the amount to be allocated

1672 in the contributions budget for the Historical Societies, and in reminding the United Church of
1673 Christ of its traditions. The Council shall receive financial support through the United Church of
1674 Christ Board and staff support as assigned by the General Minister and President.

1675

1676 **Council for Health and Human Service Ministries**

1677 293 The Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM) was recognized by the
1678 Fifteenth General Synod as an organization composed of institutions and programs in health and
1679 welfare related to the United Church of Christ and accepted by the CHHSM as conforming to its
1680 standards. The CHHSM is organized with its own Directorate and Officers. The purposes and
1681 functions of the CHHSM shall include: 1) The support and nurture for its member institutions and
1682 programs in fulfillment of their ministries as part of the mission of the United Church of Christ;
1683 2) Representation of the ministries of its member institutions and programs to the General Synod
1684 and United Church of Christ Board- in the conduct of the mission of the United Church of Christ
1685 in health and welfare; 3) Cooperation with the Conferences and the United Church of Christ
1686 Board in the process of Conference recognition of health and human service ministries,
1687 monitoring the authorization to seek funds within Conferences, and approval of requests to
1688 conduct capital campaigns; 4) Provision, annually, to the United Church of Christ Board, the
1689 names of those member institutions and programs which conform to the standards set by
1690 CHHSM; 5) Cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board in collecting information on
1691 institutions and programs in health and welfare to be listed in the *United Church of Christ*
1692 *Yearbook*; and 6) Participation in secular, ecumenical, and inter-faith networks in the field of
1693 health and welfare.

1694

1695 **SELF-CREATED GROUPS**

1696 **Council for Hispanic Ministries**

1697 294 The Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM) is an autonomous body working cooperatively
1698 with Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, Regions and other Ministries of the United
1699 Church of Christ. It offers a perspective that honors the context and culture of its members while
1700 encouraging inter-cultural, inter-faith, and international dialogue among all constituencies. The
1701 Council shall promote its mission within the United Church of Christ and work with the Church
1702 to monitor boards and ministries that deal with concerns and issues important to
1703 Hispanics/Latinos/Latinas in the USA, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and other nations of the Caribbean
1704 and Central and South America.

1705

1706 **Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice**

1707 295 Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ) is a group which brings together
1708 clergy who advocate on behalf of African Americans in church and society, providing a caucus of
1709 ministers for fellowship, for sharing mutual concerns, and for actions regarding the agenda of the
1710 black constituency within the United Church of Christ. MRSEJ challenges, monitors, initiates,
1711 and supports the cause of African American involvement to the fullest possible measure in the
1712 life of the United Church of Christ.

1713

1714 **UCC Disabilities Ministries**

1715 296 The UCC Disabilities Ministries (UCCDM) strives for the full inclusion of persons with
1716 disabilities in the life and mission of the Church. The UCCDM encourages all settings of the
1717 United Church of Christ to be open, inclusive, affirming, and accessible in their buildings,
1718 worship, education, fellowship, and service so that they may proclaim God's word to and with all
1719 persons, including those with disabilities. It seeks to enable all members of the United Church of
1720 Christ to affirm the theological/biblical affirmations of the wholeness of all people, and to
1721 recognize the ministry to and with persons with disabilities as a part of the ministry of all the
1722 baptized. The UCCDM Board of Directors includes persons with disabilities, members of

1723 families of persons with disabilities, experts on disabilities, and other persons from the United
1724 Church of Christ who support the purposes of the UCCDM and reflect the diversity of the United
1725 Church of Christ.

1726

1727 **Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries**

1728 297 Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM), organized in 1974 and recognized
1729 by the Tenth General Synod, advocates for the presence, participation and contributions of
1730 PAAM in the life of the United Church of Christ and serves its constituent members and
1731 churches, initiating and supporting their life, and working for greater representation in wider
1732 church settings. It seeks to strengthen **L**ocal **C**ehurches, to nurture and develop lay and clergy
1733 leadership for the church, and to address issues of justice. As an advocate group for the rights of
1734 people, PAAM is involved in issues of the rights of Pacific Islander and Asian people in the
1735 United States and in the United Church of Christ and works in the areas of rights for women and
1736 children, the poor on welfare, institutional racism, and political prisoners.

1737

1738 **United Black Christians**

1739 298 United Black Christians (UBC) is a special interest group which represents over 50,000
1740 African-American members of the United Church of Christ. It stands in the affirmation that each
1741 person has gifts to offer to the Church, and that each is entitled to full rights and privileges as
1742 children of God. UBC dedicates itself to providing voice for all African-American members of
1743 the United Church of Christ, seeking to witness to, and preserve the history and legacy of the
1744 African-American people and churches. UBC is an active advocate for liberation and social
1745 justice at home and abroad.

1746

1747 **The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ**

1748 299 The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ (The Coalition) is
1749 composed of members and friends of the United Church of Christ who affirm the good news that
1750 all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions are loved and
1751 empowered by God. The Coalition actively works to combat prejudice and seeks justice for, and
1752 the full inclusion and involvement of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians in all
1753 expressions of the United Church of Christ. In its leadership and outreach, The Coalition is
1754 committed to ending exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and
1755 expression, race, age, size, class and/or ableness. It promotes mutual ministries of pastoral care,
1756 education, and advocacy within the United Church of Christ and society as a whole; encourages
1757 Local Churches, Associations and Conferences to become “Open and Affirming” (ONA); and
1758 organizes within Conferences to make resources of The Coalition available to all.

1759

1760 **United Samoan Ministries**

1761 300 United Samoan Ministries was organized in 2010 and recognized by the Twenty Nin~~the~~
1762 General Synod in Long Beach, California, in 2013. USM conducted its reorganization process
1763 between 2011 and 2014. USM is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan
1764 congregations in the United Church of Christ to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual
1765 support, and communications to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. USM also seeks but is not
1766 limited to: **s**Strengthening channels of communication among Samoan congregations in the
1767 United Church of Christ (UCC) and their respective ministries; **e**Exchanging of information and
1768 building communication about the UCC in all its settings including local congregations,
1769 Associations, Conferences, National Ministries and Global Partners; **e**Establishing a setting for
1770 collective decision-making that will fulfill the USM Mission Statement and strengthen the
1771 covenantal relationships among Samoan congregations within the UCC; **p**Providing a setting to
1772 develop and enhance the leadership and cultural identities among Samoan congregations in order
1773 to empower them in the UCC; **and r**Recognizing and celebrating the unique insights and

1774 contributions of Samoans throughout the life of the UCC. USM encourage all Samoans of all
1775 ages to affirm their unique ethnic and cultural identities while embracing the Still Speaking God
1776 and find joy, spiritually “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are
1777 welcome here.”
1778

1779 **Relationships**

1780 301 Unless otherwise designated in these Bylaws, each of the aforementioned bodies shall have a
1781 primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board which shall serve as its primary
1782 linkage to the national expressions of the United Church of Christ, to which it shall report
1783 annually. This primary relationship shall be defined by the United Church of Christ Board in
1784 consultation with the respective group. The designated relationship shall be reviewed each
1785 biennium by the appropriate partners, and may be changed upon the mutual consent of those
1786 partners, and so declared by vote of the United Church of Christ Board. The [General Minister and](#)
1787 [President](#) shall be responsible for initiating said review.
1788

1789
1790 In effect July 2, 2015
1791