

Design, Covenant and Bylaws
of
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
of Greater Kansas City

Adopted by the Regional Board of Directors
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ARTICLE 1. AN AFFIRMATION OF IDENTITY

DESIGN AND COVENANT
OF THE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

... a Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada,
known as the "GREATER KANSAS CITY REGION."

ARTICLE I. AN AFFIRMATION OF IDENTITY

As members of the Christian Church,
We confess that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God,
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.
In Christ's name and by his grace
we accept our mission of witness
and service to all people.
We rejoice in God,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in God's covenant of love
which binds us to God and to one another.
Through baptism into Christ
we enter into newness of life
and are made one with the whole people of God.
In the communion of the Holy Spirit
we are joined together in discipleship
and in obedience to Christ.
At the Table of the Lord
we celebrate with thanksgiving
the saving acts and presence of Christ.
Within the universal church
we receive the gift of ministry
and the light of scripture.
In the bonds of Christian faith
we yield ourselves to God
that we may serve the One
whose kingdom has no end.
Blessing, glory, and honor
be to God forever. Amen.

[from THE DESIGN OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA] [Rev. 7.2015](#)

ARTICLE II. PREAMBLE

PREAMBLE

As faithful members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City we know ourselves to be a part of the Universal Church of Jesus Christ as well as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Our primary source for guidance is the Bible (both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures)) and our primary relational guide is the Design of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our principles for ministry are stated in Marks of a Faithful Regional Church, the Theological Foundations and Policy and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) rev. 2014.

In obedience to the authority of Jesus Christ, in respect of our voluntary relationships within the body of the world-wide Church universal, and in covenant with the Church of which we are a part, we also adopt the Marks of a Faithful Regional Church as descriptive for our life and work:

1: Proclaiming the Gospel

The Region gives spiritual leadership, enables the ministry of evangelization, and calls a Regional Minister who serves as a sign of the unity of the church in sacrament and service.

2: Caring for congregations

The Region resources congregations and extends consulting services in such areas as ministerial transition, problem-solving, conflict resolution, renewal (transformation), and planning for the future, as well as celebrations of congregational life such as anniversaries, dedications, installations and retirements.

3: Enabling Congregations To Do Things Together That Cannot Be Done Alone

The Region provides opportunity for fellowship groups, outdoor ministry, congregational transformation, new church starts, anti-racism initiative, education for global mission, and such events as Regional assemblies for sharing and nurture.

4: Calling Out and Developing Leaders

The Region assists individuals and congregations in discerning God's call as they move through life's journey. The Region creates and provides leadership opportunities in a manner that equips and models good leadership. Recognizing that leadership is a grace, a gift, and a skill, the Region helps in locating the resources and education needed to fulfill an individual's calling.

5: Caring for Ministers and the Ministry

The Region provides care for ministers and their families. The Region helps promote healthy relationships between congregations and their leaders. The Region assists clergy and congregations in the Search and Call process in order to match the needs of congregations with the particular gifts and graces of ministerial leaders.

6: Teaching and Defending the Apostolic Faith

The Region will actively address faith formation, helping people understand their roots, address prophetic and public witness in the world, and be led to grow in healthy directions.

7: Gathering as a Regional Expression of the Church

The Region is an important expression of the whole Body of Christ. In assemblies, educational events, ordinations, missional experiences, outdoor ministries, and at other times, the Region celebrates its life as a community faithful to God and Jesus Christ.

8: Managing the Church's Resources

The Region models faithful stewardship, responsible clarity, and full accountability in its ministry. The Region calls and maintains a staff, providing supervision and support, a fair and just work environment, and good fiscal practices, including an annual audit.

9: Encouraging New Forms of Mission and Ministry

The Region provides support for new church starts, congregational revitalization and transformation strategies. It assists congregations in their efforts to be relevant, while not compromising the faithfulness of the church to Scripture and our Disciples heritage and core values.

10: Teaching Stewardship

The Region interprets the global mission of the church, promotes the funding of mission and ministry, teaches stewardship as a lifestyle, and cares for all God's creation.

11: Advancing the priorities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Region promotes the concept of whole church, and has a primary role in advocating and supporting the denomination's mission and vision.

12: Leading in ecumenical ministries

The Region joins with its congregations in an historic commitment to Christian unity. Significant points of ecumenical work for most will include our partnerships with the United Church of Christ and Churches Uniting in Christ. When there is opportunity, the Region will be involved in creating an understanding and knowledge of different faith traditions.

We also adopt as guidelines for our work with clergy the latest revision of Theological Foundations and Policy and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or its successor.

We encourage incorporation of the current mission priorities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada into our own Regional mission priorities.

To this end, in response to God's covenant with us, we do hereby commit ourselves to one another in adopting this Design and Covenant for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City.

ARTICLE III. OUR MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City, in obedience to Christ, covenant with and on behalf of one another to CONNECT, SUPPORT, AND CELEBRATE those engaged in missions and ministries in the cause of Christ within Disciples congregations and the wider religious and secular community. With the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit we seek to live and work in faithfulness to God so that Disciples leaders and congregations are strengthened and nurtured as we seek collectively to meet the needs and challenges of the community and the world. Recognizing our limitations as individual members and congregations, we prayerfully combine our unique capacities to accomplish together tasks we cannot fulfill alone.

This mission becomes a reality when we:

CONNECT

- leaders of the ministries and gifts of each local congregation with needs and opportunities for mission, witness and service; in covenantal relationship with all manifestations of the Church (local, Regional, General and Ecumenical)
- to more faithfully love God, love neighbor and carry out the Great Commission

SUPPORT:

- the nurture and pastoral care of clergy and congregational leaders
- the nurture and assistance of congregations, in every phase of their life, no matter their size or geographic location in the Region;
- the continued development of the Tall Oaks Conference Center as significant mission of our Region to the Church and the Greater Kansas City metroplex; and as we

CELEBRATE

- local congregational efforts at evangelism, church growth, outreach and the establishment of new congregations;
- educational and leadership development, mission and ministry of children, youth, lay men, lay women and clergy persons in our Region.

We adopt this mission because we believe that within the whole family of God on earth, the Church appears wherever believers in Jesus Christ are gathered in God's name and whenever they seek to carry out the mission of Christ within the world. Though the nature of the Church, as given by Christ, remains constant through the generations, the Church, in faithfulness to its mission, continues to adapt its structures to the needs of a changing world.

Within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City, through free and voluntary covenantal relationships, seeks to promote and enable commitment to ministries of reconciliation and servanthood, faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed through scripture.

In taking the Great Commission seriously, we understand Jesus' command: "Go, therefore, and make Disciples," to involve the transformation, empowerment and salvation of lives in light of the love of Jesus Christ. Believing that this occurs through the spiritual disciplines, we commit ourselves to the renewal of congregational life and witness, in order that we might share the Gospel of Jesus Christ faithfully and be prepared to nurture the growth of individual believers, Christian communities and Christian ministers. Believing that this also occurs through the transformation of social structures, we commit ourselves to actively seek peace with justice, to alleviate hunger wherever it is present and defend human rights wherever oppression subverts human dignity, and to seek with God's help the transformation of structures which are destructive.

We renew our commitment to the people and communities in Wyandotte, Johnson, Miami counties of Kansas and Jackson, Clay, Platte and Cass counties of Missouri of which we are a part, seeking to understand how we can be a positive force for good within its structures and its people. Believing that "God so loved the world. . ." (John 3:16a) and not just the community of faith, we reach out to minister to the whole world.

Given the large number of Disciples congregations within this small geographical area, and recognizing their unique individual qualities, we hope to maintain the strength of our diversity in creative tension with our commitment to seek the unity of the Church of Jesus Christ, both as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City and as a part of the ecumenical community.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City seeks to be biblically grounded, people centered, and action oriented, as we carry out the mission entrusted to us.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV. NAME AND INCORPORATION

Section 1. NAME

The name of this body shall be **THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) OF GREATER KANSAS CITY**, hereinafter called the **Regional Church**. The Region shall be referred to as the Greater Kansas City Region, GKC, Regional Church or the Region. The Regional Church is an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, also known as the General Church.

Section 2. INCORPORATION

The Regional Church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri as a not-for-profit corporation and holds its IRS 501 (C) 3 status through the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Section 3. PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATIONS

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City became a Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on January 1, 1988, after 13 years of being known as an "Area" which related to the two Regions known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas. It is the legal successor to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City (The "Area" Church), the Christian Church Commission of Kansas City, The Joint Boards of the Christian Churches of Kansas City as well as the organizations known as the Christian Conference Foundation, Metropolitan Camp and Conference Committee, District IV Missouri, District I Missouri (that portion in Clay and Platte Counties), District IV CWF in Missouri, and District I in Kansas (primarily Johnson, Wyandotte, Douglas, and Leavenworth Counties).

ARTICLE V. PURPOSES AND RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. PURPOSES

The Church is that community of persons called into being by the gospel of Jesus Christ to give witness in word and deed to the living God for the benefit of the whole world.

The Regional Church, therefore, shall:

- A. Extend the ministry of Christ in mission, witness, and service among the people and social structures of the Region;
- B. Establish, receive and nurture congregations in the Region, providing help, counsel, and pastoral care to members, ministers, and congregations in their mutual relationships;
- C. Maintain communication between the three manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) [the congregation, the Region, and the General Church] as each relates to the other in the functioning of the whole Church; and
- D. Witness to the oneness of the Church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other denominations and religious associations, especially the United Church of Christ.

Section 2. RELATIONSHIPS

A. DENOMINATIONS

The Regional Church shall maintain all relationships provided for in the DESIGN FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) in the United States and Canada,

B. ECUMENICAL

The Regional Church shall cooperate with ecumenical bodies of like purposes, including world, national, state and local Councils of Churches, with special attention given to relationships with the United Church of Christ.

C. COVENANTAL

The Regional Church may, through covenantal agreements with the Division of Higher Education and the National Benevolent Association, relate to specific institutions through mutual decision-making processes.

D. CONGREGATIONS

- a. Each congregation has the power of self-determination. Cooperation with the Regional Church shall be voluntary. The Regional Church may advise and counsel local congregations when requested. The Regional Church shall refrain, under all circumstances, from exercising authority over congregations or individuals, or interfering with the government of the local congregations.
- b. Congregations are encouraged to join with and encourage each other in mission.
- c.. As manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), congregations share in a covenantal relationship with one another and with the Regional manifestation of the Church. It is recognized that this covenantal relationship is free and voluntary, with congregations having both rights and responsibilities. In this covenantal relationship, each congregation shall have the right to:

- 1. Be listed in the Yearbook and make use of the IRS 501.c.3 tax exempt status
- 2. Manage its own affairs as befitting disciples of Jesus Christ in unity with the whole Church
- 3. Adopt or retain its name, charter or constitution and bylaws;
- 4. Determine, in faithfulness to the gospel, its practice with respect to church membership;
- 5. Own, control, and encumber properties;
- 6. Organize to further the mission and witness of the Church;
- 7. Establish budgets and financial policies;
- 8. Call and dismiss ministers

E. OTHER FAITHS

Recognizing that the metroplex in which we serve contains a wide diversity of religious groups, and participating as many Disciples do within this Region, in dialogue and service with those who practice other faiths, the Regional Church may participate as a member of the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council and, encourage relations with all people of good will who work for justice, promote peace, and practice hospitality.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. **IDENTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION**

A. **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

As a member of the Body of Christ, every individual may be a member of the Regional Church and the General Church who is:

1. A member of a recognized congregation of the Regional Church.
2. A minister with standing who is serving a congregation; or who resides within the geographic boundaries of the Region.

B. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS**

Congregational members shall be those recognized congregations which are listed in the current YEAR BOOK AND DIRECTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST).

Section 2. **AFFILIATION OR WITHDRAWAL**

A congregation that desires to affiliate or to withdraw from recognition in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall follow the established procedures for “Year Book and Directory” listing, as provided for in the DESIGN FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST).

Section 3. **GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES**

The Regional Church may be composed of those congregations located within the geographic boundaries of Johnson, Wyandotte, and Miami Counties in the State of Kansas (including Second Christian Church in Atchison County); and those congregations residing within the boundaries of Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties and the Townships of Raymore, Pleasant Hill, Cleveland and Belton in Cass County in the State of Missouri.

Section 4. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

A congregation may voluntarily demonstrate mutual concern for the mission and witness of the whole Church by assuming responsibility to:

- A. Proclaim the gospel and administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper;
- B. Provide for the spiritual nurture of members and families;
- C. Grow in the understanding that the Church is a universal community which transcends all barriers within the human family, such as race and culture;
- D. Sustain its ministers in faithfulness and honor and rely on the counsel of the Regional Minister, as needed;
- E. Be faithful in Christian stewardship, striving to share proportionately in providing resources for the total life, work, and witness of the Regional and General Church;
- F. Choose voting representatives to the General Assembly and encourage and support voluntary participation of members in Regional missions, ministries, and leadership; and
- G. Seek to realize and live out the oneness of the Church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other churches of the community through present and emerging ecumenical structures.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS AND STAFF

Section 1. **OFFICERS**

A. SALARIED OFFICERS

The Regional Minister and President shall be an officer serving with voice but without vote by virtue of her/his serving as President of the Corporation

B. ELECTED OFFICERS

The elected officers of the Regional Church shall be:

a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Past Chair a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

C. APPOINTED OFFICERS

A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Moderator to serve, without vote, at all business meetings of the Board of Directors. Additional officers may be appointed as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors

D. NOMINATION AND ELECTION

1. The Nominating Committee shall submit to the Executive Committee the name of at least one nominee for each officer position for which the current term will expire. A list of these nominees shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval by April 1 of each year.
 - a. Terms of service are for two years or until a successor is elected
 - b. Officers may serve for two consecutive terms
2. The Nominating Committee shall submit a list of approved nominees to the Board for election at the Annual Business Planning Meeting in each year.
 - a. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Past Chair may not succeed themselves for more than one additional term. The Secretary may be a member of the Regional Support staff.
 - b. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Business Planning Meeting of the Board, provided such nominees have been contacted and have agreed to serve, if elected.
3. At the Annual Business Planning Meeting, which shall be held in April of each year, the Board shall, in even numbered years, elect a Chair, and a Treasurer. In odd numbered years, the Board shall elect a Vice-Chair and a Secretary.
4. When only one name has been submitted for an office, the election may be by voice vote. If two or more names have been submitted for each office, the election shall be by ballot. Plurality vote shall elect if there are three or more nominees for any office.
5. Initial terms for all Regional Board offices shall be from the date of adoption of these bylaws until May 1 of the following year with the exception of the offices of Vice Chair and Secretary which shall extend to accommodate the schedule of rotation of officers in Article VII.C. 3 above .

E. VACANCY

1. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair, the Vice Chair shall fill the vacancy temporarily. Upon recommendation from the Nominating Committee, the Regional Board shall fill the vacant position for the remainder of the term of office.
2. Other vacancies shall be filled by recommendations of the Moderator, in consultation with the Regional Minister/President, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

Section 2. **DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

Duties shall be as designated in these bylaws and the adopted parliamentary authority.

A. REGIONAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

1. The Regional Minister and President fills two basic roles in the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City. As Regional Minister, she/he is the general *pastor* of the over 15,000-member Church, responsible for representing the wholeness of the church, for reconciling differences, and for helping the church retain its clarity of mission and identity. As Regional President, she/he is the *chief executive officer* for the Region, responsible for overseeing the work of the church's various structures within the geographic area of the Region. She/he strives to help the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) remain faithful to God's calling and to do its work effectively and efficiently.

- a. Executive Duties of the Regional Minister and President include but are not limited to:
 - i. Serve as President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City and have the title of "Regional Minister/President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City."
 - ii. Be elected and called by the Board of Directors as outlined in the Employment Policy Manual of the Regional Church. He/She may resign or be terminated as outlined in the Manual.
 - iii. Be the Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Church and be responsible for legal and business procedures; and may be an authorized signatory.
 - iv. Employ and maintain a staff for the ongoing functions of the Regional Church, with the approval of the Personnel Task Force, as authorized by the Executive Committee and the Board.

B. CHAIR – The CHAIR shall:

1. Preside at meetings of the Regional Board and the Executive Committee.
2. Assume such other responsibilities as assigned by the Regional Board or the Executive Committee.
3. Assign staff members to serve as Ministry coordinators, after consultation with the Regional Minister/President and the Vice-Chair.
4. Appoint Ministry chairpersons during January of each year, after consultation with the Vice-Chair and the Regional Minister/President.
5. Create and appoint task forces with the approval of the Regional Board.
6. Be responsible for an orientation session for new members of the Board to be held prior to the April Board meeting, in conjunction with the Regional Minister/President.
7. Appoint a parliamentarian.
8. Appoint a Resolutions Committee of seven persons, including the chairperson.
9. Present the appointments to the Executive Committee and to the Board in October for ratification.
10. In January, appoint a Nominating Committee of seven persons, including the chairperson, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.
11. Serve ex officio as a member of all programming entities.
12. May be an authorized signatory.

C. VICE-CHAIR – The VICE-CHAIR shall:

2. Be a member of the Executive Committee and the Regional Board of Directors.
 3. Consult with the Chair regarding the assignment of staff members who are to serve as Ministry coordinators.
 4. Consult with the Chair regarding the appointment of Ministry chairpersons during January of each year.
 5. Consult with the Regional Board regarding plans for the Biennial Planning Event to be held in each odd-numbered year.
 6. Acquaint himself/herself with the organization and function of the Regional Church in order to serve efficiently and knowledgeably in the office of Chair.
- D. PAST CHAIR – The Past Chair shall:
1. Preside in place of the Chair and Vice-Chair when necessary.
 2. Assume such responsibilities as may be assigned by the Regional Board or the Executive Committee.
 3. Serve as a member ex officio of the Personnel Task Force, without vote.
- E. SECRETARY – The Secretary shall:
1. 1.Keep an accurate record of the action taken by the Regional Executive Committee and Regional Board.
 2. Serve as secretary of the Corporation, as required by law, and be responsible for proper custody of the corporate seal.
 3. 3.Provide a copy of the minutes of meetings of the Regional Executive Committee or the Regional Board to the Regional Office within 10 days after such a meeting.
 4. 4Be responsible for the mailing and distribution of official correspondence or other pertinent information, with approval of the Regional Minister/President or Moderator.
 5. 5Perform such other duties which may be assigned to this office.
- F. TREASURER – The Treasurer shall:
1. Receive and distribute the reports from Disciples Treasury Service
 2. Be responsible for the maintenance of accurate financial records and audit reports, current and permanent.
 3. Submit a financial report to the Regional Executive Committee and to the Regional Board, and to other task forces and commissions as requested.
 4. Maintain a working relationship with Disciples Treasury Services, or, should the Regional Church cease to use the services of the Disciples Treasury Services, open and maintain a bank account approved by the Executive Committee
 5. Be one of at least three authorized signatories.

6. Be bonded by the Regional Church.
7. Serve as a member ex officio of the Ministry of Budget and Finance and its various task forces, without vote.
8. Perform such other duties which may be assigned to this office.

Section 3. STAFF

A. MINISTERIAL PROGRAM STAFF

1. **REGIONAL MINISTER/PRESIDENT** – The Regional Minister shall perform the following pastoral duties:
 - a. Represent the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City in inter-church, interfaith, and ecumenical relationships, or appoint a representative to act on his/her behalf.
 - b. Provide for the pastoral support of clergy within the Region
 - c. Provide for staffing and material support for congregations and clergy of the Region in Search and Call
 - d. Provide for staffing and material support of persons in discernment for ministry and the cultivation of vocations to the ministry
 - e. Provide for the staffing and material support for the formation of new churches, revitalization of existing churches and the closing with grace and dignity of congregations concluding their ministries
 - f. Assure continued and substantial participation of the Region in the life and work of the General Church in its many and varied expressions
 - g. Other such duties as may be outlined in the Employment Policy Manual of the Greater Kansas City Region
2. **OTHER PROGRAM STAFF TEAM MEMBERS**
Other Program Staff Team Members may be:
 1. Comprised of clergy, professional, technical, clerical, volunteer, or other forms of individuals performing duties normally considered to be staff and accountable to the Regional Minister.
 2. Called by the Board of Directors or employed at the direction of the Regional Minister as outlined in the Employment Policy Manual of the Regional Church. He/She may resign or be terminated as outlined in the Manual.
 3. Assigned program portfolios in cooperation with the Regional Minister/President, staff and Board.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

A Regional Assembly shall be held biennially in the Fall of each even-numbered year, for the purpose of inspiration, fellowship, and education. The theme and program shall be the responsibility of the Regional Board or its appointees. The Assembly shall be open to all members of the recognized congregations in the Region.

Section 2. CONGREGATIONAL CLUSTERS

Congregational clusters may be created for fellowship, promotion and communication among Regional congregations, rather than for program development. An organization of efforts may result which shall be for the purpose of ministry and/or outreach.

Regional staff may be requested to assist from time to time; however, no provision will be made for budgetary allotment, officers, or special staff.

ARTICLE IX. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. COMPOSITION

The Board of Directors is inclusive of:

- A. Two lay representatives from among the congregations of the Regional Church who may be elected biennially at the Annual Business Planning Meeting.
- B. Officers of the Region, both Elected and Salaried
- C. Chairpersons of the following Regional ministries:
 - i. **Disciples Women**
 - ii. **Obra Hispana**
 - iii. **MOKAN Fellowship**
 - iv. **Tall Oaks Commission**
 - v. **Commission on the Order of Ministry**
 - vi. **Commission on Community Engagement**
 - vii. **Commission on New and Transforming Churches**
 - viii. **Commission on Stewardship and Development**
 - ix. **Personnel Committee**
 - x. **Ministry with Young Disciples (Added beyond initial recommendation)**
 - xi. **And any additional Regional Ministries as may be determined by the Regional Board**
- D. Members of the General Church Board who reside in the Region.
- E. A representative from Foxwood Springs Living Center, selected by that institution, who may present a brief report at each meeting. The representative will serve ex-officio, without vote.
- F. Upon option of the United Church of Christ, a representative may be named in alternating odd-numbered years by the United Church of Christ judicatories in Kansas and Missouri. The representative will serve ex-officio, without vote.
- G. Members of the Regional Program Staff may serve ex officio, but without vote.

Every effort should be made to include women, youth and all persons from historically under-represented groups in the selection of Regional Board members so as to reflect well the diversity of the Disciples of Christ in the metroplex.

Section 2. TERM OF SERVICE

- A. The term of service for the At-Large representatives shall be for two years; each representative may succeed himself/herself for one additional terms.
- B. Terms of service by other representatives shall be unlimited.

Section 3. POWERS AND DUTIES

- A. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority over the affairs of the Regional Church.
- B. This Board shall act on behalf of Regional congregations on matters which pertain to the Region and the Regional Church; and will act upon resolutions submitted by congregations or groups within the Region.

- C. This Board shall elect the officers of the Regional Church.
- D. The Board may authorize the employment and maintenance of a staff to perform the ongoing functions of the Regional Church, with the approval of the Personnel Task Force.
- E. The Board shall elect one representative to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the Annual Business Convocation of each even-numbered year to serve a four-year term. The Nominating Committee shall submit at least one name for each position to be filled; additional nominations may be made from the floor provided the nominee has given prior consent.
- F. The Board shall elect eight voting representatives and three alternate representatives to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the Annual Business Convocation of each odd-numbered year. The Nominating Committee shall submit at least one name for each position to be filled; additional nominations may be made from the floor provided the nominee has given prior consent. Election shall be by plurality vote.
- G. The Board shall approve the programs of any current or future Commissions, Task Forces, Committees, and Cabinets.
- H. A report to the Board of Directors shall be written on the form provided by the Regional Office; copies shall be given to the Secretary of the Board at the time of presentation.
- I. The Board of Directors may adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of business by the Board
- J. On resolutions presented by the Resolutions Committee, the Board of Directors may adopt, not adopt, take no action, refer to a specific commission or task force for further study, or amend the proposed resolution.
- K. Decisions of the Board of Directors will be considered as actions of those present and voting; decisions will not be considered official actions of each individual congregation even though such congregations may have had representation in the vote of the Board of Directors.
- L. In all of its decision-making processes and deliberations, the Regional Board will seek to manifest the wholeness and unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) within the Regional as well as within the General Church.

Section 4. NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

An orientation for newly elected and appointed members of the Board shall be held prior to the April meeting of the Regional Board and shall be the responsibility of the Regional Minister/President and the Moderator.

Section 5. MEETINGS

- A. REGULAR MEETINGS shall be held on the fourth Monday evening of January, July and October, unless otherwise ordered by the Regional Board, at a time and location determined by the Board.
- B. SPECIAL MEETINGS may be called by the Moderator, and must be called by written request of any five members of the Board, or by the Regional Minister/President, and shall require a two-week prior notification by mail to each member of the Board.
- C. An ANNUAL BUSINESS CONVOCATION shall be held during April on either a Saturday or a Sunday to elect officers in election years, receive reports, receive and take action on resolutions, share in evaluation and planning, and to transact such business as may be necessary.

Section 6. VACANCIES

Vacancies occurring in positions, other than those of officers and appointments, shall be filled by the responsible institution.

Section 7. QUORUM

Those present at regular and duly called meetings of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE- X. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL BOARD

Section 1. COMPOSITION

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of salaried and non-salaried officers of the Board.

- A. VOTING MEMBERS shall be non-salaried officers.
- B. NON-VOTING MEMBERS shall be the Regional Minister and President.

Section 2. POWERS AND DUTIES

The Executive Committee shall:

- A. Transact such business as necessary between meetings of the Board of Directors.
- B. Report to the Board on action taken and seek ratification.
- C. Make appropriate recommendations to the Board.
- D. Oversee the implementation of Board directives.
- E. Receive from the Nominating Committee by April 1 of each election year a list of nominees for each officer position; the list may be approved for presentation to the Board or recommendations may be made prior to approval.
- F. Ratify appointments of Ministry chairpersons, and chairpersons of any current or future Commissions, Cabinets and Task Forces; and with the Board of Directors approve the programs of Commissions, Cabinets and Task Forces.

Section 3. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be held once a month, with the exception of August. If the amount of business to transact is insufficient, the Moderator may cancel the meeting if notice is given to each member by telephone, email or mail at least three days prior to the scheduled meeting. All Regional Meetings shall be considered open and notice posted in accordance with Open Meeting laws in the states of Kansas and Missouri.

- A. Meetings may be held by electronic, telephonic and/or digital media in any manner which verifies the participant and the means of participation. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - i. Zoom or other videoconferencing service
 - ii. Email Chain
 - iii. Survey Monkey, Constant Contact Survey, etc.

Section 4. QUORUM

A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. COMPOSITION AND FILLING VACANCIES

In January of each odd-numbered year, a committee of seven persons including a chairperson, shall be appointed by the Moderator, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The

term of service shall be for two years. A vacancy shall be filled by the Moderator with the approval of the Executive Committee.

B. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Any member of the Region is eligible for appointment to the Committee.
2. A member shall be eligible for reappointment for one additional consecutive term.

C. DUTIES

The Committee shall:

1. Nominate at least one person for each of the officer positions, such as Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors according to the schedule of rotation in Article IV.C.3.
2. Present a list of candidates for officer positions to the Executive Committee by April of each odd-numbered year and to the Board at the Annual Business Convocation.
3. Recommend Region Support Staff to serve as non-voting members of the Executive Committee, as necessary.
4. Nominate persons to represent the Regional Church on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) under the conditions that:
 - a. At least one person shall be nominated in every even-numbered year.
 - b. The term shall be for a period of four years beginning on January 1, following election.
5. Nominate at least eight persons and three alternates in each odd-numbered year to serve as voting representatives to the forthcoming General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). None of the nominees shall be ordained ministers since ordained ministers have the privilege of vote.
6. Every effort should be made to include women, youth, and persons in historically under-represented groups in the selection of prospective candidates so as to reflect the diversity among Disciples of Christ in the Greater Kansas City metroplex .

Section 2. PROGRAMMING GROUPS

- A. The Board may establish and terminate Areas of Ministry, Commissions, Cabinets, Task Forces, special committees and other programming entities.
- B. All such groups shall function under the direct authority of the Board.
 1. There shall be three Areas of Regional work under which the ministry of the Region will be carried out:
 - a. Congregational Leadership and Nurture
 - b. Mission Empowerment
 - c. Administration and Finance
 2. Ministries, Commissions, Cabinets and Task Forces shall be responsible for initiating, coordinating, and evaluating programs through their various groups.
 3. Ministries, Commissions, Cabinets and Task Forces shall initiate programs and implement program decisions as approved by the Executive Committee and/or the Board.
- C. The Program Year shall be from May 1 through April 30.

Section **4-3. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

A. COMPOSITION

In October, the Moderator shall appoint a committee of seven persons, including the chairperson, to serve as the Resolutions Committee, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Board

B. POWERS AND DUTIES

The Committee:

1. Shall receive all resolutions for presentation to the Annual Business Convocation.
2. Shall determine if the resolution had been received at least 60 days prior to the Annual Business Convocation; if not, determine whether it should be considered an emergency resolution.
3. May make minor editorial changes in grammar and punctuation with the approval of the submitter, and prepare the resolution in the proper form.
4. Shall recommend to the Board of Directors any of the following options regarding the resolution: that the resolution be adopted, not adopted, that no action be taken, or that referral be made to a specific committee for further study.
5. May initiate resolutions.
6. Shall determine which section of the Board will handle the resolution; whether or not the resolution is controversial in nature and, if so, decide on the style of forum for consideration of the resolution.

C. MEETINGS

The chairperson shall call meetings as needed. A meeting may be scheduled in conjunction with the Annual Business Convocation.

D. SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolutions may be submitted for consideration at the Annual Business Convocation by any member congregation, any Region ministry or task force, or any recognized organization in the Greater Kansas City Region area, according to the receipt deadline.
2. A resolution shall be received at the office of the Regional Church at least 60 days prior to the Annual Business Convocation in April, except in the case of emergency resolutions.
3. Emergency resolutions are those resolutions which have been received after the 60-day deadline; and shall be determined to be emergency resolutions under at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. The resolution relates to a situation which has arisen after the 60-day deadline.
 - b. The resolution demands such immediate attention that referral to a Regional ministry, commission, or task force or postponement to the next Board meeting, would substantially lessen its value.
 - c. The resolution is of sufficient importance so as to justify immediate consideration.
4. The Committee shall determine by the established criteria, as stated above, whether a resolution shall be deemed an emergency.

ARTICLE IX. AREAS OF MINISTRY, ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Section 1. **AREAS OF MINISTRY**

The work of the Greater Kansas City Region shall be carried out in three specific areas of Ministry: CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND NURTURE, MISSION EMPOWERMENT and ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE.

Section 2. MINISTRIES, COMMISSIONS, CABINETS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES

Within each of the three areas of Regional work, there shall be specific areas of MINISTRY to be carried out by COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, AND CABINETS.

- A. COMMISSIONS shall be responsible for continued oversight of such Regional obligations as ORDINATION AND STANDING, COMMISSIONED MINISTRY, and NEW CONGREGATION ESTABLISHMENT.
- B. TASK FORCES are established to fulfill specific tasks or assignments on an ongoing basis or as needed. They shall cease to exist when that assignment has been completed, realizing that the Region must be flexible in meeting the ongoing and newly discovered needs within its life to empower the life of local congregations and to act on behalf of local congregations in carrying out the wishes of the congregations, as made known through the Regional Board, seeking always to be congregationally based rather than institutionally driven.
- C. CABINETS are put in place by Fellowship Groups such as DISCIPLES WOMEN, DISCIPLES MEN and DISCIPLES YOUTH AND CHILDREN who elect persons to these CABINETS according to their own bylaws and/or guidelines. They become the groups which carry out the programs and ministry among the Women, Men and Youth of the Church within the Region.

Section 3. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

A. CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND NURTURE

- 1. COMMISSION ON THE ORDER OF THE MINISTRY
 - a. Commission on Ordination and Standing
 - b. Commission on Commissioned Ministry
 - c. Disciples Ministers' Association Task Force (DMA)

~~2.~~ MINISTRY OF LEADER DEVELOPMENT

- a. Women's Ministry Cabinet
- b. MOKAN Fellowship Cabinet

3. MINISTRY WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

- a. Camp and Conference
- b. Youth Ministry
 - 1. Regional Youth Cabinet
 - 2. Chi Rho Task Force
 - 3. Training Task Force
- c. Children's Ministry
- d. Other ministries as needs arise

B. MISSION EMPOWERMENT

- 1. MINISTRY OF NEW AND TRANSFORMING CHURCHES
 - a. Commission on New and Transforming Churches
- 2. MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 - a. Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Task Force

B. MINISTRY OF TALL OAKS CONFERENCE CENTER A.K.A. TALL OAKS COMMISSION

- a. The Tall Oaks Commission shall offer advice and counsel for the continued development of Tall Oaks as a mission of the Region, its operation, and staff support.
- b. The Gala Committee organizes an annual fund-raising event for Tall Oaks

a. **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

- 1. **MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**
 - a. Budget and Finance Committee
 - b. Congregational Stewardship and Development Task Force
 - c. Regional Stewardship and Development Task Force
 - d. Property Task Force
- 2. **MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL**
 - a. Personnel Committee

Section 4. SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSONS AND MEMBERS

A. MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS

The Moderator-elect, in consultation with the Moderator, Regional Minister/President, and Program Staff, shall appoint Ministry chairpersons during January of each odd-numbered year; they shall serve a two-year term.

B. COMMISSION, CABINET, AND TASK FORCE CHAIRPERSONS

The Ministry chairpersons, meeting with the Moderator-elect, the Moderator, and the Regional Minister/President shall select Commission, Cabinet and Task Force chairpersons during February of each odd-numbered year; they shall serve a two-year term.

C. COMMISSION, CABINET, AND TASK FORCE MEMBERS

The Ministry chairpersons shall call a meeting of the respective Commission, Cabinet and Task Force chairpersons, the Moderator-elect, Moderator, and Program Staff responsible for working with that Ministry and its Commissions, Cabinets, Task Forces during March of each odd-numbered year for the purpose of selecting members; those members shall serve a two-year term.

- 1. The groups shall give consideration to age, sex, youth, race, and geography in membership selection.
- 2. The Commission, Cabinet or Task Force chairperson shall be responsible for contacting the potential group member.

D. PLANNING GROUP SELECTION AND OTHER REPRESENTATION

The Commissions, Cabinets and Task Forces may appoint Planning Group chairpersons and members as needed, with approval of the Board of Directors. They may appoint representatives to other Boards with which their groups relate.

C. RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL

Recommendations for persons who may be interested and qualified to serve shall be solicited from ministers, leaders, or individuals. All appointments shall be presented to the Executive Committee for approval and to the Board for information.

ARTICLE X. FISCAL PROCEDURES

Section 1. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Regional Church shall be the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

Section 2. EXEMPTION FROM DEBT

Members of the Regional Church shall not be liable for the debts of the Regional Church.

Section 3. AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES

There shall be at least three authorized signatories, approved annually by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. BONDING

The Regional Church shall maintain a blanket bond on all staff members and other persons who may, from time to time, handle funds within the program of the Region.

Section 5. AUDIT

For as long the Regional Church shall employ the services of the Office of General Minister and President Disciples Treasury Services to manage financial accounting for the Regional Church, the Disciples Treasury Service' annual report of the independent audit by a Certified Public Accountant shall be deemed evidence of an audit of the financial records of the Regional Church. In the event that the Regional Church should resume management of its financial accounting, an audit of all financial records of the Regional Church for the preceding year shall be performed by a Certified Public Accountant within the first quarter of the year.

ARTICLE XI. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City shall abide by an affirmative action policy in regard to the hiring of staff, the election of officers, and the appointment of personnel.

ARTICLE XII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED shall govern the Regional Church in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order which the Regional Church may adopt.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENT

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular meeting provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing by the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors at least 14 days prior to the meeting; or, without notice, by a vote of 90% of the voting members at said meeting.

ARTICLE XIV. INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1.

The corporation shall, unless prohibited by law, hold harmless and indemnify any person who is or was a member of the Board of Directors, or officer, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, against all expenses paid or incurred by the person in connection with, arising out of or resulting from any threatened, pending or completed claim, action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, and whether brought by or in the right of the corporation or otherwise, in which he/she may be involved, or threatened to be involved, as a party or otherwise, by reason of the fact that he/she is or was a member of the Board of Directors or officer, except that no such indemnification shall be provided to any person from or on account of each person's conduct which was finally adjudged to have been knowingly fraudulent, deliberately dishonest or willful misconduct. The corporation may in its sole discretion by action of its Board of Directors provide indemnification to employees or agents of the corporation acting within the scope of their

employment or agency as provided in this Article. The termination of any claim, action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement (whether with or without court approval), conviction, or upon a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not create a presumption that such person did not meet the standard of conduct set forth in this Section 1.

Section 2.

As is used in this Article, the term “expenses” shall include, but not be limited to, all liabilities, costs, attorneys’ fees and disbursements, amounts of judgments, fines or penalties against, and amounts paid in settlement by such person. The right to indemnification shall also include the right to be paid by the corporation the expenses incurred in defending any civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding in advance of its final disposition upon receipt by the corporation of an undertaking by or on behalf of such officer or member of the Board of Directors to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he/she is not entitled to be indemnified by the corporation as provided in this Article.

Section 3.

The indemnification and other rights provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which a person may be entitled under any applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws or any agreement, vote of members of the Board of Directors or otherwise, both as to action in such person’s official capacity and as to action in any capacity while a member of the Board of Directors or officer, and such indemnification shall continue as to a person who ceased to be a member of the Board of Directors or officer, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators, representatives and estate of such person.

Section 4.

In the event that any part of this Article shall be found in any action, suit or proceeding, to be invalid or ineffective, the validity and the effect of the remaining parts shall not be affected, and the corporation shall indemnify such members of the Board of Directors or officers to the fullest extent by law, whichever results in greater recovery to such members of the Board of Directors or officers.

Section 5.

The corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a member of the Board of Directors, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against or incurred by such person in any capacity, or arising out of his/her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of this Article.

Section 6.

The corporation is hereby expressly authorized to enter into agreements with its Board of Directors and officers which provide greater indemnification rights than generally provided by The General and Business Corporation Law of Missouri. Any such agreement providing for further indemnity entered into pursuant to this Article after the date of approval of this Article by the corporation’s members need not be further approved by the members of the corporation in order to be fully effective and enforceable.

Section 7.

This Article may be hereafter amended or repealed; however, no amendment, alteration, addition, change or repeal shall reduce, terminate or otherwise adversely affect the right of a person entitled to obtain indemnification or advancement of expenses with respect to an action, suit or proceeding that pertains to or arises out of actions or omissions that occur prior to the effective date of such amendment, alteration, addition, change or repeal.

ARTICLE XV. DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of this corporation, all of its net assets shall be distributed to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada through the Christian Church Foundation or its legal successor. Such funds are to be invested with only the interest being available for distribution as determined by the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

ENACTMENT

These Bylaws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City, also known as the Regional Church, will be in effect when adopted by the Board of Directors of the Regional Church. The acceptance of these Bylaws makes null and void all previous Bylaws of the merged organizations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City. The Bylaws are the code of rules adopted for the regulation and management of the affairs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City.

These Bylaws were approved and accepted by two thirds vote of the membership of the Board of Directors present and voting at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regional Church which was held at _____ on the _____ day of _____, 2017

Acting Chair of the Regional Board

ATTEST:

Corporate Seal

Secretary